

[Home](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Media](#) | [Administration](#) | [NJ's Priorities](#) | [Contact Us](#)
[Press Releases](#) | [Public Addresses](#) | [Executive Orders](#) | [Press Kit](#) | [Reports](#)
[Home](#) > [Newsroom](#) > [Press Releases](#) > 2012

Christie Administration Announces Federal Fishery Resource Disaster Declaration for New Jersey

Friday, November 16, 2012

Tags: [Executive Orders](#)

Trenton, NJ - The U.S. Department of Commerce today approved Governor Christie's request for a declaration of a federal fishery resource disaster as a result of the devastation to the commercial and recreational fishing industries caused by Hurricane Sandy.

"I sincerely thank Acting Commerce Secretary Rebecca Blank for acting swiftly to respond to my request for help for New Jersey's fishing industries, which sustained serious losses during the storm," said Governor Christie. "My Administration will be working closely with federal officials in assessing the extent of the storm's economic impacts and in developing a response that will help the fishing industry in this time of great hardship."

Sandy resulted in significant losses for the industry in New Jersey, damaging or destroying vessels, ports, facilities, and equipment. It also left coastal areas that the industry needs severely damaged or inaccessible. The Commerce Department's declaration also applies to New York's fishing industries, which also sustained heavy losses during the storm.

"We are taking action because of the storm's devastating impact on the people who live and work in coastal communities that were hit hard by Sandy," said Acting Secretary Blank. "Many of these hardworking Americans depend on a robust fishing industry to support their families and local economies. This disaster declaration is part of a coordinated federal effort to help the region rebuild. The Obama Administration is committed to bringing all available resources to bear to support state and local partners as well as affected communities as recovery continues."

A federal fishery disaster declaration triggers a federal economic transition program to provide disaster relief for impacted aspects of the industry, including commercial fishing operations, charter fishing operators, processors and owners of related fishery infrastructure affected by the disaster.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has already begun preliminary work to assess economic impacts of the storm to the industry and will be teaming up next week with officials from the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to visit commercial and recreation fishing operations that were impacted. They will also be assessing the cascading impacts of storm had on other parts of the state's economy that support the commercial and recreational fishing industries.

"Our fishing industries need our help recovering from the devastating effects of this natural disaster," DEP Commissioner Bob Martin said. "This formal disaster declaration is the first step in the road to recovery for industries that are important to the economy and identity of shore and to the entire state. We will continue to work closely with the industry as we work through this process."

In 2011, New Jersey's commercial fishing industry landed roughly 175 million pounds of seafood, generating over \$1.3 billion in economic activity. The economic impact of recreational fishing also supports approximately 8,500 jobs and \$1.4 billion in annual sales.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act authorizes the Commerce Secretary to declare a fishery resource disaster and a catastrophic regional fishery disaster, respectively, which allows Congress to appropriate federal relief funds for assistance to alleviate harm resulting from a natural disaster.

Upon appropriation of funds by Congress, Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will work closely with members of Congress and the governors of impacted states to develop financial assistance plans to help coastal communities and the fishing industry.

###

Stay Connected
with Social Media

Stay Connected
with Email Alerts

LIKE THIS PAGE? SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS.
 ...

Press Contact:
Michael Drewniak
Kevin Roberts
609-777-2600



[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [Legal Statement & Disclaimers](#) | [Accessibility Statement](#) | 

Statewide: [NJ Home](#) | [Services A to Z](#) | [Departments/Agencies](#) | [FAQs](#)
Office of the Governor: [Home](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Media](#) | [Administration](#) | [NJ's Priorities](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Copyright © State of New Jersey, 1996-2017
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-6000