

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

October 18, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

We write to express our support for the State of Florida's request for the declaration of a federal fishery resource disaster in response to the severe impacts of Hurricane Ian. We respectfully urge you to expeditiously consider the State of Florida's request, and approve the disbursement of disaster assistance to fishing and seafood businesses that have been disrupted and/or destroyed by the storm.

On October 15, 2022, the State of Florida submitted a request to the U.S. Department of Commerce to declare a federal fishery resource disaster pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act and the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act, including clauses to initiate support from the Economic Development Administration, to support fishery businesses in response to Hurricane Ian. As noted in the initial request, Florida's recreational fishing industry has an annual \$9.2 billion economic impact, and commercial fisheries produce seafood totaling \$244 million in dockside value.

Florida's iconic fisheries are foundational to the economy and way of life in many of the communities that have been devastated by Hurricane Ian. A timely and robust response by the Department of Commerce through the declaration of a fishery disaster in support of Florida's fishing industries is required to help these communities recover. We urge you to approve the declaration without delay.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator



Rick Scott  
U.S. Senator



Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds  
Member of Congress



Mario Díaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford  
Member of Congress



María Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress



Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress



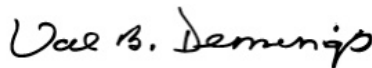
Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



Brian Mast  
Member of Congress



Val Demings  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress



Scott Franklin  
Member of Congress



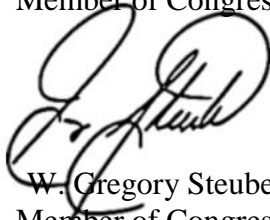
Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Carlos A. Giménez  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
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