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GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

Subject: Southeast Georgia Shrimping Industry

Sir:

I am forwarding this correspondence to add my voice to others here in Southeast Georgia in reference to the economic impact we are seeing on our local Georgia shrimping industry. As you are aware, the State Fishery waters were closed to shrimping on January 15, 2016 and in the Federal Fishery waters nine days later on January 24, 2018; in response to concerns over the abnormally cold waters we saw this past winter.

Although this action was understandable to protect the long term viability of shrimp spawning and continued harvesting here in Georgia, these actions have had a severe impact on our citizens that make their living in that industry.

With waters closed to shrimping for approximately four months, these shrimpers were unable to work and generate revenues to earn a living for their families and sustain their viability for future operations. This severe economic impact is having a ripple effect throughout our communities.

Consequently, I respectfully request your consideration in providing assistance to these families and our communities through the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Interjurisdictional Act, as may be available.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter, and have a pleasant day.

Respectfully,

Mark R. Stambaugh

Glynn County

Commissioner At Large Post 1