

13-028561

State of Louisiana



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

2013 JAN 14 PM 3:11
U.S. EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

The Honorable Rebecca Blank
Acting Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

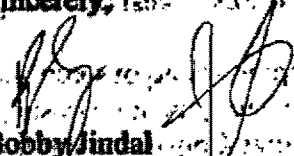
Dear Madam Secretary:

As Louisiana recovers from the impacts of Hurricane Isaac, I am writing to officially request that you declare a commercial fishery failure and enact the disaster declaration clauses in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. This will allow our impacted fishermen, fishing communities and biologic resources to be restored.

Hurricane Isaac's storm track impacted many of the nation's most important fishing communities. Among other impacts, Hurricane Isaac remobilized oil from the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill into Louisiana's beaches and coastal marshes, resulting in fisheries closures and exacerbating impacts from the spill. In our coastal parishes, the commercial and recreational fishing industry is a vital employer and important component of these parishes' and ultimately this state's economy.

Louisiana's fisheries are vital not only to the state's economy but also to the nation, second only to Alaska in 2011 by providing 1.5 billion pounds of seafood at a value of over \$340 million. As the largest producer of domestic seafood for our nation, restoration of Louisiana's fisheries, fisheries infrastructure, and habitat is critical to our nation's economy and to the families in our state who make a living in the fishing industry. We must not overlook the devastating effects that this natural disaster will have on commercial fishermen and fisheries infrastructure in the Gulf of Mexico.

By immediately making funds available, our fishermen can return to commerce and supply our nation with U.S. caught shrimp, crab, oysters and finfish. Declaring a commercial fisheries failure will begin the process of delivering assistance to the impacted commercial fishing industry in Louisiana and help get Louisiana fishermen back on the water. Thank you for considering this urgent request. We look forward to working with you as Louisiana recovers from Hurricane Isaac.

Sincerely,

Bobby Jindal
Governor of Louisiana