

FRANKLIN COUNTY

REPLY TO

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
33 MARKET STREET, SUITE 203
APALACHICOLA, FL 32320
(850) 653-8861, EXT. 100
FAX (850) 653-4795



REPLY TO

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPT.
34 FORBES STREET
APALACHICOLA, FL 32320
(850) 653-9783
FAX (850) 653-9799

September 5, 2013

Governor Rick Scott
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners requests your assistance in finding food, funds, and a future for the embattled seafood workers trying to make a living on the Apalachicola Bay. The winter oyster bars opened on Sept. 4, and by all accounts there are not enough oysters to sustain a harvest.

You and your state agencies responded when the oyster industry opened to a failed harvest last September, and it appears it is happening again.

If the Apalachicola Bay oyster fails so too does the Florida oyster industry. The Board is determined to move the Apalachicola Bay oyster industry, with its national reputation for an excellent product, back into the forefront of the consumer but we need help. We ask that you support a second National Emergency Grant through DEO, and the US Dept. of Labor. We ask that you support the GulfCoast Workforce Board in its efforts to continue shelling/relaying as a means of economic support and retraining to support local businesses and to transition those willing from their current occupation into another line of work. Please direct state agencies which have received NRDA/BP related funds for projects to utilize those in putting oystermen to work in restoration projects and to provide oystermen/seafood harvesters with income as the bay restores and oysters and other seafood populations reach harvestable levels.

We also ask that you assist us in seeking a congressional appropriation for the commercial fishery failure pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Act that you helped get declared for the oyster industry.

Ultimately, the survival of the oyster industry does depend on an adequate supply of freshwater. The Board appreciates your recent statements that Florida will take the water wars to the US Supreme Court. But, as we fight to get water, we need to be preparing the Bay. We need to be putting out a tremendous quantity of oyster shells so that when the water arrives, either by human action or divine intervention, the next generation of oysters will have a substrate to grow on.

PINKI JACKEL
District One

CHERYL SANDERS
District Two

NOAH LOCKLEY, JR.
District Three

JOSEPH PARRISH
District Four

WILLIAM MASSEY
District Five

We appreciate all your efforts. If you need additional information please contact Mr. Alan Pierce, Director of Administrative Services, at 850-653-9783, ext. 161, or email at alanp@fairpoint.net

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cheryl Sanders', written in a cursive style.

Cheryl Sanders, Chairman
Franklin County Board of
County Commissioners

Cc: Senator Bill Montford
Rep. Halsey Bashears
Kim Bodine, Gulf Coast Workforce Board

CS/acp