

Southeast Region Disaster Assistance Awards:

FY1996 – Gulf Hurricane Disasters (\$15M)

A disaster declaration was made on 8/2/95. The declaration made \$15 million available to the states bordering the Gulf of Mexico for fishery damages caused by hurricanes that occurred from October 1992 through December 1995. Based upon the extent to which fisheries were damaged the Gulf states received the following funds: Texas - \$1,560,250; Louisiana - \$5,616,900; Mississippi - \$1,248,200; Alabama - \$1,248,200; and Florida - \$2,808,450. The remaining \$2,158,000 was distributed as gear compensation to fishermen who had gear destroyed by these storms.

FY1997 Hurricanes Hugo and Andrew (\$10M)

In 1997 \$10 million was provided to the five Gulf states under section 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (16 U.S.C. 4107(d) for damage caused by hurricanes Hugo and Andrew. These funds were: FL – bay scallop restoration, FL – coastal resource stewardship program, TX – shrimp license buyback, MS – shellfish restoration, LA – monitoring impacts of environmental perturbations on commercial fishermen, LA – hydrographic monitoring, LA – removal of commercial fishing obstructions, and AL – restoration of marine fisheries affected by natural disasters. A disaster declaration was made by the Secretary of Commerce on August 2, 1995. No match was required.

FY1998 Red Tide and Bonnet Carre Spillway Disaster (\$3.5M)

A disaster declaration was made on 8/11/98. The declaration stated that the Gulf states had suffered fisheries losses totaling \$3.5 million in 1996 and 1997 due to red tides and flooding on the Mississippi River. Based upon the extent to which fisheries were affected the Gulf states received the following funds: Texas - \$242,500; Louisiana - \$1,260,000; Mississippi - \$1,110,000; Alabama - \$262,500; and Florida - \$625,000.

FY2000 NC Fishery Disaster Assistance Hurricane Floyd (\$5.9M)

In September 1999 The Secretary declared a fishery disaster for damage to North Carolina from Hurricane Floyd under Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a). A total of \$5.925 million was provided for direct financial assistance to the white shrimp, blue crab, oyster and scallop, nearshore flounder, snapper and grouper fisheries, and to the commercial charter boat fishery. Under 312(a) the state was required to provide a 25% match. The matching funds proved to be a problem for the state of North Carolina and reduced their ability to respond to the assistance efforts.

FY2000 FL Keys Trap Fishery Disaster (\$4.8M)

A disaster declaration was made on 9/20/99, in accordance with Section 312(a) of the MSA. The declaration stated that the spiny lobster and stone crab trap fishery in Monroe County, Florida had suffered \$4.8 million in losses caused by Hurricanes Mitch and Georges in September and November 1998 respectively. The amount of the supplemental funding was \$4.8M. The state of Florida provided \$1.6M match.

FY2003 Blue Crab Disaster (\$5M)

Congress authorized \$5 million for assistance to blue crab fisheries affected by reduced harvests and sales of blue crabs. The funds were to be used only for personal assistance, assistance for small businesses, domestic product marketing and seafood promotion, and state seafood testing programs. The states received the following amounts based upon their blue crab landings: New Jersey - \$218,309; Delaware - \$186,743; Maryland - \$1,193,209; Virginia - \$1,210,077; North Carolina - \$1,847,127; South Carolina - \$255,115; and Georgia - \$89,419.

FY2003 Shrimp Disaster Funds (\$35M)

In FY 2003 Congress authorized \$35 million to assist the southeastern shrimp industry. The funds were to provide direct financial personal assistance, assistance for small businesses, domestic product marketing and seafood promotion, state seafood testing programs, development of limited entry programs for fisheries, incentives to ensure use of turtle excluder devices and bycatch reduction devices, and for voluntary capacity reduction programs for shrimp fisheries under limited access. The states received the following amounts based upon the shrimp landings: North Carolina - \$4,877,680; South Carolina - \$3,658,916; Georgia - \$3,336,624; Florida - \$6,698,786; Alabama - \$1,201,080; Mississippi - \$1,003,307; Louisiana - \$8,688,866; Texas - \$5,534,740. In addition to this appropriation the State of South Carolina received \$1,482,100 for direct assistance to the shrimp fishery and \$494,100 for seafood (shrimp) marketing from Congressionally directed funds.

The State of Louisiana received \$1,976,200 in Congressionally directed funds for oyster disaster restoration.

FY 2005 Oyster Disaster (\$9M)

In FY2005, the Military Construction Appropriations Act of 2005 Conference Report Language included \$9 million for reseedling, rehabilitation and restoration of oyster reefs in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi due to damage from Hurricane Ivan. The states received the following funds: AL - \$4.321M; FL - \$1.7M; MS - 1.545M and LA - \$1.434M under the authority of 16 U.S.C. 661 to provide habitat restoration. No match was required and no formal disaster declaration was made by DOC. This authority is only for habitat restoration and does not provide authority for direct financial assistance to fishermen or the fishing industry.

FY2006 Hurricanes Rita & Katrina (\$128M)

In FY2006, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriation Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery included \$128M for reseedling, rehabilitation, and restoration of oyster reefs, shrimp ground rehabilitation, and cooperative research to monitor the recovery of Gulf Fisheries. The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) received the funds and the individual states received the following amounts: LA - \$52.9M; MS - \$37.1M; AL - \$29.6M; FL - \$4.2M; TX \$3.2M

FY2007 Hurricane Disaster Funds (\$85M)

Of the \$109.9 million, the Act (the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriation Act) provides \$84.9 million to NMFS for fisheries assistance to the Gulf Coast states of Texas (\$1.2M), Louisiana (\$41M), Mississippi (\$25M), Alabama (\$15M), and Florida (\$2.0M). Funds support seafood marketing, seafood testing, fishery habitat restoration, and personal assistance for food, fuel, housing assistance and other urgent needs. The states will conduct biological research directly and will also pay fishermen to assist in fishery data gathering. The remaining \$25 million was directed to NOS for marine debris removal (\$24 million) and observations and forecasts critical to navigation (\$1 million).

FY2009 Hurricanes Gustav and Ike (\$47M)

The FY2009 Supplemental provided \$47,000,000 for Texas and Louisiana in response to hurricanes Gustav and Ike. This included funds to repair breaches in levees that protected coastal wetlands, to restore oyster beds damaged or buried by the storms, to repair infrastructure (such as docks and mooring facilities), reimburse commercial fishers, vessel owners, and wholesale or retail seafood dealers to offset losses of fishing gear, facility repairs, and vessel repairs. . Funds were made available to: Louisiana - \$40M; and Texas \$7M. The applications were submitted to NOAA Grants on 1/16/09 and awarded on 4/23/09.

FY2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil Disaster (\$21.15M)

The "Supplemental Appropriation Act, 2010" provided \$15 million for fisheries disaster relief from the Deepwater Horizon oil discharge. The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, in cooperation with the Gulf states impacted by the oil discharge, utilized the funding to conduct outreach and marketing activities, develop a seafood quality assurance program, and enhance the existing seafood testing and quality assurance methods already in place in most states. An additional \$10 million was also provided in the supplemental funding "to conduct an expanded stock assessment of fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico." The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission was awarded \$6.15 million to work cooperatively with the Gulf states to implement a wide range of activities to better assess the fisheries stocks in the Gulf of Mexico.