



THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

September 16, 2008

The Honorable Bobby Jindal
Governor of Louisiana
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Dear Governor Jindal:

Thank you for your letter requesting a declaration of a commercial fishery failure under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

I am making a determination that there is a fishery resource disaster within the meaning of Section 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (IFA) in the commercial fisheries in the north-central Gulf of Mexico.

This determination provides another tool to deliver disaster assistance to the region. We will work with you, your marine resource agency staff, and commercial entities in the State of Louisiana to evaluate the harm, as defined by the statute and regulations, suffered by persons engaged in commercial fishing.

We will continue to review the short-term and long-term impacts of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike on Gulf fishery stocks and Louisiana's fishing and processing infrastructure. These evaluations will be used to assess the appropriateness of additional determinations under the IFA and the Magnuson-Stevens Act that cannot be met through other existing Federal relief programs.

We will continue to coordinate with you and the other affected States and will keep you apprised as we make decisions. If you have any questions, please contact me or Nathaniel F. Wienecke, Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlos M. Gutierrez".

Carlos M. Gutierrez