

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1806

February 27, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Ross:

I received word today that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) awarded \$65 million to various communities which suffered fishery disasters between 2017 and 2019. While these funds will certainly help fishery revenue losses in those respective states and mitigate the damages caused by related disasters, Louisiana continues to wait for our allocation from the remaining \$100 million to provide relief from similar events in the same period.

Louisiana is still hurting from losses to our fisheries after the repeated opening of the Bonnet Carre Spillway. As we mentioned in our July 8, 2019 letter, fisheries in South Louisiana are engines of local economies – employing both commercial and recreational fishermen, processors, marinas, supportive maritime industries and restaurants. However, this isn't just about jobs, it's about generations of Cajun and Creole culture. To further compound the issue, our seafood industries have been punished by previous, man-made disadvantages – including falsely labeled crawfish and imported shrimp taking precedent in the market over our domestic and sustainable seafood products.

We need this funding. Our communities depend on it and it is essential to the fabric of our economy and culture. I look forward to working with you, NOAA, and our diverse South Louisiana industries to ensure that Louisiana's commercial, charter, and recreational fishing communities will receive the assistance we need.

Sincerely,



Garret Graves
Member of Congress