



CHARLIE CRIST  
Governor

SECRETARY MICHAEL W. SOLE  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

DAVID HALSTEAD  
State Coordinating Officer

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**CONTACT: GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE 850-488-5394**

## **Governor Crist's Request for Fishery Failure Determination for Florida Granted by U.S. Department of Commerce**

*~Fisherman and affected businesses can now qualify for economic injury loans ~*

TALLAHASSEE – Governor Charlie Crist, continuing his commitment to recovery efforts in the Gulf of Mexico, announced that his request for a Fishery Failure Determination for Florida has been granted by the United States Department of Commerce. The Governor made the request yesterday, based on the growing impact of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on fishing communities throughout the state.

“The quick response of the federal government to this request is a positive step towards protecting Florida’s hard-working citizens,” said Governor Crist. “We are continuing to keep a close watch on the oil spill and are prepared to respond to any impacts we may experience. Florida is still open and we encourage everyone to go fishing and enjoy Florida seafood products.”

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Governor Crist urged Secretary Locke to establish a regional economic transition program. By granting the Governor’s request, impacted fisherman and affected businesses can now qualify for economic injury loans through the U.S. Small Business Administration.

For more information on Florida’s response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, visit [www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon), follow [www.Twitter.com/FLDEPalert](http://www.Twitter.com/FLDEPalert) or call the Florida Oil Spill Information Line at 888-337-35