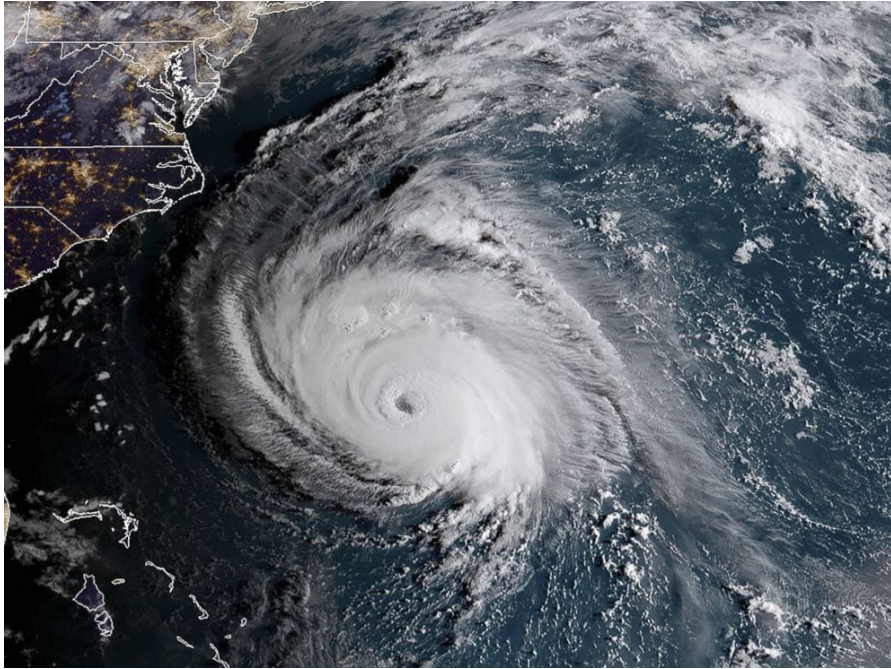


Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence



Final Report

05/2023



NOAA
FISHERIES

Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence

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ABSTRACT

Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina on September 14th, 2018, and brought record breaking levels of rainfall to eastern North Carolina, historic storm surge levels, and high winds which caused extensive property damage to the area. After passing two state relief bills for Hurricane Florence, which offered aid to commercial fishermen and aquaculture operations, Governor Roy Cooper requested a declaration by the United States Secretary of Commerce of a federal fishery resources disaster and for subsequent federal assistance to be granted. The Commerce Secretary declared a commercial fishery failure due to Hurricane Florence, which prompted a federal damage assessment by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The damage assessment considered losses to all major levels of the state's fishing industry, including commercial fishing, seafood processing and dealing, aquaculture, for-hire fishing operations, and bait and tackle shops. In all, NOAA estimated \$38 million in damages to the North Carolina fisheries industry, along with another \$56.5 million in revenue losses. Following this federal analysis, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) received notification from NOAA in March 2020 that \$7,728,000 in federal funds were made available to North Carolina for fishery disaster assistance, and after adjusting for the federal Hollings rescission, NCDMF was awarded \$7,720,272. NOAA provided guidance on how the money could be used, with a focus on restoring the fishery, protecting from future disasters, and aiding those affected by this disaster. The eligible stakeholders were seafood dealers and processors, for-hire fishing operations, bait and tackle shops, and ocean piers, as commercial fishermen and aquaculture operations had already received relief at the state level. Based on the NOAA assessment, it was determined that seafood dealers and processors would receive 54% of available funds, for-hire fishing operations would receive 22%, bait and tackle shops 19%, and ocean piers 3%. One hundred and three applicants were approved for relief through the program, comprised of 68 seafood dealer and processors, 26 for-hire operators, 5 ocean fishing piers, and 4 bait and tackle shops. The average check amount for the program was \$74,054.54.

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We would also like to thank current and past staff at the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) for their assistance with the program aid check distribution.

Finally, a special thanks to the seafood dealers, for-hire fishing operations, bait and tackle shops, and ocean piers for their support and patience during this program.

INTRODUCTION

Hurricane Florence

The hurricane season in 2018 was above average and featured 15 named tropical cyclones, eight of which developed into hurricanes, with two of those hurricanes strengthening to major hurricanes (Category 3 or higher on the Saffir-Simpson Scale; National Hurricane Center 2018). Hurricane Florence developed as a tropical wave off the coast of Africa on August 31st, 2018, before moving across the Atlantic. By September 4th it was upgraded to a hurricane. As Hurricane Florence moved across the Atlantic, it reached major hurricane strength before weakening to a tropical storm, only to strengthen once again into a Category 4 hurricane. As Hurricane Florence approached the coast of North Carolina, shallow waters and a weak eyewall resulted in an overall weakening of the hurricane just before landfall. On September 14th, 2018, Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina around Wrightsville Beach and ranked at the upper end of a Category 1 hurricane (National Hurricane Center 2019).

Hurricane Florence set new rainfall records in North Carolina, surpassing those previously set by Hurricane Floyd in 1999 and Hurricane Matthew in 2016. Rainfall totals in Elizabethtown, NC reached nearly 36 inches, the highest recorded amount throughout the duration of Hurricane Florence. Other notable rainfall amounts included 34 inches in Swansboro, nearly 27 inches in Wilmington, 25 inches in Jacksonville and Newport, 21 inches in Morehead City, and almost 17 inches in New Bern (National Hurricane Center 2019). Increased rainfall compounded with a record-breaking storm surge resulted in devastating impacts. Storm surge levels reached nine to eleven feet over much of coastal North Carolina. The hardest hit communities included New Bern, Newport, Belhaven, Oriental, North Topsail Beach, Jacksonville, and Down East communities of Carteret County. Maximum wind gusts reached 106 miles per hour at Cape Lookout and 105 miles per hour in Wilmington (National Weather Service 2019). Damages from wind and rain were widespread across the entire state of North Carolina. A total of 15 fatalities occurred as a direct result of Hurricane Florence, of which 11 were due to freshwater flooding and four due to wind (National Hurricane Center 2019).

Hurricane Florence was an extremely slow-moving system, resulting in the historic rainfall totals across many parts of the state. Eastern North Carolina was already experiencing above average rainfall prior to Hurricane Florence's arrival. With the ground already saturated, additional rainfall from Hurricane Florence caused substantial sewer flooding, wastewater treatment plant flooding, and agricultural runoff. Anticipating increased levels of bacteria in runoff, widespread closures of shellfish harvest areas along the entire coast occurred just prior to landfall. Proclamation PA-105-2018 was issued on September 13th, 2018, closing all coastal waters to shellfish harvest in Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender, Onslow, Carteret, Craven, Pamlico, Beaufort, Hyde, and Dare Counties. In the month and a half following Hurricane Florence, fourteen proclamations were issued to re-open coastal waters. All coastal waters were completely re-opened to shell fishing by October 27, 2018, 43 days after initial landfall (Appendix A).

NC Hurricane Florence Commercial Fishery Assistance Program

After the storm, the North Carolina General Assembly passed two session laws (2018-136 and 2018-138) which allocated a total of \$11.6 million of aid for the commercial fishing industry. The North Carolina Trip Ticket Program (NCTTP) followed eligibility requirements defined in Session Law 2018-138 to distribute aid to eligible commercial fishermen. Potential losses due to Hurricane Florence were calculated for September, October, and November 2018 compared to their average landings in September, October, and November of 2015 to 2017. Distribution of aid occurred in two phases: losses that were incurred during September and losses that were incurred during October and November combined. The distribution of funds occurred over multiple check writes as late responders and disputes were processed and approved. In total, 1,176 participants across 39 different counties received aid. Distribution of check counts and amounts by county is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Total check counts and amounts by county.

Mailing County	Number of Check Recipients	Total Amount Paid
Beaufort	77	\$904,898
Bertie	2	***
Brunswick	87	\$339,469
Camden	25	\$663,635
Carteret	246	\$1,743,520
Chatham	1	***
Chowan	8	\$12,680
Columbus	3	\$7,282
Craven	23	\$438,428
Currituck	31	\$221,525
Dare	161	\$2,305,882
Duplin	3	\$1,484
Durham	1	***
Edgecombe	1	***
Forsyth	3	\$18,429
Greene	1	***
Hoke	2	***
Hyde	69	\$1,318,951
Iredell	1	***
Johnston	1	***
Jones	2	***
Lenoir	1	***
Martin	1	***
Mecklenburg	1	***
Montgomery	2	***

*** Indicates confidential data.

Table 1. Total check counts and amounts by county (*continued*).

Mailing County	Total Number of Check Recipients	Total Amount Paid
New Hanover	70	\$247,324
Onslow	137	\$1,445,688
Pamlico	57	\$774,074
Pasquotank	23	\$203,831
Pender	53	\$235,672
Perquimans	28	\$130,119
Pitt	10	\$72,533
Randolph	1	***
Tyrrell	25	\$301,105
Union	1	***
Wake	4	\$1,744
Washington	8	\$26,589
Wayne	4	\$1,580
Wilson	2	***

*** Indicates confidential data

Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence

On November 1st, 2018, Governor Roy Cooper submitted a letter to the United States Secretary of Commerce (Appendix B) requesting the declaration of a federal fishery resources disaster and for subsequent federal assistance to be granted. The Commerce Secretary approved this request on December 6th, 2018, and declared a commercial fishery failure due to Hurricane Florence (Appendix C). This declaration prompted a federal damage assessment by NOAA, which considered losses to all major levels of the state’s fishing industry, including commercial fishing, seafood processing and dealing, aquaculture, for-hire fishing operations, and bait and tackle shops (Appendix D). In all, NOAA estimated a loss of \$38 million in damages to North Carolina’s fishing industry, along with another \$56.5 million in revenue losses. Following the federal analysis, NCDMF received a notification from NOAA in March 2020 that \$7,728,000 in federal funds were made available to North Carolina for fishery disaster assistance. On May 29th, 2020, NCDMF was notified that these funds were subject to the federal Hollings rescission (which allows NOAA to use funds for administrative expenses) and the award was adjusted to \$7,720,272. NOAA provided guidance on the range of ways the money could be used, with a focus on restoring the fishery, protecting from future failures, and aiding those affected by this disaster. Unlike the NC Hurricane Florence Commercial Fishery Assistance Program, which focused on aid for commercial fishermen and aquaculture operations, the Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence compensated seafood dealers, processors, for-hire fishing operations, bait and tackle shops, and ocean piers. Commercial fishermen and aquaculture operations were already compensated by the NC Hurricane Florence Commercial Fishery Assistance Program and were therefore not eligible for additional federal relief funds.

The distribution of funds to fisheries-related industries was influenced by the guidance provided by NOAA Fisheries in their Hurricane Florence Fisheries Damage Assessment (NOAA 2019, Table 2, Appendix D). The objective of these funds was to assist stakeholders in North Carolina

that were still in need of assistance due to the impacts of Hurricane Florence. Stakeholders were able to learn what components of their businesses are most susceptible to natural disasters and how to improve their resiliency to future events. NCDMF viewed direct payments as the most efficient mechanism to provide relief to commercial seafood dealers and processors, for-hire fishing operations, bait and tackle shops, and ocean fishing piers, as they each experienced the economic devastation of Hurricane Florence and knew how the federal relief funds could best be used to recover and prepare themselves for the future.

Table 2. Allocation of funds per operation or business category based on damages outlined in NOAA Fisheries Hurricane Florence Fisheries Damage Assessment (NOAA 2019).

Operation/Business Type Category	Vessel/Facility Damages (\$ in millions) ¹	Revenue Losses (\$ in millions) ¹	Total Damages and Revenue (\$ in millions)	Percent % ²	Final \$ Distribution
Seafood Dealers and Processors	12.9	20.0	32.9	56%	4,250,186
For-Hire Businesses	4.6	8.1	12.7	22%	1,669,716
Bait and Tackle	0.4	10.6	11.0	19%	1,442,027
Ocean Fishing Piers	1.3	0.5	1.8	3%	227,689
Total	19.2	39.2	58.4	100%	7,589,618 ³

¹Estimates generated from NOAA Hurricane Florence Fisheries Damage Assessment.

²Final distribution of funds outlined in NOAA Damage Assessment.

³Available funds to stakeholder groups excluding NCDMF administrative cost.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility Requirements

Upon receiving approval by NOAA Fisheries, NCDMF created a spend plan that outlined the eligibility criteria for applicants. Applicants had to show either a loss in revenue, damages, or both that were directly and indirectly caused by Hurricane Florence. For revenue, applicants were required to demonstrate a loss by comparing the average revenue from September to November in 2018 from the same time frame in the previous three years (2015-2017). For damages, applicants were asked to supply receipts, invoices, estimates, photos with receipts or any other documents that help verify damage costs resulting from Hurricane Florence. Any damages that were covered by insurance were not eligible. The North Carolina spend plan for Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence required that applicants:

- Were over the age of 18.
- Were a registered business or resident of North Carolina through the NCDMF license database (if applicable).

- Were physically located in NC if applying as a processor.
 - Only North Carolina locations were eligible for relief funds if the processor was headquartered in another state.
- Held a license or permit in their legal or business name.
- Held a license or permit that was active, not expired or suspended, during September 1st- November 30th over the 2015-2018 period, or during the period they were in business (if less than four years)
 - If a license or permit was suspended during some portion of the previous years (2015-2017), that year would not be eligible.
- Had been in business for a minimum of one year as of September 2018

The September 1st to November 31st timeframe was chosen to cover economic impacts caused by Hurricane Florence. The 2015 to 2018 timeframe was established in the spend plan to calculate a 3-year average to determine 2018 revenue loss. Applicants were considered active if they held a valid license during these times, regardless of fishing activity.

Losses covered by insurance were not eligible for relief, so damages claimed in each application included only the value remaining after deducting the amount of money received from insurance reimbursements from the total value of losses incurred. This way, NCDMF did not need to have applicants clarify whether their reported losses include previously reimbursed damages.

Insurance reimbursements received by applicants were not verified by NCDMF due to the difficulty of verifying these reimbursements. However, applicants were required to sign an affidavit in which they acknowledged that they would not accept relief funds for losses covered by insurance.

Mailings

NCDMF staff mailed application packets to all 1,239 licensed, eligible fisheries participants in the state's Fisheries Information Network (FIN) database. The mailed application packet (Appendix E) included: a cover letter explaining the Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence, an application, a self-certifying affidavit, and a substitute W-9 form. The mailings were sent out on February 25th, 2022, and the participants had until April 11th to apply for the Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence relief funds.

Application materials were also available on the NCDMF website for any fisheries participants who did not receive a mailed application packet. To reach eligible stakeholders who were not licensed by NCDMF (i.e., processors and bait and tackle shops), NCDMF issued news releases and worked with trade organizations, such as the NC Fisheries Association and NC Coastal Conservation Association, to communicate on how these stakeholders could apply. NCDMF also called bait and tackle shops to inform them about the program and how to apply.

Applicants were notified by mail of their approval or denial decision (Appendix K). Approved applicants were sent a letter stating they had been approved and checks were expected to be mailed in the fall of 2022. Denied applicants were sent a letter via certified mail stating the reason for their denial and explaining the appeals process. Similar letters were sent for appeals decisions; however, the appeal denial letter stated the decision was final and the applicant could

no longer appeal (Appendix K). The final mailing occurred September 15th, 2022 and included both the assistance checks and a brief letter reminding applicants of the purpose of the program (Appendix L).

PROCESSING

NCDMF Hurricane Florence Team

To assist with the added workload from the Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence, two temporary, full-time employees were hired by NCDMF. An administrative assistant was hired to handle phone calls and manage incoming applications, along with various other administrative tasks. A biologist was hired to review applications, present at review committee meetings, and assist in writing the final report for the program. Other members of the NCDMF Hurricane Florence team included the NCDMF License and Statistics Section Chief, Administrative Specialist I, Commercial Statistics Program Manager, Socioeconomist, and three NCTTP biologists. These employees assisted with preparing the spend plan, reviewing applications, contacting applicants, verifying revenue data with trip tickets, creating and maintaining tracking reports, and sitting on the review committee. The team met on a weekly basis to discuss current and upcoming tasks, as well as difficult application situations.

Applications

The application period began when applications were mailed out and remained open for 45 days. Applicants were required to submit completed application forms, revenue documentation for September to November 2015 to 2018 (or the years they held licenses within that time frame) if applicable, and documents verifying damages caused by the hurricane if applicable. Applicants were also required to submit a copy of their state driver's licenses or identification cards. Once applications were received, the Hurricane Florence administrative assistant logged application information such as contact information and self-reported revenue values into a summary report and prepared a tracking sheet (Appendix F). The tracking sheet and a decision recommendation form (Appendix G) were attached with each application and applications were stored in individual folders designated for each applicant. The tracking sheet contained sections for recording applicant information, license and permit numbers, revenue values, and damage values. The recommendation form contained sections for the approval or denial recommendation, the reason for denial (if applicable), relevant notes, and a section for the review committee's final decision and additional comments. Application folders were stored in a secure filing cabinet unless under review.

NCDMF received 108 applications including appeals. Seafood dealers and processors submitted the most applications, with 70, for-hire fishing operations submitted 29 applications, ocean fishing piers submitted 5 applications, and bait and tackle shops submitted 4 applications. (Table 3). The Hurricane Florence Team reviewed these applications to determine if the applicant met all the requirements. If applications were incomplete, staff made courtesy calls to the applicant to

request the missing information. These courtesy calls were recorded in a call log. If the applicant could not be contacted, the application was processed as incomplete and recommended for denial. Denied applicants had one opportunity to appeal the committee’s decision.

Table 3. Applications received by stakeholder category.

Operation/Business Type Category	Number of Received Applications	Number of Received Late Applications	Number of Received Appeals	Category Total
Seafood Dealers and Processors	56	12	2	70
For-Hire Businesses	24	2	3	29
Bait and Tackle	4	0	0	4
Ocean Fishing Piers	5	0	0	5
Total	89	14	5	108

Revenue Loss Verification

Applicants were asked to provide documentation supporting their claims of lost revenue and damages. Common forms of revenue documentation supplied included: NC trip tickets, profit-loss statements, accounting software summary reports, invoices, bank statements, and annotated calendars. Common forms of damage documentation included pictures of damages and receipts for purchased materials or services used to repair damages. The Hurricane Florence Team used these forms of documentation to verify the reported values were accurate and that the applicant showed either a revenue loss, damage loss or both depending on what the applicant applied for. When the documented revenue or damage values did not match the applicant's self-reported values (e.g., the applicant claimed \$6,000 of revenue, but the checks provided only showed \$4,500), the Hurricane Florence Team used values supported by the provided documentation. To evaluate application documentation consistently, the Hurricane Florence Team established two categories of documentation, formal and informal, and created a hierarchy chart classifying revenue document types based on relative levels of perceived reliability (Appendix H). The documentation hierarchy defines formal document types as those that could be verified through a third party, such as bank statements, trip tickets, and invoices. Informal documents included items such as handwritten notes or ledgers. Additionally, the Hurricane Florence Team created a revenue documentation flow chart to establish a consistent course of action based on the type of documentation provided (Appendix I).

Revenue documentation provided by seafood dealers were verified with NCTTP data if applicable. If applicants did not provide their own documentation but did not explicitly request to use NCTTP data, or if the documentation provided was considered informal, staff made at least two courtesy calls to the applicant offering the options of either providing formal documentation

or using NCTTP data. If the applicant could not be reached, NCTTP data were used to determine eligibility. NCDMF does not regularly collect economic data for seafood processors, for-hire fishing operators, bait and tackle shops, or ocean fishing piers who are not licensed dealers. These stakeholders without a dealer's license did not have the option of using NCTTP data and were required to provide their own revenue documentation. If an applicant applied for damages, regardless of stakeholder group, NCDMF had to use the documentation provided by the applicant. The same procedure was followed if the applicant had submitted informal documentation; applicants received at least two courtesy calls asking for formal documentation.

Review Committee Meetings

All eligible applications were reviewed by members of the Hurricane Florence Team. Any applicant that did not meet the eligibility criteria was sent directly to the Deputy Director for an automatic denial. These applications were not reviewed by the review committee.

Eligible applications were prepared for the review committee by the Relief Program Biologist. The recommendation and relevant notes for all applications were entered on a PowerPoint slide. Each review slide contained the following:

- The application's reference number.
- The applicant's stakeholder group.
- The biologists' approval or denial recommendation.
- Applicant claimed revenue and damage loss (if applicable)
- Verified revenue and damage loss (if applicable)
- A table listing the revenue values by source, including:
 - The applicant's self-reported values.
 - The values supported by documentation.
 - The NCTTP values (if applicable).
- The biologists' recommended source for revenue and damage values.
- Other relevant application notes or comments.

Applications were presented to the review committee on a weekly basis. Each individual application was presented to the committee via PowerPoint, outlining relevant data and other pertinent information. The review committee consisted of NCDMF management, including: the Deputy Director, Marine Patrol Investigator, License and Statistics Section Chief, Commercial Statistics Program Manager, Socioeconomist, and NCTTP Biologists. The review committee discussed each application and followed the prepared documentation hierarchy and flow charts to make an approval or denial decision. Meeting notes were recorded by a Hurricane Florence Team member each week for future reference. Another Hurricane Florence Team member documented the review committee's decisions in a summary report and provided weekly status updates containing application, appeal, and approval and denial statistics by stakeholder group (Appendix J).

Appeals

Once the review committee made its eligibility determination, applicants were notified via phone call, which were recorded in a call log. Once the applicant was contacted, or after two unsuccessful contact attempts, the applicants were sent a notification letter (Appendix K). If the applicant was denied, they were given the opportunity to appeal the committee’s decision by submitting an appeal letter, along with any new documentation to support their case. The Hurricane Florence Team then reviewed the new documentation and combined it with the original documentation, if applicable. The biologist updated the recommendations and notes accordingly. The appeals were presented to the review committee for discussion and the final decision. Notification letters were again sent to appealing applicants. Denied applicants were informed that the appeal decision was final, and the option to file a second appeal was not available.

NCDMF received five appeals, and three were approved. Seafood dealers and processors filed two appeals with one approval. For-hire fishing operations filed three appeals with two approvals. No appeals were filed by bait and tackle shops or ocean fishing piers (Table 4). Three of the appeals were already approved for either revenue or damages through the initial review and were appealing the other portion that was denied. The other two appeals were denied due to initially providing insufficient documentation, or because they had just applied for one category. Three of the five were able to provide formal documentation and their appeals were approved. The other two appeals were denied. One of the denied appeals was unable to provide formal documentation, while the other failed to meet the eligibility requirements for the program.

Table 4. Appeal decisions for the Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence by stakeholder group.

Appeals	Seafood Dealers / Processors	For-Hire Fishing Operations	Ocean Fishing Piers	Bait & Tackle Shops	Total
Number of Approved Appeals	1	2	0	0	3
Number of Denied Appeals	1	1	0	0	2
Total Number of Appeals	2	3	0	0	5

After the appeals process, 103 applicants were approved. Within each stakeholder category, 68 seafood dealer and processors, 26 for-hire operators, 5 ocean fishing piers, and 4 bait and tackle shops were approved (Table 5).

Table 5. Final number of approvals and denials for the Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence by stakeholder group.

Applications	Seafood Dealers / Processors	For-Hire Fishing Operations	Ocean Fishing Piers	Bait & Tackle Shops	Total
Number of Approved Applications	63	19	5	3	90
Number of Denied Applications	5	7	0	1	13
Total Number of Applications Received	68	26	5	4	103

Timeline

The spending plan submitted to NOAA outlined the projected timeline for the Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence (Table 6). In the spend plan, the tasks were separated by discrete time periods (i.e., one task did not start until the previous task was finished) with allotted completion times. The overall projected time to complete the Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence program was one year following the spend plan’s approval by NOAA. The approval was granted in January 2022, and the first mailing occurred shortly after on February 25th, 2022. The Hurricane Florence Team was able to streamline the program due to having experience from previous relief programs, allowing for optimal productivity. The Hurricane Florence team also overlapped many tasks, which increased efficiency. This resulted in checks being cut and mailed on September 15th, 2022, and allowed the reallocation of left-over administrative cost to approved stakeholders. A task that the original spend plan timeline did not address was assistance with answering questions and offering support for 1099’s that were mailed out in January 2023. The Hurricane Florence Team worked to finalize the final report and answered any questions stakeholders had as taxes were being filed.

Table 6. Timeline of key tasks for the Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence with the allotted number of days to complete each task, established in the Hurricane Florence spending plan.¹

Calculate Initial Losses/Prepare Mailings/ Hire Staff & Purchase supplies	Application period	Processing	Appeals	NCDEQ Issues Checks ²	Finalize and Develop Report
60 Days	45 Days	90 Days	30 Days	30 Days	60 Days

¹ The spending plan separated tasks into discrete time periods. The Hurricane Florence team overlapped tasks to expedite the process. The team was able to finish ahead of the projected schedule.

² Tax information (e.g., 1099 forms) was issued to anyone who received economic relief.

DISBURSEMENT

At the completion of the appeals period, NCDMF supplied the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) with all approved application amounts, calculated check amounts, and W-9s for the approved stakeholders. The Hurricane Florence Team also wrote a letter to be included with the checks reminding the applicant of the purpose of the checks (Appendix L). NCDEQ wrote and mailed the checks with the attached letter during a single check write on September 15th, 2022. After \$92,654 was set aside for NCDMF administrative costs, \$7,627,618 was distributed to the four stakeholder groups (Table 7).

Initial allocation was based on the damage assessment completed by NOAA Fisheries assessing the impacts that Hurricane Florence had on NC fisheries (Table 7, Appendix D). Following the precedent set with previous relief programs, NCDMF included language in the spend plan that allowed excess funds to be transferred from a fully compensated category to a category that was not. For-hire fishing operations and bait & tackle shops had 100% of their claimed losses covered with \$2,390,074.89 in remaining funds, which were reallocated to the seafood dealers and processors and ocean fishing piers. Additionally, NCDMF had leftover administrative funds, so an additional \$38,000 was added to remaining stakeholder funds bringing the overall total of reallocated funds to \$2,428,074.89. These leftover funds followed the same distribution that was established in the NOAA damage assessment and raised seafood dealers and processors from 33.99% of covered losses to 52.43% of covered losses. Ocean fishing piers were raised from 22.13% of losses covered to 33.93%. The average check amount for the program was \$74,054.54.

Table 7. Breakdown of the final allocation of funds per stakeholder group with original allocation percentage, reallocation amounts, and percent of loss covered.

Stakeholder	Original Allocation Percentage	Allocation Amount	Leftover Funds	Reallocated Leftover Stakeholder & Administrative Funds	Percent of Loss Covered
Seafood Dealers/Processors	56%	\$4,250,186	\$0	\$2,306,671	52%
For-Hire Fishing Operators	22%	\$1,669,716	\$1,215,057	\$0	100%
Bait & Tackle Shops	19%	\$1,442,027	\$1,175,018	\$0	100%
Ocean Fishing Piers	3%	\$227,689	\$0	\$121,404	34%
Grand Total	100%	\$7,589,618	\$2,390,075	\$2,428,075	-

Once all the checks were mailed, NCDEQ provided weekly check status updates to the Hurricane Florence team so they could call and make sure checks were being received and deposited. This occurred until November 8, 2022, when the final check was deposited.

SUMMARY

Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence assistance funds were distributed to 91 approved participants in 14 North Carolina counties (Table 8). The amount of relief distributed to the 103 approved applicants totaled \$7,627,618 for claimed fisheries revenue losses from August to November 2018. Pamlico County received the most funding from the program (\$1,902,725.64), which was distributed to four participants. Onslow County received the second highest amount of funding with \$1,196,379.05 distributed amongst 13 participants, and Carteret County had the highest number of approved participants (24).

Table 8. Total check counts, amounts, and percentages by county for the Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence.

Mailing County	Total Number of Participants	Total Amount Paid (\$)	Percent of Total (%)
Beaufort	3	98,416	1
Brunswick	10	168,243	2
Carteret	24	1,047,688	14
Craven	1	***	***
Currituck	1	***	***
Dare	8	161,280	2
Hyde	4	422,269	6
Jones	1	***	***
New Hanover	11	666,747	9
Onslow	13	1,196,379	16
Pamlico	4	1,902,726	25
Pasquotank	3	564,709	7
Pender	6	1,064,860	14
Perquimans	2	***	***

***Indicates confidential data

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APPENDIX

Appendix A: Shellfishing Proclamations

PA-105-2018- CLOSURE: Brunswick/ New Hanover/ Pender/ Onslow/ Carteret/ Craven/ Pamlico/ Beaufort/ Hyde/ Dare Counties. Temporary closures will take effect at sunrise on Thursday, September 13, 2018.

PA-106-2018- OPENING: Hyde/ Dare Counties. Temporary closures will return to the status in existence immediately prior to September 13, 2018, taking effect at sunrise on Saturday, September 29, 2018.

PA-107-2018- OPENING: Carteret County. Temporary closures will return to the status in existence immediately prior to September 13, 2018, taking effect at sunrise on Thursday, October 4, 2018.

PA-108-2018- OPENING: Carteret County. Temporary closures will return to the status in existence immediately prior to September 13, 2018, taking effect at sunrise on Wednesday, October 23, 2018.

PA-109-2018- OPENING: Carteret/ Pamlico/ Hyde/ Dare Counties. Temporary closures will return to the status in existence immediately prior to September 13, 2018, taking effect at sunrise on Friday, October 5, 2018.

PA-110-2018- OPENING: Carteret/ Onslow Counties. Temporary closures will return to the status in existence immediately prior to September 13, 2018, taking effect at sunrise on Saturday, October 6, 2018.

PA-111-2018- OPENING: New Hanover/ Pender/ Onslow/ Carteret Counties. Temporary closures will return to the status in existence immediately prior to September 13, 2018, taking effect at sunrise on Wednesday, October 10, 2018.

PA-112-2018- OPENING: Pamlico/ Beaufort/ Hyde/ Dare Counties. Temporary closures will return to the status in existence immediately prior to September 13, 2018, taking effect at sunrise on Thursday, October 11, 2018.

PA-113-2018- OPENING: Brunswick/ Carteret Counties. Temporary closures will return to the status in existence immediately prior to September 13, 2018, taking effect at sunrise on Wednesday, October 17, 2018.

PA-114-2018- OPENING: Onslow/ Carteret Counties. Temporary closures will return to the status in existence immediately prior to September 13, 2018, taking effect at sunrise on Thursday, October 18, 2018.

PA-115-2018- OPENING: Onslow/ Pamlico Counties. Temporary closures will return to the status in existence immediately prior to September 13, 2018, taking effect at sunrise on Friday, October 19, 2018.

PA-116-2018- OPENING: Onslow/ Carteret Counties. Temporary closures will return to the status in existence immediately prior to September 13, 2018, taking effect at sunrise on Saturday, October 20, 2018.

PA-117-2018- OPENING: New Hanover/ Pamlico Counties. Temporary closures will return to the status in existence immediately prior to September 13, 2018, taking effect at sunrise on Wednesday, October 24, 2018.

PA-119-2018- OPENING: Brunswick County. Temporary closures will return to the status in existence immediately prior to September 13, 2018, taking effect at sunrise on Friday, October 26, 2018.

PA-120-2018- OPENING: New Hanover County. Temporary closures will return to the status in existence immediately prior to September 13, 2018, taking effect at sunrise on Saturday, October 27, 2018.

***For more detailed information about shellfishing closures and proclamations, visit the NCDMF Shellfish Sanitation website: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamations-polluted-area>.*

Appendix B: Federal Fishery Disaster Request Letter from Governor Cooper

Office of the Governor State of North Carolina

Roy Cooper
Governor



20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-0301

November 1, 2018

Mr. Wilbur Ross, Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Ross:

Hurricane Florence struck North Carolina on September 14, 2018. The powerful storm stalled over the Wilmington area resulting in unprecedented continuous rainfall for almost four consecutive days. Some coastal areas withstood the brunt of an implausible 20 plus inches of rainfall. Coupled with a strong storm surge, the storm caused historic and widespread flooding overwhelming significant portions of the North Carolina estuarine and ocean coastline.

This was the storm of a lifetime for many coastal communities. The damaging economic impact to the state's fisheries was, and continues to be, significant. While state appropriations will begin to afford some limited initial relief, much more is needed. Federal fisheries disaster assistance can provide the means to a longer-term recovery that North Carolinian fishermen so desperately need. Therefore, I respectfully request that you declare a federal fishery resources disaster as outlined in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1861a and 1864, and the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act, 16 U.S.C. § 4107.

Fisheries are an essential part of local coastal markets and contribute considerably to North Carolina's economy. Behind North Carolina's fragile strand of barrier islands lie shallow waters where the land and sea gradually merge forming estuaries, brackish swamps and mud flats that serve as nursery areas for shrimp, crabs, finfish and shellfish. Traditionally ranked in the top-10 seafood producing states, North Carolina has over 4,000 miles of shoreline and 2.9 million acres of marine ocean and estuarine waters. Latest estimates show that more than 6,000 licensed commercial fishermen and 1 million licensed recreational anglers enjoy the bounty of the state's marine resources.

Location: The State Capitol Building, Raleigh, N. C. 27602
Phone: 919-814-2100

Appendix B: Federal Fishery Disaster Request Letter from Governor Cooper (continued)

Secretary Wilbur Ross
November 1, 2018
Page 2

The scale of harm to recreational and commercial fisheries along the North Carolina coast from Hurricane Florence is devastating and puts those fisheries at clear risk of failure. Lost income from compromised fishing grounds, damaged or destroyed gear and vessels, power outages and other infrastructure disruptions have all further combined to amplify the impact. Water quality issues resulting from record rainfall run-off compounded the devastation causing suspension of shellfish harvesting in many affected areas. Serious disruption affecting future production in the harvestable biomass is anticipated.

Local recovery efforts are underway but additional resources and funding are desperately needed. State fishery managers are evaluating landing and other data to assess estimated revenue declines and evidence of economic harm. The State of North Carolina stands ready to provide any information that you need to assist you in your determination to declare a federal fishery resources disaster. I appreciate your timely consideration to this urgent request.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,



Roy Cooper

RAC/sm

Appendix C: Federal Fishery Disaster Determination Letter



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

December 6, 2018

The Honorable Roy Cooper
Governor of North Carolina
Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Governor Cooper:

Thank you for your letter requesting a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster caused by Hurricane Florence. Based on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) initial understanding of impacts due to Hurricane Florence on North Carolina fisheries under Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and Section 308(b) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (IFA), I have determined that a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster has occurred.

We will work with you and your communities to further estimate and assess Hurricane Florence's impacts on your state's fisheries and associated processing infrastructure. We will use these assessments to evaluate the need for fishery disaster assistance that cannot be met through other existing Federal relief programs.




This determination provides the basis for Congress to appropriate disaster relief funding under both the IFA and MSA. Should Congress appropriate funds for disaster assistance, NMFS will work with your state to develop a spend plan to assist with the recovery of North Carolina's fishing industry and fishing communities. Additionally, eligible businesses and other entities in North Carolina may be able to access other loan/funding programs within the Department of Commerce (e.g., Economic Development Administration grants) or through other Federal relief programs (e.g., Small Business Administration loans).

If you have any further questions, please contact Michael Platt, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.


Sincerely,


Wilbur Ross

Appendix D: NOAA Hurricane Florence Fisheries Damage Assessment

Hurricane Florence Fisheries Damage Assessment



Damaged vessels and docks in Beaufort, North Carolina.
Photo: North Carolina Fisheries Association/Beaufort Inlet Seafood

Hurricane Florence made landfall near Wrightsville Beach, NC on September 14th, 2018 as a **Category 1 storm**. The storm moved at a very slow speed, punishing sections of the coast to over a day of hurricane or tropical storm winds of **90+ mph**. The storm also dropped nearly three feet of rain over a four day period causing widespread flooding. Total damages were estimated to be **\$24 billion**; **53 deaths** were also attributed to the storm. (<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/events.pdf>)

This Study
NOAA Fisheries, working with the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries and North Carolina Sea Grant, conducted a rapid appraisal of damage from Hurricane Florence through field, online and phone surveys throughout the state's coast. A total of **934 businesses and individuals** (out of 1,784 contacted) participated in the surveys. These estimates are extrapolated from information collected from respondents. Approximately **a third** of vessel owners reported damage to their vessels or gear, while land-sited businesses such as seafood dealers (**65%**) and aquaculture operations (**90%**) were more likely to be impacted. Total estimated damages* to vessels and businesses were approximately **\$38 million**, with estimated lost revenues* of **\$56.5 million**.

Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

Commercial and recreational fisheries are an important economic driver of many North Carolina coastal communities. In 2017, North Carolina's commercial fishing and seafood industry and recreational fishing sector had revenues of **\$373 million** and directly employed **7,500 workers** statewide.

Estimated Damages to Fishing Operations and Fishing-Related Businesses

Operation / Business Type	Vessel / Facilities Damages*		Immediate Job Losses	Total Revenue Losses*
	% Damaged	Total Damages		
Commercial and Fishing Businesses				
Commercial Fishing Operations	38%	\$16.8 million	2,933	\$9.2 million
Seafood Processors and Dealers	65%	\$12.9 million	211	\$20.0 million
Aquaculture Operations	90%	\$2.3 million	0	\$8.5 million
For-Hire & Recreational Fishing Businesses				
For-Hire Businesses	34%	\$4.6 million	356	\$8.1 million
Bait and Tackle Shops	57%	\$0.4 million	0	\$10.6 million
Total Estimated Damages* and Job Losses		\$38.0 million	3,500	\$56.5 million

*Damage estimates do not reflect disaster relief businesses and individuals may have received from private insurance, disaster programs administered by other Federal agencies such as FEMA, SBA, and HUD, the State, or other nongovernmental entities.

U.S. Department of Commerce | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | National Marine Fisheries Service

Appendix D: NOAA Hurricane Florence Fisheries Damage Assessment (continued)

NOAA Fisheries | Hurricane Florence Fisheries Damage Assessment

Commercial Fishing and Seafood Businesses

The North Carolina commercial and seafood industry had revenues of \$257 million in 2017 and directly employed 3,100 workers. The local commercial fishery sector, excluding dealers and processors, had revenues of \$97 million and employed 2,100 workers.



Damaged seafood processor/dealer. Photo: North Carolina Fisheries Association/Charles Smith

Damages by Operation / Business Type

Type	Summary	Estimated Damages**
Commercial Fishing Operations	Commercial fishing operations were disrupted by the storm. The average commercial fisherman's loss was approximately \$1,850 to vessels and gear with another \$1,000 worth of damage to facilities. Fishermen in the ocean-adjacent counties from Carteret south were more likely (14%) to suffer damages than those in other areas (9%). It also took over a month for these areas to regain normal salinity and water clarity, leading to a halt in shellfish harvesting and most other inshore fisheries. The state's commercial landings records indicate a drop of \$9.2 million in value in the three months after the storm in comparison to "normal" fall landings.	Vessels and Gear \$10.8 M Facilities \$6.0 M
Seafood Dealers and Processors	Seafood dealers in southern North Carolina, which experienced the brunt of the storm winds, incurred the most facility and equipment damage. Floodwaters repeatedly disrupted supply lines.	Facilities \$5.1 M Seafood \$3.4 M Equipment \$2.0 M Pier / Dock \$2.5 M
Aquaculture Operations	Aquaculture operations were surveyed statewide. As with the commercial fishing sector, the heavily polluted floodwaters from Florence's catastrophic rainfall led to near total losses of shellfish aquaculture products. Over half (\$4.4 million) of the product loss was in Carteret County, which had the largest (25) number of affected operations.	Facilities \$2.3 M Product \$8.5 M

**M = million

Appendix D: NOAA Hurricane Florence Fisheries Damage Assessment *(continued)*

NOAA Fisheries | Hurricane Florence Fisheries Damage Assessment

For-Hire and Recreational Fishing Businesses

Saltwater anglers in North Carolina spent **\$1.5 billion** on fishing trips, which directly supported **15,000 jobs**. For-hire operations alone employed **800 workers**.

The bait and tackle businesses and for-hire operations in North Carolina had combined revenues of **\$248 million** and employed **4,700 workers** in 2017.



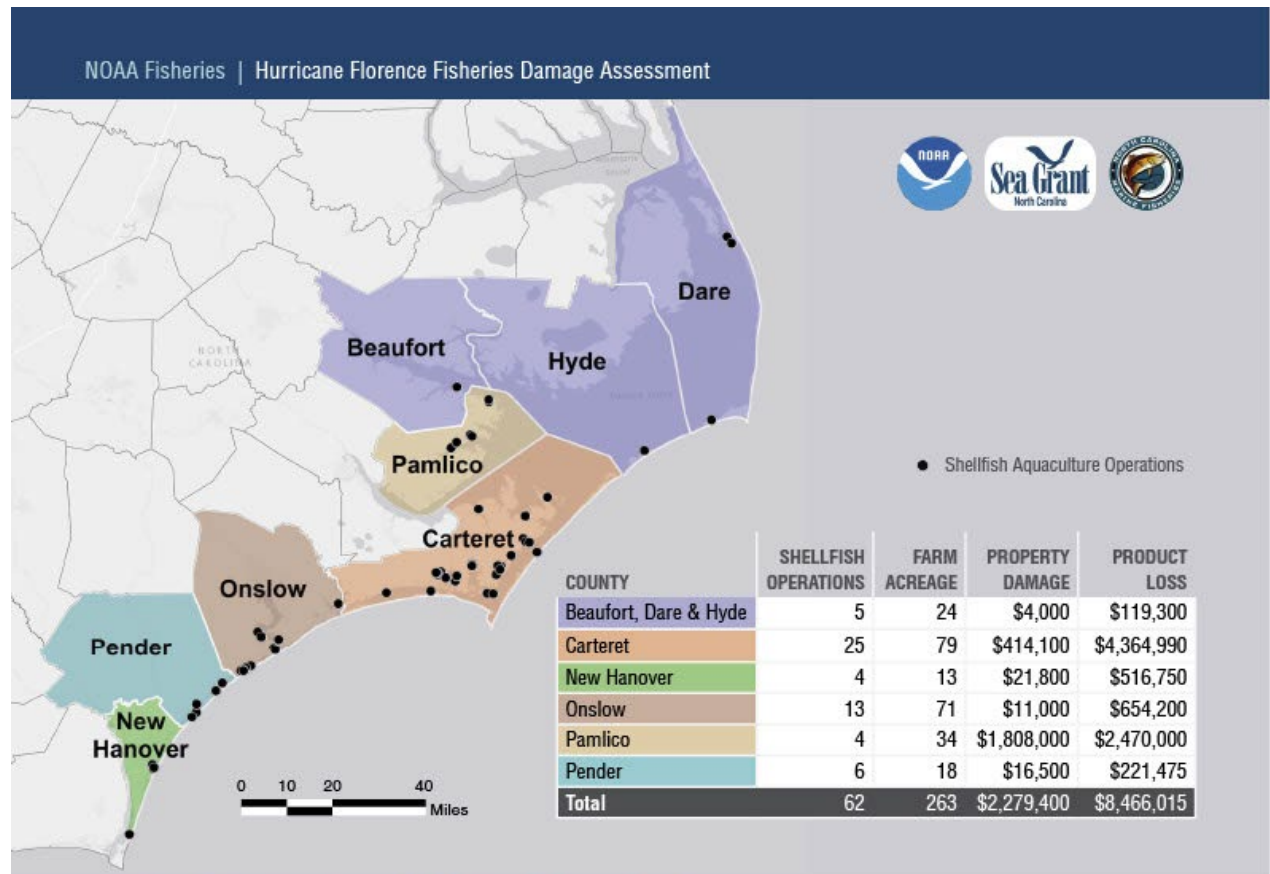
Damaged docks in Sea Level, North Carolina. Photo: North Carolina Fisheries Association

Damages by Operation / Business Type

Type	Summary	Estimated Damages**
For-Hire Businesses	Charter boat captains reported more losses from lost sales (\$8.1 million) than physical damages (\$4.6 million). The average charter captain reported almost \$10,000 in unfulfilled and cancelled charters, as housing shortages made it difficult for clients to stay overnight along much of the coast. Water quality issues also made it difficult to fish for popular inshore gamefish like red drum.	Vessels and Gear \$2.0 M
		Facilities \$2.6 M
Bait and Tackle Shops	Damage to bait and tackle shops was minimal, and reported losses were often covered by insurance.	Facilities \$0.2 M
		Bait and Seafood \$0.0 M
		Equipment \$0.1 M
		Pier / Dock \$0.0 M
Fishing Piers and Related Businesses	Some 80% of the state's fishing piers suffered structural damage, with nearly all of the major damage (85%) coming from area below the Outer Banks. Piers reported over a half million dollars in lost sales, with the only completely unaffected facilities located north of Hatteras Island.	Facilities \$0.0 M
		Bait and Seafood \$0.0 M
		Equipment \$0.1 M
		Pier / Dock \$1.3 M

**M = million

Appendix D: NOAA Hurricane Florence Fisheries Damage Assessment (continued)



Hurricane Florence estimated damages to North Carolina shellfish aquaculture operations.
Map: NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science and Coastal Aquaculture Siting and Sustainability



Crab traps waiting for the return of cleaner waters.
Photo: North Carolina Fisheries Association/Gary Cannon



Fish house damage in Sea Level, North Carolina. Photo: North Carolina Fisheries Association



Appendix E: Application Forms

Form 1: Cover Letter



ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

<DATE>

Dear Potential Applicant:

After Hurricane Florence struck North Carolina in 2018, the State of North Carolina requested federal relief to mitigate the economic impacts of Hurricane Florence on the fishing industry. Once the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) completed the detailed Hurricane Florence Fisheries Damage Assessment (NOAA Assessment) in 2019, the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) was awarded \$7.7 million dollars through the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, H.R.2157 to provide relief to affected stakeholder groups that have yet to receive any direct economic assistance related to Hurricane Florence. These groups include seafood processors and dealers, for-hire fishing operations, bait and tackle shops, and ocean fishing piers. Relief funds will be distributed in the form of direct payments to stake holders.

Applicants must demonstrate a loss directly related to Hurricane Florence by providing supporting materials that document loss of revenue for all or part of the period from September 1, 2018 to November 30, 2018 as compared to the same months in the previous three-year period, from 2015-2017. Applicants may also demonstrate loss or expenses due to infrastructure and property damage by providing appropriate, detailed documentation. **Any losses already reimbursed by insurance or other Hurricane Florence assistance programs cannot be included in this application.** However, any damage costs that exceeded payments received from insurance may be considered in this program and may fall outside of the September-November time period required for revenue loss. For example, if insurance paid \$10,000 for roof damages but the total replacement cost was \$15,000, applicants could apply for the difference of \$5,000. Businesses must be locally owned. National chains and big-box businesses are not eligible for relief, although franchises of national chains may be eligible for relief if documentation is provided to show local ownership. Claimed losses in revenue and damages must have resulted exclusively from Hurricane Florence. Losses claimed on the application must be supported by documentation, and all applicants must sign the included affidavit to self-certify that all claimed losses are a direct result of Florence and have not been previously reimbursed. Please note that national chain bait and tackle shops, commercial fishermen, aquaculture operations, gear and vessel suppliers, employees and crew members are not eligible to apply for relief. All applicants must be North Carolina residents or a processor with a plant in North Carolina, and applicants must have been at least 18 years old as of September 14, 2018.

To apply for relief funds through this program, please complete the enclosed forms:

- Program Self-Certification and Assurances (Affidavit)
- Program Application
- State of North Carolina Substitute W-9 Form

Please include all three documents, as well as all supporting documentation showing proof of identity and revenue loss as described on the application. Applications and supporting documentation must be delivered in person to the NCDMF Headquarters Office located in Morehead City or postmarked by <TIME> on <DAY>. Applications and supporting documentation that are submitted after the deadline or to other NCDMF offices will not be considered.

If you have any questions about the Program, you may send an email to hurricanerelief@ncdenr.gov or call NCDMF staff in Morehead City, NC at (252) 725-2667 or 1-800-682-2632 (toll-free in N.C. only).

Sincerely,

Kathy B. Rawls
Director

Appendix E: Application Forms *(continued)*

Form 2: Application



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA – DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence Application

Please read the following information carefully before beginning this application.

This application will be used to assist the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) to distribute approximately \$7.7 million in federal relief money, less administrative costs, to select fishing industry stakeholders through the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, H.R.2157.

Potential affected stakeholder groups eligible to apply for relief funds will be separated into four different application categories: 1) seafood processors and dealers; 2) for-hire fishing businesses; 3) bait and tackle shops; and 4) ocean fishing piers. In order to assist as many stakeholders as possible, applicants will only be allowed to apply for relief as a single stakeholder within any one category regardless of whether an applicant may qualify under the other three categories.

Applicants must demonstrate a loss directly related to Hurricane Florence by providing supporting materials that document loss of revenue for all or part of the period from September 1, 2018 to November 30, 2018 as compared to the same months in the previous three-year period, from 2015-2017. Applicants may also demonstrate loss or expenses due to infrastructure and property damage by providing appropriate, detailed documentation. Any losses already reimbursed by insurance or other Hurricane Florence assistance programs cannot be included in this application. Damages and repairs in excess of any insurance reimbursements may be included and may fall outside of the September-November time period required for revenue loss. Businesses must be locally owned. National chains and big-box businesses are not eligible for relief, although franchises of national chains may be eligible for relief if documentation is provided to show local ownership. Claimed losses in revenue and damages must have resulted exclusively from Hurricane Florence. Approved proof of loss documentation is described below and is based on the stakeholder application category selected. Applicants must also sign the Self-Certification and Assurances (Affidavit) form verifying that claimed losses are accurate and not previously covered through insurance.

If you did not experience a sustained revenue loss due to Hurricane Florence between September 1, 2018 and November 30, 2018, or cannot provide supporting documentation of a revenue loss compared to the previous three-year average for this same time period, or cannot provide supporting documentation of damages, you are unlikely to qualify for this relief. You must be a resident of the State of North Carolina and 18 years or older in order to be eligible for relief. If you are not a North Carolina resident or 18 years or older, your application will be rejected. Seafood processors with plants in North Carolina, but headquartered in another state, are eligible and will be required to send information on the physical location of the plant located in North Carolina. Please note that national chain bait and tackle shops, commercial fishermen, aquaculture operations, gear and vessel suppliers, employees and crew members are not eligible to apply for relief.

The application form must be completed and signed by the applicant in order to be eligible for relief. Please read all directions carefully. Applications and supporting documentation must be delivered in person to the NCDMF Headquarters Office located in Morehead City or postmarked by <Time> <Date>. Applications and supporting documentation cannot be submitted to other NCDMF offices. Applications and supporting documentation that are submitted after <Time>pm on <Date> will not be considered.

State of North Carolina | Division of Marine Fisheries
3441 Arendell Street | PO Box 769 | Morehead City, NC 28557
Hurricanerelief@ncdenr.gov 252-725-2667

Appendix E: Application Forms (continued)

Form 2: Application (continued)



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA – DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
 Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence
 Application**

SECTION 1: PRELIMINARY INFORMATION – ALL APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE THIS SECTION

Legal Name: (Last, First, Middle- Suffix):			
Registered business name (if applicable):			
Residential Mailing Address:		Residential Physical Address: Check if same as mailing address []	
Business Mailing Address: Check if N/A []		Business Physical Address: Check if same as mailing address []	
Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY):		Please list all active out-of-state of federal licenses you own, as well as the corresponding license number:	
Please provide the following, all that apply:		Please list all active NCDMF-issued licenses/permits you own:	
Cell phone number		Type	License/Permit Number
Home phone number			
Business phone number			
Email address			
Through which category will you be applying for Hurricane Florence Federal Fishery Disaster relief? (ONLY CHOOSE ONE CATEGORY)			
	Seafood Dealer or Processor		
	For-Hire Operation		
	Bait and Tackle Shop		
	Ocean Fishing Pier		

Appendix E: Application Forms *(continued)*

Form 2: Application *(continued)*



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA – DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence Application

SECTION 2: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Required by ALL applicants:

- Copy of current North Carolina Driver's License or North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles-issued identification
- Copies of any corporation, limited liability, registered 'doing business as' or other legal documentation showing the physical location of the processor in North Carolina and proving the business is legitimate

Suggested Types of Proof of Loss Documentation:

- Supporting revenue documentation include, but are not limited to:
 - Personal Trip Tickets showing actual prices paid
 - Receipts
 - Invoices
 - Accounting software reports (e.g. QuickBooks)
 - Calendars with for-hire trip dates and prices
 - Bank Statements for business accounts annotated to show relevant transactions
 - Profit & Loss Statements
 - NC DMF Pier logbooks
 - Fixed Asset Reports
 - Pictures of damages and receipt(s) for purchased materials or services used to repair damages, if applicable

Appendix E: Application Forms (continued)

Form 2: Application (continued)



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA – DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
 Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence
 Application**

Revenue Loss		
During the time period from September 1, 2018 to November 30, 2018, what was your pre-tax revenue from fishing activities?		
(A) \$ _____		
Record your pre-tax revenue from fishing activities for the time period of September 1 – November 31 for each year, 2015 – 2017, in the spaces below.		
2015 (B)	2016 (C)	2017 (D)
\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
What was your loss during September 1, 2018 to November 30, 2018 as compared to your 3 year average for this time period?		
(E) \$ _____		
Calculation instructions:		
Step 1 - Add items (B) thru (D): \$ _____ (F)		
Step 2 - Divide the total calculated in line (F) by the number of years you reported revenue in boxes (B - D): \$ _____ (G)		
Step 3 – Subtract the value in box (A) from the value on line (F): \$ _____ (E)		
Damages		
What was the value of other losses incurred due to Hurricane Florence? Qualifying losses may include property damage, vessel damage, equipment loss, or other relevant losses that were not reimbursed by insurance or other Hurricane Florence assistance programs, as well as expenses to repair damages that exceeded insurance payouts.		
(H) \$ _____		
What was your total revenue loss and damages loss? (Box E + Box H) \$ _____		

Thank you for completing the Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence Application! You will receive a letter to notify you of your status in this relief program once your application has been reviewed.

Appendix E: Application Forms (continued)

Form 3: Self-Certification Affidavit



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA – DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence
Self-Certification and Assurances (Affidavit)

[Last Name, First Name, MI] hereby requests federal assistance from the Department of Commerce through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service.

As the Organization's Authorized Representative, I self-certify and attest that (please initial each statement below):

- This organization is a Fishery Participant that is an eligible recipient of assistance from the Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence.
Direct payments will not be directed to minors.
Funds will not be used to address any losses already reimbursed by insurance or other Hurricane Florence assistance programs.
The Fishery Participant applying for assistance is: (initial only if all statements below are true)
- not de-barred
- not on the government's "do not pay" list
- in good standing with the Federal and State Government
The Fishery Participant is aware that direct payments are taxable and may be subject to federal auditing processes.
If applying as a seafood dealer, the Fishery Participant agrees to use North Carolina Trip Ticket data if the Participant fails to provide supporting revenue documentation as described in the application.
If applying as a for-hire operation, a bait and tackle business, ocean fishing pier, or seafood processor without a dealer license, the Fishery Participant understands they will be denied if they fail to provide supporting revenue documentation as described in the application.
The Participant agrees to only claim losses and damages resulting exclusively from Hurricane Florence.
The Fishery Participant verifies that all information submitted in the application, affidavit, and supporting documentation is true, accurate, and complete.

By signing this affidavit and applying for assistance as allowable under H.R.2157, the Fishery Participant attests to having documentation/records to support the losses recorded on this form, and that were used as the basis of eligibility. Further, the eligible Fishery Participant agrees to maintain these records for a period of no less than three years after the close of the primary grant award to North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF). Records must be made available upon request from the primary grantee, state/territory, NOAA, or the Office of the Inspector General.

This form must accompany the application for the Fishery Participant to be considered. Applications, affidavits, and other required documentation must be delivered in person to the NCDMF Headquarters Office located in Morehead City or postmarked by [Insert Date]. Applications and supporting documentation submitted after [Insert Date] or to other NCDMF offices will not be considered. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Claims of revenue loss outside of the eligibility period identified on the application documentation will not be considered.

All information provided on this document is true, accurate, and complete.

Authorized Representative/Fisheries Participant Signature

Date

Last Name

First Name


MI

Authorized Representative (Please Print)

State of North Carolina | Division of Marine Fisheries
3441 Arendell Street | PO Box 769 | Morehead City, NC 28557
Covid19relief@ncdenr.gov 252-503-3091

Appendix E: Application Forms (continued)

Form 4: Substitute W-9


NC Office of the State Controller (IRS Form W-9 will not be accepted in lieu of this form) *Denotes a Required Field		STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA SUBSTITUTE W-9 FORM Request for Taxpayer Identification Number		
Section 1 – Taxpayer Identification	*1. <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security Number (SSN), OR <input type="checkbox"/> Employer Identification Number (EIN), OR <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) *2.		Please select the appropriate Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN, SSN, or ITIN) type and enter your 9-digit ID number. The U.S. Taxpayer Identification Number is being requested per U.S. Tax Law. Failure to provide this information in a timely manner could prevent or delay payment to you or require The State of NC to withhold 28% for backup withholding tax.	
	*4. Legal Name (as shown on your income tax return):		3. Dunn & Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) (see instructions)	
	5. Business Name/DBA/Disregarded Entity Name, if different from Legal Name:			
	Contact Information			
	*6. Legal Address		7. Remittance Address (Location specifically used for payment that is different from Legal Address, if applicable)	
	*Address Line 1:		Address Line 1:	
	Address Line 2:		Address Line 2:	
	*City	*State	*Zip (9 digit)	City State Zip (9 digit)
	*County		County	
	*8. Contact Name:			
	*9. Phone Number:			
10. Fax Number:				
11. Email Address:				
*12. Entity Type <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Sole Proprietor/Single-member LLC <input type="checkbox"/> C-Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> S-Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Trust/Estate <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Limited liability company. Enter the tax classification (C=C corporation, S=S corporation, P=Partnership) _____ Note: Check the appropriate box in the line above for the tax classification of the single-member owner. Do not check LLC if the LLC is classified as a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner unless the owner of the LLC is another LLC that is not disregarded from the owner for U.S. federal tax purposes. Otherwise, a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner should check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner.		*13. Entity Classification <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Services <input type="checkbox"/> Legal/Attorney Services <input type="checkbox"/> NC Local Govt <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Govt <input type="checkbox"/> NC State Agency <input type="checkbox"/> Other Govt <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____	14. Exemptions (see instructions) Exempt payee code (if any): _____ Exemption from FATCA reporting code (if any): _____	
Section 2 - Certification	Under penalties of perjury, I certify that: 1. The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me), and 2. I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding because of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding, and 3. I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined later in general instructions), and 4. The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.			
	Certification instructions: Please refer to the IRS Form W-9 located on the IRS Website (https://www.irs.gov/):			
	*Printed Name:		*Printed Title:	
*Authorized U.S. Signature:		* Date:		

Please complete the "Modification to Existing Vendor Records" section below if there have been any changes to the following: Tax Identification Number (TIN), Legal Name, Business Name, Remittance Address

Return to the NC State Agency from which you are requesting payment.

Appendix E: Application Forms (continued)

Form 4: Substitute W-9 (continued)

NC Office of the State Controller *Denotes a Required Field This form is to be completed by the vendor.	STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA SUBSTITUTE W-9 FORM Modification to Existing Vendor Records	
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This form is to be completed by the vendor if one or more of the following have changed:

1. Change of remittance address.
2. Change of Social Security Number (SSN), or Employer Identification Number (EIN), or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).
3. Change of Vendor Name.

Please complete the applicable sections below.

Section 1:

CHANGE FROM: Remittance Address	CHANGE TO: Remittance Address
*Address Line 1:	*Address Line 1:
Address Line 2:	Address Line 2:
*City *State *Zip (9 digit)	*City *State *Zip (9 digit)
*County	*County

NOTE: If you would like to receive your payments electronically, please complete the [Vendor Electronic Payment Form](#)

Section 2:

* CHANGE FROM: SSN, or EIN, or ITIN	* CHANGE TO: SSN, or EIN, or ITIN
--	--

Section 3:

CHANGE FROM: Vendor Name	CHANGE TO: Vendor Name
*Legal Name:	*Legal Name:
Business Name/DBA/Disregarded Entity Name, if different from Legal Name:	Business Name/DBA/Disregarded Entity Name, if different from Legal Name:
*Printed Name:	*Printed Title:
*Authorized U.S. Signature:	* Date:

Appendix E: Application Forms *(continued)*

Form 4: Substitute W-9 *(continued)*

NC Office of the State Controller Substitute W-9 Instructions

Page 1

General Instructions

For General Instructions, please refer to the IRS Form W-9 located on the IRS Website (<https://www.irs.gov/>).

Specific Instructions

Section 1 -Taxpayer Identification

1. **Taxpayer Identification Type.** Check the type of identification number provided in box 2.
2. **Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN).** Enter taxpayer's nine-digit Employer Identification Number (EIN), Social Security Number (SSN), or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) without dashes.

Note: If an LLC has one owner, the LLC's default tax status is "disregarded entity". If an LLC has two owners, the LLC's default tax status is "partnership". If an LLC has elected to be taxed as a corporation, it must file IRS Form 2553 (S Corporation) or IRS Form 8832 (C Corporation).

3. **Dunn and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS).** Vendors are requested to enter their DUNS number, if applicable.
4. **Legal Name.** Enter the legal name as registered with the IRS or Social Security Administration. In general, enter the name shown on your income tax return. Do not enter a Disregarded Entity Name on this line.
5. **Business Name.** Business, Disregarded Entity, trade, or DBA ("doing business as") name.

Contact Information

6. Enter your **Legal Address.**
7. Enter your **Remittance Address, if applicable.** A **Remittance Address** is the location in which you or your entity receives business payments.
8. Enter the **Contact Name.**
9. Enter your **Business Phone Number.**
10. Enter your **Fax Number, if applicable.**
11. Enter your **Email Address, if applicable.**

For clarification on IRS Guidelines, see www.irs.gov.

12. **Entity Type.** Select the appropriate entity type.
13. **Entity Classification.** Select the appropriate classification type.

Exemptions

If you are exempt from backup withholding and/or FATCA reporting, enter in the Exemptions box, any code(s) that may apply to you. See Exempt payee code and Exemption from FATCA reporting code below.

14. **Exempt payee code.** Generally, individuals (including sole proprietors) are not exempt from backup withholding. Corporations are exempt from backup withholding for certain payments, such as interest and dividends. Corporations are not exempt from backup withholding for payments made in settlement of payment card or third party network transactions.

Note. If you are exempt from backup withholding, you should still complete this form to avoid possible erroneous backup withholding.

The following codes identify payees that are exempt from backup withholding:

- 1 - An organization exempt from tax under section 501(a), any IRA, or a custodial account under section 403(b)(7) if the account satisfies the requirements of section 401(f)(2)
- 2 - The United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities
- 3 - A state, the District of Columbia, a possession of the United States, or any of their political subdivisions, or instrumentalities
- 4 - A foreign government or any of its political subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities
- 5 - A corporation
- 6 - A dealer in securities or commodities required to register in the United States, the District of Columbia, or a possession of the United States
- 7 - A futures commission merchant registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission
- 8 - A real estate investment trust
- 9 - An entity registered at all times during the tax year under the Investment Company Act of 1940
- 10 - A common trust fund operated by a bank under section 584(a)
- 11 - A financial institution
- 12 - A middleman known in the investment community as a nominee or custodian
- 13 - A trust exempt from tax under section 664 or described in section 4947.

Appendix E: Application Forms (continued)

Form 4: Substitute W-9 (continued)

NC Office of the State Controller Substitute W-9 Instructions

Page 2

The following chart shows types of payments that may be exempt from backup withholding. The chart applies to the exempt payees listed above, 1 through 13.

If the payment is for...	THEN the payment is exempt for...
Interest and dividend payments	All exempt payees except for 7
Broker transactions	Exempt payees 1 through 4 and 6 through 11 and all C corporations. S corporations must not enter an exempt payee code because they are exempt only for sales of noncovered securities acquired prior to 2012.
Barter exchange transactions and patronage dividends	Exempt payees 1 through 4
Payments over \$600 required to be reported and direct sales over \$5,000 ¹	Generally, exempt payees 1 through 5 ²
Payments made in settlement of payment card or third party network transactions	Exempt payees 1 through 4

¹ See Form 1099-MISC, Miscellaneous Income, and its instructions.

² However, the following payments made to a corporation and reportable on Form 1099-MISC are not exempt from backup withholding: medical and health care payments, attorneys' fees, gross proceeds paid to an attorney, and payments for services paid by a federal executive agency.

Exemption from FATCA reporting code. The following codes identify payees that are exempt from reporting under FATCA. These codes apply to persons submitting this form for accounts maintained outside of the United States by certain foreign financial institutions. Therefore, if you are only submitting this form for an account you hold in the United States, you may leave this field blank. Consult with the person requesting this form if you are uncertain if the financial institution is subject to these requirements.

A - An organization exempt from tax under section 501(a) or any individual retirement plan as defined in section 7701(a)(37)

B - The United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities

C - A state, the District of Columbia, a possession of the United States, or any of their political subdivisions or instrumentalities

D - A corporation the stock of which is regularly traded on one or more established securities markets, as described in Reg. section 1.1472-1(c)(1)(i)

E - A corporation that is a member of the same expanded affiliated group as a corporation described in Reg. section 1.1472-1(c)(1)(i)

F - A dealer in securities, commodities, or derivative financial instruments (including notional principal contracts, futures, forwards, and options) that is registered as such under the laws of the United States or any state

G - A real estate investment trust

H - A regulated investment company as defined in section 851 or an entity registered at all times during the tax year under the Investment Company Act of 1940

I - A common trust fund as defined in section 584(a)

J - A bank as defined in section 581

K - A broker

L - A trust exempt from tax under section 664 or described in section 4947(a)(1)

M - A tax exempt trust under a section 403(b) plan or section 457(g) plan

Section 2 - Certification

To establish to the paying agency that your TIN is correct, you are not subject to backup withholding, or you are a U.S. person, or resident alien, sign the certification on NC Substitute Form W-9. You are being requested to sign by the State of North Carolina.

For additional information please refer to the IRS Form W-9 located on the IRS Website (<https://www.irs.gov/>).

Appendix F: Application Tracking Sheet

FEDERALLY FUNDED DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM FOR HURRICANE FLORENCE Tracking & Routing Sheet										
<input type="checkbox"/> Application					<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal					
A D M I N	Date Received:				Method?	Mail/ Drop Box	Drop Off	Email/ Phone/ Fax		
	Name of Applicant				PID#					
	If Business - Name of business/owner				18 years or older?	Yes	No	NC Residence?	Yes	No
	Business Registration	Yes	No	Business - Locally owned			Yes	No		
	Category	Seafood Processors & Dealers		For-Hire Fishing Businesses		Bait & Tackle Shops		Ocean Fishing Piers		
	Document Received	Application	W-9	Affidavit	Proof of Loss	Estimates	Yes	No		
	NC-issued ID	Other:								
B I O L O G I S T	V E R I F I C A T I O N	License/ Permit/ Lease numbers		2015	2016	2017	2018			
		Pier Logs								
		Marine Patrol - violations								
		Processor - Physical Address of plant in NC:								
D A M A G E	Total Revenue 09/01 - 11/30		2015	2016	2017	2018	Average	Loss		
	Applicant Claims									
	Applicant Documentation									
	DMF Trip Ticket									
A S T A T U S	Infrastructure / Property Damage Due to Hurricane Florence:									
	Applicant Claims									
	Applicant Documentation									
A D M I N	Correspondence									
	<input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved			<input type="checkbox"/> Denied		<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal		
	Date Called:									
	Comments:									
<input type="checkbox"/> Added to Check Log		<input type="checkbox"/> Added to Approval Log			<input type="checkbox"/> Scan completed					

Appendix G: Application Recommendation Form



FEDERALLY FUNDED DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM FOR HURRICANE FLORENCE APPLICATION RECOMMENDATION

Application

Appeal

Name of Applicant: _____ PID# _____

Business – Name of Owner: _____

Recommendation:

Revenue

Approve

Deny

Using DMF data

Using applicant's data

Damages

Approve

Deny

Using applicant's data

Reason(s) for Denial (Check all that apply):

Under 18 years of age

Invalid or suspended license/permits

Incomplete application

Nonresident of North Carolina

Missing Supporting Documentation showing loss

Other

Details/Comments: _____

Recommendation by: _____

Date: _____

Review Committee

Date: _____

(Dee Lupton, Brandi Salmon, Alan Bianchi, Bryan Eure, Jason Walsh, _____)

Revenue

Approve

Deny

Using DMF data

Using applicant's data

Damages

Approve

Deny

Using applicant's data

Details/Comments: _____

Authorized By: _____ Date: _____

Appendix H: Revenue Documentation Hierarchy Chart

Documentation Hierarchy

Source	Type of Documentation	Level of Acceptance
3 rd Party	Trip Tickets	Very High
3 rd Party	Invoices	High
3 rd Party	Receipts	High
Business Software	Logbooks	High
Business Software	Profit-Loss statements	High
3 rd Party	Transaction Reports	High
3 rd Party	Deposit Slips	High
Multi	Photos with Receipts	High
Personal	Calendar of Appointments	Medium
3 rd Party	Bank Statements	Medium
3 rd Party	Pier logbooks	Medium
3 rd Party	Summary Sheets	Medium
DMF	DMF Trip Ticket Program (TTP)	
3 rd Party	Tax Forms	Low
Personal	Basic Spreadsheets	Low
Personal	Handwritten Calculations	Low
Personal	Photos of Damages	Low

Formal

These documents should generally be considered 'formal' because they verify a financial transaction between two parties in which one of them is an applicant gaining revenue from an approved fishing activity and/or display gross revenue gains to an applicant as a result of an approved fishing activity within a specified program timeframe. If these documents do not verify either of these statements, then their acceptance level would drop to a medium or low level.

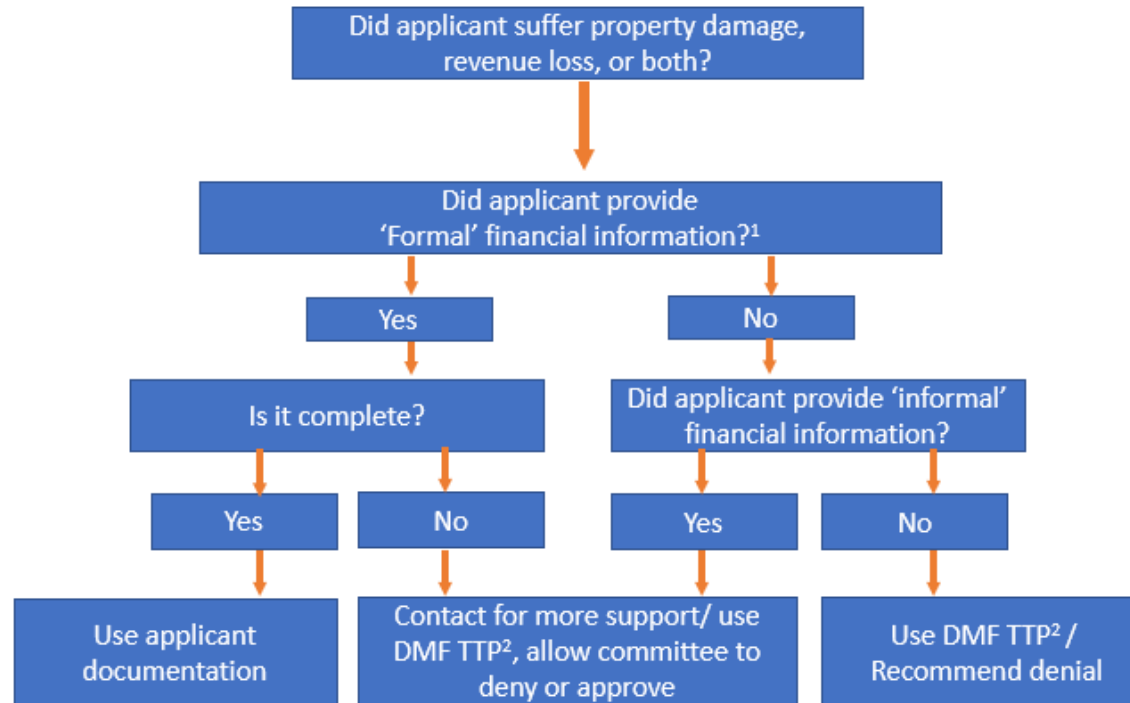
These documents could either be 'formal' or 'informal' and should be discussed.

If the applicant does not provide their own documentation, or the level of acceptance is low, DMF TTP data is used.

These documents are considered 'informal' and should not be considered unless provided in conjunction with other documentation.

Appendix I: Revenue Documentation Flow Chart

Documentation Flow Chart



¹'Formal' financial information = Documentation that verifies a financial transaction between two parties in which one of them is an applicant gaining revenue from an approved fishing activity within the specified program timeframe and/or displays expenses to applicant as a result of property/infrastructure.

²TTP = Trip Ticket Program (option only available for seafood dealers)

Appendix J: Weekly Status Update



Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program For Hurricane Florence - Application Statistics
Updated 08/26/2022

Number of Mailed out applications	Seafood Dealer / Processors	For-Hire Fishing Operations	Ocean Fishing Piers	Bait & Tackle Shops	Multiple Categories	Total
	595	580	16	0	48	1,239

SUMMARY OF REQUESTS RECEIVED

	Seafood Dealer / Processors	For-Hire Fishing Operations	Ocean Fishing Piers	Bait & Tackle Shops	Total
Number of Received Applications	56	24	5	4	89
Number of Received Late Applications	12	2	0	0	14
Number of Received Appeals	2	3	0	0	5
Number of Refusals for Aid	0	0	0	0	0
Category Totals	70	29	5	4	108

SUMMARY OF RECEIVED METHODS

	Drop box / In person	Email	Phone /Fax	Total
Mail	67	21	1	89
	14	0	0	14
	3	0	2	5
	0	0	0	0
	84	21	3	108

SUMMARY OF ACTED ON REQUESTS

APPLICATIONS	Seafood Dealer / Processors	For-Hire Fishing Operations	Ocean Fishing Piers	Bait & Tackle Shops	Total
Number of Approved Applications	63	19	5	3	90
Number of Denials	5	7	0	1	13
Total of Applications Received	68	26	5	4	103

Appeals	Seafood Dealer / Processors	For-Hire Fishing Operations	Ocean Fishing Piers	Bait & Tackle Shops	Total
Number of Approved Appeals	1	2	0	0	3
Number of Denied Appeals	1	1	0	0	2
Total of Appeals	2	3	0	0	5

Number of Fund Disbursements

	Seafood Dealer / Processors	For-Hire Fishing Operations	Ocean Fishing Piers	Bait & Tackle Shops	Total
Total Fund Disbursements	63	20	5	3	91

Appendix K: Notification Letters

Form 1: Initial Status Letter



ROY COOPER
Governor
ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary
KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

Date

Name
Address
Address
City, State ZIP

RE: Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence Application

Dear,

Thank you for submitting your application to the Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence through the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF). After careful review of your application, the Review Committee has determined the following:

APPROVED	DENIED
Approved category(s) will be marked with an "X" <input type="checkbox"/> Revenue Loss <input type="checkbox"/> Damage Loss <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Denied category(s) will be marked with an "X": <input type="checkbox"/> Revenue Loss <input type="checkbox"/> Damage Loss <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Please be patient while waiting for your check to arrive. Determination of disbursement amounts, and subsequent check writing will not be finalized until the end of the appeal process. We estimate that you will receive relief in Fall 2022.	Specifically, you did not qualify due to the following reason(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 years of age <input type="checkbox"/> Nonresident of North Carolina <input type="checkbox"/> Invalid or suspended license/permits <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete application/missing documentation
	If you would like to appeal this determination, you must send an appeal letter, along with additional documentation to supplement any missing or inadequate information. The appeal letter and documentation must be either postmarked or put in the Trip Ticket drop-box outside of the NCDMF Headquarters office within two weeks of receiving and signing for this certified denial letter. Please note, if you do not submit your appeal within two weeks of signing, or you do not sign for the denial letter within two weeks of it being sent, your appeal will not be considered. NCDMF will review your appeal and make the final determination on eligibility within 30 days of receiving the appeal. NCDMF will notify you of its final disposition of the appeal via a phone call followed-up by a letter. NCDMF's appeal determination will be final, and no other appeals can be made.

If you have any questions about the program, you may email hurricanerelief@ncdenr.gov or call NCDMF staff at (252) 723-5177 or 1-800-682-2632 (toll-free in N.C. only).

Sincerely,

Kathy B. Rawls
Director

Appendix K: Notification Letters (continued)

Form 2: Appeal Status Letter



ROY COOPER
Governor
ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary
KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

Date

Name
Address
Address
City, State ZIP

RE: Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence Application Appeal

Dear,

Thank you for submitting your appeal of the initial denial of your application to the Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence through the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF). After careful review of your appeal, the Review Committee has determined the following:

APPROVED	DENIED
<p>Approved category(s) will be marked with an "X"</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Revenue Loss <input type="checkbox"/> Damage Loss <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>Please be patient while waiting for your check to arrive. Determination of disbursement amounts, and subsequent check writing will not be finalized until the end of the appeal process. We estimate that you will receive relief in Fall 2022.</p>	<p>Denied category(s) will be marked with an "X":</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Revenue Loss <input type="checkbox"/> Damage Loss <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>Specifically, you did not qualify due to the following reason(s):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 years of age <input type="checkbox"/> Nonresident of North Carolina <input type="checkbox"/> Invalid or suspended license/permits <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete application/missing documentation</p> <p>No other appeals can be made at this time as NCDMF appeal determinations are final. Please do not attempt to provide any further evidence for your case, as it will not be considered.</p>

If you have any questions about the program, you may email hurricanerelief@ncdenr.gov or call NCDMF staff at (252) 723-5177 or 1-800-682-2632 (toll-free in N.C. only).

Sincerely,

Kathy B. Rawls
Director

Appendix L: Check Disbursal Letter



ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

September 2022

Dear Sir or Ma'am,

The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) has concluded the Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence. NCDMF is now in the process of distributing over \$7.5 million in relief funds to stakeholders that were eligible. You are receiving a portion of these funds because you applied for this relief program and showed proof of damages, loss of revenue from September to November of 2018 compared to your previous three-year September to November average revenue, or both. Attached to this letter is your check. This amount is final, and no more checks will be sent out for this program. We thank you for your patience in waiting for this check to arrive.

If you have any questions about the North Carolina Federally Funded Disaster Relief Program for Hurricane Florence, you may send an email to Hurricanerelief@ncdenr.gov or call NCDMF staff in Morehead City, NC at (252) 723-5177.

Sincerely,

Kathy Rawls
Director