

18-061496



Board of County Commissioners

P.O. Box 99/200 East 4th Street • Woodbine, Georgia 31569

Phone: (912) 510.0464 • Fax: (912) 576.5647 • www.camdencountyga.gov

Office of the County Administrator

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MAY 15 2018

May 18, 2018

The Honorable Wilbur Ross, Secretary
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Ross:

On behalf of the citizens of Camden County, Georgia I write to formally request a fishery disaster designation for the brown, pink, and white shrimp fishery of the coast of Georgia. Since January 15, 2018, state waters have been closed to harvesting brown, pink, or white shrimp, and on January 24, 2018, federal waters were closed to shrimping under the direction of South Atlantic Fishery Bulletin Numbered FB18-006 due to a prolonged period of water temperatures at or below 9°C in the region.

Camden County fully understands the closure of waters to shrimping was critically necessary following a period of cold water temperatures to protect the population of spawning shrimp. However, local shrimpers and others have not worked or earned any income related to the shrimp harvest since January 15, 2018, in the non-federal fishery and since January 24, 2018, in the federal fishery. Direct and indirect aid and assistance authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act is requested.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Camden County looks forward to working with the Department of Commerce on this issue and other endeavors to jump-start the economy of southeast Georgia.

Sincerely,

Steve L. Howard, MPA, ICMA-CM, CPM, CPPO
County Administrator

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STEVE L. HOWARD
County Administrator

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County Attorney

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