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April 20, 2020

Mr. Chris W. Oliver
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service/NOAA
1315 East-West Highway, 14th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Oliver,

I am writing in support of the requests made by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation regarding administration of the \$300 million to help fisheries in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Our commercial fishermen in New York have been hard-hit by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly disrupted their markets and the restaurant industry on which they rely.

It is imperative that the funding is quickly allocated to the fishermen who are experiencing the greatest economic need as a result of COVID-19. These include the cold weather commercial fishermen in New York who have seen their business disrupted as social distancing and stay at home policies have been enacted and enforced. These same policies have shuttered our charter boat businesses and their supporting industries such as bait & tackle companies. I also hope you will give strong consideration to New York's request that you consider per-capita income and local cost of living when making allocation decisions for this relief funding. New York State has one of the highest costs of living in the United States, and that should be taken into consideration when determining the need for our commercial fishermen relative to other states.

New York's commercial fishermen play an indispensable role in feeding our state and the country, and they need the federal government's help and support now more than ever. I hope that you will consider the requests by New York in order to ensure that our fishermen are provided with the resources they need to help get them through this very difficult economic time.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests, and should you wish to discuss this matter in further detail, please do not hesitate to reach out to my staff.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator