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

November 16, 2012

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing to inform you that the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service is examining the effects of Sandy on New Jersey and New York fisheries under section 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (IFA) and section 315 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). I have determined that under section 308(d) of the IFA, a fishery resource disaster has occurred, and under section 315 of the MSA, a catastrophic regional fishery disaster has occurred due to a natural disaster for New Jersey and New York.

We will work with you and your communities to evaluate Sandy's short-term and long-term impacts on your state's commercial and recreational fisheries, and fishing and processing infrastructure. We will use these evaluations to assess the need for fishery disaster assistance that cannot be met through other existing federal relief programs.

This disaster determination immediately authorizes the Small Business Administration to issue disaster loans that can assist businesses of any size for qualifying uninsured physical damages and can assist small businesses for economic injury. In addition, this determination provides a basis for Congress to appropriate disaster relief funding under the IFA and MSA, and for NOAA to use these funds to provide assistance to affected communities. Should Congress appropriate funds for disaster assistance, the National Marine Fisheries Service will work with your state to develop an effective program to assist in the recovery of your state's coastal communities and fishing industry from the impacts of Sandy.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Stowers, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Blank

Rebecca M. Blank
Acting Secretary of Commerce