



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

October 30, 2019

The Honorable Phil Bryant  
Governor of Mississippi  
Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Governor Bryant:

Thank you for your letter requesting a fishery disaster determination for multiple fisheries in Mississippi due to the impact of extreme freshwater flooding into the Gulf of Mexico in 2019. After reviewing the information you provided in your correspondence, I have determined that a commercial fishery failure has occurred due to a fishery resource disaster under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). I have also determined that a catastrophic regional fishery disaster has occurred under section 315 of the MSA.

This determination now makes this fishery disaster 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 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service, in cooperation with your state, is conducting further assessments of the impacts resulting from the 2019 Gulf of Mexico freshwater flooding fishery disaster. I will determine an allocation of funding to the State of Mississippi to provide relief to the fishing communities affected by this fishery disaster upon completion of the assessment.

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

Sincerely,

  
Wilbur Ross