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DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

September 5, 2013

Mr. Frank Skaggs, Director
U.S. Small Business Administration
Office of Disaster Assistance
Field Operations Center - East
101 Marietta Street, NW
Suite 700
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Dear Director Skaggs:

On September 13, 2012, the Department of Commerce determined that a commercial fishery failure will exist for the 2013 groundfish fishing season throughout the northeast as a result of a fishery resource disaster. Fishermen in the northeast are experiencing financial hardships because the slow rebuilding of fish stocks has limited their ability to catch enough fish to remain profitable. In addition to the substantially decreased fish stock, catch limits further compound the ability of fishermen to catch adequate supplies of fish to remain profitable.

While the Department of Commerce's declaration cited "undetermined causes" of the fishery resource disaster underlying the commercial fishery failure, Acting Secretary Blank indicated that the diminished fish stocks have resulted despite fishermen's on-going adherence to catch limits. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Regional Administrator John Bullard of the Northeast Regional Office was more specific, designating environmental factors as a significant cause. The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) of NOAA Fisheries recently gave scientific credibility to the conclusion that the environment was a driving force behind the fishery failure and disaster. The NEFSC reported that the

sea surface temperatures in areas spanning from the Gulf of Maine south to Cape Hatteras during 2012 were the highest ever recorded and are part of a pattern of elevated temperatures occurring in the Northwest Atlantic. These temperatures have impacts throughout the ecosystem, including a northeastward shift of Atlantic cod and presumably other groundfish species from its historic distribution center.

In coordination with the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game and Division of Marine Fisheries, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) has conducted a preliminary survey of businesses to determine the potential economic impact caused by this disaster. Based on this preliminary data, it is anticipated that several hundred fisherman and businesses will be impacted by this incident. The attached summary lists businesses with substantial gross revenue loss for the disaster as compared to the same period in the preceding year; we fully expect that the actual number of severely impacted businesses will be higher. As detailed on the attached certification forms, several businesses surveyed report losses of more than 40 percent of gross revenue when comparing 2011 to 2012 figures.

Since the 2013 season is ongoing (May 2013 through April 2014), final gross income figures for the season are not currently available for comparison at this time. As such, we are providing figures from the 2012 fishing season to detail the financial impacts to the Massachusetts fishing industry and compared them to the prior year's season (2011). These figures demonstrate a sharp decline in revenue – a decline that is expected to significantly worsen in the 2013 season because of the disaster.

Based on the results of this survey, I hereby certify that in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 13, Part 123.3, at least five (5) small businesses in the counties of Barnstable, Bristol, Essex, Plymouth, Norfolk and Suffolk Counties in Massachusetts suffered substantial economic injury as a result of the fishery resource disaster. I further certify that the degree of economic injury is so severe that financial assistance at reasonable rates and terms is not otherwise available, thereby creating the necessity for

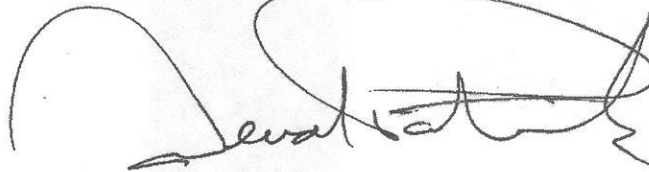
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federal involvement in the form of subsidized loans from the Small Business Administration.

Your assistance in expediting help for our small businesses and fisherman as they struggle to meet their financial obligations and pay ordinary and necessary operating expenses during the recovery from this unprecedented event is greatly appreciated.

Should you need additional information, please contact Scott MacLeod, MEMA's Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Division Manager. Mr. MacLeod may be reached at 508-820-1445 or Scott.MacLeod@state.ma.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott MacLeod", written over a large, loopy flourish.

Enclosures

cc: Kurt Schwartz, Director, Massachusetts Emergency
Management
Agency
Christine Packard, Deputy Director, Emergency Management
Services, MEMA
Scott MacLeod, Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Division
Manager,
MEMA
Mary Griffin, Commissioner, MA Department of Fish & Game