

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 23, 2019

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary of Commerce
U.S Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross,

We write in support of the recent requests for fishery disaster assistance submitted by the Governors of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Our States are currently observing adverse economic impacts to all components of marine resources including, but not limited to: shrimp, oysters, crabs and finfish. The livelihoods of many in our coastal communities are dependent on a healthy marine environment, and disruptions to these ecosystems have heavy impacts on both the commercial and recreational fishing industries, including the supply chains they support.

As you are aware, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has already declared a flooding emergency (FEMA-3413-EM), which has amplified and firmly established the need for a conjunctive fisheries disaster declaration. We urge you to utilize your authority to make the appropriate declarations and allow the Department of Commerce to release an initial tranche of assistance to the men and women who are currently being adversely affected by this disaster.

Through the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act (Public Law 116-20), enacted on June 6, 2019, Congress provided \$150 million to the Department of Commerce for fishery disaster assistance. We urge you consider the catastrophic regional disaster of the Central Gulf Coast and this funding's ability to provide initial, timely assistance for our fisherman, processors, businesses and to rehabilitate important fishery species upon which our seafood industries rely.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to continuing conversations with the Department of Commerce.

Sincerely,



STEVE SCALISE (LA-01)
Member of Congress



STEVEN M. PALAZZO (MS-04)
Member of Congress



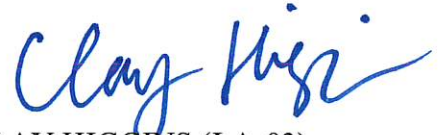
CEDRIC RICHMOND (LA-02)
Member of Congress



BRADLEY BYRNE (AL-01)
Member of Congress



GARRET GRAVES (LA-06)
Member of Congress



CLAY HIGGINS (LA-03)
Member of Congress