



LOUISIANA SHRIMP ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1088 Grand Isle, La. 70358

504-382-9341

Dear Honorable Parish Presidents and or Mayors,

The Louisiana Shrimp Association is a nonprofit organization formed by commercial shrimpers throughout the State of Louisiana. Membership consists of commercial shrimp fisherman, wholesale and retail seafood dealers, statewide merchants, and individuals concerned about issues related to domestic seafood and shrimp production as well as the preservation of the culture and heritage of the traditional Louisiana shrimper.

We are respectfully asking that you declare a "State of Emergency" for the **fisheries** in your area due to the scheduled opening of the Morgana Spillway which will push approximately 1.5 million cubic-feet-per-second of rushing freshwater into a fragile eco system; we all know what will happen to our already suffering fisheries. Our seafood industry will be negatively impacted for months and years to come.

Freshwater intrusion into our estuaries is already negatively impacting our fishing industry, our harvesters, small businesses and our communities. We have been working with the Lt. Governor, state representatives as well as other organizations throughout the state on this crucial issue.

We agree with our Lt. Governor Nungesser 100 % when he stated-

"The opening of the Morganza Spillway will cause severe damage to the Atchafalaya Basin, our nation's largest estuary," said Lt. Governor Nungesser. "The opening of the Bonnet Carrie Spillway earlier this year already has negatively impacted seafood in Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Borgne. New fresh water flow into the Basin will further impact the livelihoods of thousands of Gulf fisherman, as well as crawfish and oyster farmers. My office is also asking Congress to include assistance for the seafood industry in any future disaster recovery bills."

This will help Governor John Belle Edwards when he declares a "Disaster Declaration for the Fisheries" in the state which we are working on now.

Your help on this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Acy J. Cooper Jr.

President

Louisiana Shrimp Association