



October 26, 2023

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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Division of Marine Fisheries Management

Jessica McCawley
Director

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Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.

Honorable Byron Donalds
1719 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear U.S Rep. Donalds:

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is pleased to support H.R. 5103, the “Fishery Improvement to Streamline untimely regulatory Hurdles post Emergency Situation Act” or the “FISHES Act.”

H.R. 5103 would improve the fishery disaster assistance process by establishing a 30-day deadline for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve a spend plan.

Historically, the federal fishery disaster assistance process has been plagued by delays, lack of transparency, and unpredictability from federal agencies. To improve the process and increase accountability and transparency, Public Law 117-328 established deadlines for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to make decisions. However, the law did not impose any deadlines on OMB. H.R. 5103 would establish that much-needed deadline.

The FWC looks forward to working with you to advance H.R. 5103 to help those affected by fishery disasters.

Sincerely,

Jessica McCawley
Director
Division of Marine Fisheries Management
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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