



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

June 5, 2023

The Honorable Tate Reeves  
Governor of Mississippi  
P.O. Box 139  
Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Governor Reeves:

Thank you for your letter requesting a determination of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster for Mississippi's 2020 oyster and shrimp fisheries.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has evaluated information from the impacted fisheries. Upon further review, I have found that the request for a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster for the 2020 oyster and shrimp fisheries meets the requirements under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA).

In order to have a positive determination, there must be a commercial fishery failure from an allowable cause. This disaster was due to the ongoing impacts of the 2019 Bonnet Carré freshwater flooding event, which resulted in loss of access to harvest these fisheries. This is an allowable cause under the MSA. The commercial fishery revenue losses were in the range of 35 to 100 percent, and NMFS concluded that these losses qualify as a commercial fishery failure.

This determination makes these fisheries eligible for fishery disaster assistance. In the near future, using funds Congress has already appropriated for fishery disasters, the Department of Commerce will allocate disaster assistance for these fisheries. In addition, with this determination, eligible businesses and other entities in Louisiana may be able to access other loan/funding programs through other Federal relief programs (e.g., Small Business Administration loans). Programs within the Department of Commerce (e.g., Economic Development Administration grants) may also be available.

Should you have any questions, please contact Susie Feliz, Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663 or [SFeliz@doc.gov](mailto:SFeliz@doc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gina Raimondo".

Gina M. Raimondo