August 10, 2021

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York  
Albany, NY  12224  

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Thank you for your December 2019 letter requesting a determination of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster. As stated in your request, high summer water temperatures, low dissolved oxygen, and an outbreak of the coccidian parasite – which were all beyond the control of fishery managers – resulted in reduced biomass and access to the 2019 and 2020 bay scallop fishery in the Peconic Bay Estuary of eastern Long Island, New York.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) evaluated information from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation to assess your request. After consultation with NMFS, I have determined that the request for a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster for the 2019/2020 bay scallop fishery in Peconic Bay meets the requirements under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and section 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act.

This determination now makes this fishery eligible for fishery disaster assistance. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Pub L. 116-6), included $15 million for fishery disasters, and the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 (Pub. L. 116-20), included $150 million for fishery disaster assistance. The Department of Commerce will determine an allocation of funds for this fishery disaster and provide the State of New York information regarding the award process and requirements for these funds.

Should you have any questions, please contact Christopher Day, Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 230-0470 or cday@doc.gov, or Stephanie Mash Sykes, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 341-3089.

Sincerely,

Gina M. Raimondo