



**U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20416

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

JUN 21 2005

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

Thank you for your June 8, 2005 letter requesting that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) issue an economic injury disaster declaration for Massachusetts fishermen who are currently affected by the outbreak of red tide.

On June 14, 2005, pursuant to the Governor's request, SBA issued an economic injury disaster declaration for Barnstable, Essex, Nantucket, and Plymouth Counties and the contiguous counties of Bristol, Dukes, Middlesex, Norfolk, and Suffolk in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties in the State of New Hampshire. The economic injury disaster declaration enables SBA to offer economic injury disaster loans to eligible small businesses and small business agricultural cooperatives without credit available elsewhere. Applications for economic injury loans may be filed until the close of business on March 14, 2006.

Thank you for your continuing support of the SBA Disaster Assistance Program. If you or your staff have additional questions, please contact Janis Coughlin-Piester in our Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs at (202) 205-6700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hector V. Barreto".

Hector V. Barreto  
Administrator