



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

February 8, 2018

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rubio:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for the State of Florida's request for a fishery disaster due to the impact of Hurricane Irma on Florida's fishing industry.

I have informed Governor Scott that I have determined that a commercial fishery failure has occurred due to a fishery resource disaster resulting from the impacts of Hurricane Irma under section 312 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and that harm has occurred under section 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (IFA). I have also determined that a catastrophic regional fishery disaster has occurred under section 315 of the MSA for the State of Florida.

This disaster determination provides a basis for Congress to appropriate fishery disaster relief funding under the MSA and IFA. Should Congress appropriate funds for fishery disaster relief, NMFS will work with your state to develop a spend plan to assist with the recovery of Florida's fishing industry and fishing communities resulting from the impacts of Irma.

If you have any further questions, please contact Michael Platt, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,

Wilbur Ross