



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

March 19, 2018

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

Thank you for your letter requesting a commercial fishery failure under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (IFA). After reviewing your correspondence and the information provided from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in this regard, I have determined that a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster has occurred under section 312 of the MSA and section 308(b) of the IFA.

Congress included \$200 million for fishery disasters – including those resulting from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria – in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. With this determination, Texas will be eligible for a portion of the disaster funds included in the appropriation. NMFS will work with your State to develop a spend plan to assist with the recovery of Texas's fishing industry and fishing communities.

If you have any further questions, please contact Michael Platt, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,

Wilbur Ross