



Louisiana Shrimp Association
107 East 17th Place
Larose, La. 70343

April 12, 2024

**Louisiana Shrimp Association Letter of Support
The Fishes Act
House Natural Resources Fisheries Subcommittee**

Louisiana Shrimp Association (LSA) is in support of Congressman Byron Donald's house bill, "The Fishes Act". This would require the OMB to approve or deny spend plans within a certain amount of time when associated with fishery disasters.

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.

Louisiana's fishermen, as well as fishermen from other areas, know first hand the long anticipated wait for a fishery disaster to be declared, a longer wait for the funding to be sent to each state for relief to the fishing industries, then dispersed to fishermen.

Agencies in Louisiana are currently issuing grant funds to eligible fishermen that suffered hardships due to the 2019 Fresh Water Disaster. This process has taken 5 years to get financial help to our fishermen that needed it almost immediately.

When a fishery disaster occurs, our commercial fishermen want to make the repairs to their equipment or do what ever is necessary to get back to work harvesting seafood. With this long process, as is, it is almost impossible for some to return to work on the water due to the long waiting process to make repairs or replace damages caused by a disaster. The Fishers Act would streamline the process after a disaster and would help us resume work sooner then in the past.

As is now, the process of disaster funding, if approved has a lengthy process. If adopted, Congressman Donald's bill would speed up this process, which would be greatly beneficial to our fisheries. Louisiana Shrimp Association believes that this is a very good bill and it will be very helpful if adopted.

We ask that you all support Congressman Donaldson's bill to streamline the process after a fishery disaster. We appreciate your time and we are grateful to any help you may give on this matter.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Acy J Cooper".

Acy J Cooper
President