



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/southeast>

F/SER2:JCM

Stephen W. Murphey, Director
North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
3441 Arendell Street
Morehead City, NC 28557

Dear Mr. Murphey,

Congress appropriated \$15 million through the 2019 Consolidated Omnibus Appropriations Act (PL 116-6) for fisheries disaster assistance and another \$150 million as part of the 2019 Supplemental Disaster Appropriation (PL 116-20). Nine fishery disasters, as determined by the Secretary of Commerce, are eligible for this funding. These fishery disasters occurred between 2017 and 2019 in Alaska, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, and affected the Yurok Tribe in California. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) used commercial revenue loss information to allocate the funding among the eligible disasters. NOAA Fisheries' allocation of disaster funds also took into consideration traditional uses that cannot be accounted for in commercial revenue loss alone.

Based on this approach, NOAA Fisheries has allocated \$7,728,000 from these funds to respond to commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster caused by Hurricane Florence.

NOAA Fisheries has determined that your organization will be a recipient of these funds for the purpose of addressing the commercial fishery failure caused by Hurricane Florence. NOAA Fisheries will provide you with these funds, after we receive, review, and approve a grant application. Your grant application must reflect the appropriate use of funds and considerations as outlined here in a detailed spending plan. Please establish a spend plan to meet the unique needs of local fishermen and related businesses in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act, and the NOAA Fisheries Disaster Policy.

Funds can be used to address a range of impacts including impacts to commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen, charter businesses, subsistence users, shore-side infrastructure, and the fishing ecosystem and environment. NOAA believes that funds should be used for activities that restore the fishery or prevent a similar failure in the future and assist fishing communities affected by such failure. NOAA strongly recommends that recipients utilize these funds to strengthen the long-term economic and environmental sustainability of the fishery. This can include, but is not limited to activities such as habitat restoration, research, state-run buybacks, job retraining, and fishery-related infrastructure.

Your application should articulate how the activities identified in your spend plan were prioritized and demonstrate how this assistance is aimed at preventing similar failures in the future. If your application includes a request for direct payments, the project narrative must describe why direct payments, instead of long-term economic and environmental measures, are the best mechanism to address the fishery disaster, and describe the anticipated economic impact



on the local fishing community. In addition, your application should describe how you determine who is eligible for direct payments. Your application should also, if applicable, identify funds available from other federal programs for disaster relief and describe the process you use to coordinate across disaster funding from multiple agencies. Finally, your application and spend plan should explain how you are taking into account, where applicable, the availability of funds to mitigate impacts, such as insurance.

Additional guidance is available in Section VI “Forms of Financial Assistance” in the NOAA Fisheries *[Policy Guidance for Disaster Assistance under Magnuson-Stevens Act 312\(a\) and Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act 308\(b\) and 308\(d\)](#)* (<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/funding-and-financial-services/fishery-disaster-assistance>).

As soon as possible, please have a member of your staff contact Kelly Donnelly from the Grants Management Branch at the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office to begin the grant application process via the grants.gov website. You may contact her at 727-824-5324 and kelly.donnelly@noaa.gov.

We look forward to working with you to expedite the distribution of this much needed assistance to the affected fishing industry and affiliated constituents.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

Cc: Steve Poland, Andy Strelcheck, Heather Blough, Kelly Donnelly, Karen Abrams, Lauren Waters