



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

October 30, 2019

The Honorable Henry McMaster
Governor of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor McMaster:

Thank you for your letter requesting a determination of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster. Your request relates to the impacts to the 2018 Penaeid shrimp fishery in South Carolina resulting from an unexpected severe cold weather event beyond the control of fishery managers that reduced biomass and access to the fishery in 2018.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service evaluated statewide information from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to assess whether a commercial fishery failure occurred due to a fishery resource disaster. After reviewing the information, I have found that the request for a catastrophic regional fishery disaster does not meet the requirements under section 315 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). However, the request for a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster for the 2018 Penaeid shrimp fishery in South Carolina meets the requirements under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and sections 308(b) and 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act.

This determination now makes this fishery eligible for fishery disaster assistance. The 2019 Consolidated Omnibus Appropriation (PL 116-6) included \$15 million for fishery disasters, and the 2019 Supplemental Disaster Appropriations (PL 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 South Carolina information regarding the award process and requirements for these funds.

If you have any further questions, please contact Anthony Foti, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,


Wilbur Ross