



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

April 6, 2023

The Honorable Wes Moore  
Governor of Maryland  
State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Moore:

Thank you for your letter requesting a federal fishery disaster determination pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (the Magnuson-Stevens Act) and the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986 for the Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay. I am responding on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce to acknowledge receipt of your request.

The Fishery Resource Disasters Improvement Act, which has amended the Magnuson-Stevens Act and repealed the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986, requires the Secretary to respond with her determination within 120 days after receipt of all the necessary data to conduct her analysis. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) conducts the evaluation needed for the Secretary's fishery disaster determinations. NMFS will work with the State of Maryland to assess whether a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster has occurred under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Based on our initial review of your request, we will need the following information as soon as possible. Please provide the following information to Carrie Nordeen, Fishery Policy Analyst in the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, at [carrie.nordeen@noaa.gov](mailto:carrie.nordeen@noaa.gov):

- Confirm the specific fisheries and affected year(s) included in your request. Fishery resource disaster determinations are based on impacts to federal, state, or tribal-managed fisheries, and information must be provided for each individual/specific fishery. It is unclear if the disaster determination request includes all the species in Table 1 of your letter or if this information was provided as an example.
- Twelve months of finalized revenue data for the affected fisheries.
- Annual fishery revenues for the previous 5 years for the affected fisheries.
- Additional information about the cause of the fishery resource disaster (e.g., published research, stock assessments, state reports).

We look forward to working with you on this request. If you have any questions, please contact Makeda Okolo, Director of NOAA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at [Makeda.Okolo@noaa.gov](mailto:Makeda.Okolo@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

Janet Coit  
Assistant Administrator  
for Fisheries

