

Final Hurricane Florence Fact Sheet

Background

In October 2018, North Carolina legislators authorized \$1.6 million to compensate commercial fishermen and shellfish harvesters for equipment and income losses from harvest reductions due to Hurricane Florence (S.L. 2018-136). In November, an additional \$10 million was allocated to reimburse persons holding a Standard Commercial Fishing License, a Retired Standard Commercial Fishing License, or a North Carolina Resident Shellfish License for all or part of the period from September 1, 2018, through November 30, 2018, for reductions in landings (S.L. 2018-138). Landings reductions must be demonstrated from trip ticket data or other verified landing compared with average landings over a prior comparable period determined by the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF).

Based on the average value from 2015–2017 by month for September (31% of total average value), October (37%) and November (32%), the \$11.6 million allocated by the state can be split into three phases of disbursement, after a \$250,000 set aside for administrative costs. The following breakdown by month to be distributed are as follows:

September:	\$3,518,500
October:	\$4,199,500
November:	\$3,632,000

Mailings

Checks were mailed to eligible fishermen in December 2018 and February 2019

September

- Mailed out 1,782 certified letters in December 2018 (only 1,425 of those had losses)
 - 879 wanted to participate and agreed with landings (697 of those had losses)
 - 34 wanted to participate but did not agree with landings (6 other disputes arose from fishermen that did not originally receive a certified letter)
 - 89 did not want to participate
 - 780 did not submit a response

October/November

- Mailed out 1,829 certified letters in February 2019 (all of those had losses)
 - 1,011 wanted to participate and agreed with landings
 - 27 wanted to participate but did not agree with landings (3 other disputes arose from fishermen that did not originally receive a certified letter)
 - 126 did not want to participate
 - 665 did not submit a response

Disbursement Breakdown

A total of 9 check writes including 2,945 individual checks to **1,176** fishermen amounting to **\$11,472,603.72**.

September Disbursement (6 check writes)

- 1st check write sent out on 1/31/19 to 664 fishermen totaling \$3,216,699.94
- 2nd check write sent out on 2/18/19 to 9 fishermen totaling \$42,943.31
- 3rd check write sent out on 3/19/19 to 5 fishermen totaling \$21,524.72
- 4th check write was combined with the 3rd check write above in order to conceal confidential information
- 5th check write sent out on 4/24/19 to 4 fishermen totaling \$3,046.42
- 6th check write (late responses) sent out on 5/13/19 to 46 fishermen totaling \$282,363.34

Final total of 728 checks to 727 fishermen (1 dispute created 2 checks) amounting to \$3,566,577.73

October/November Disbursement (3 check writes)

- 1st check write sent out on 4/4/19 to 1,001 fishermen totaling \$7,231,500.00
- 2nd check write sent out on 4/24/19 to 8 fishermen totaling \$45,476.09
- 3rd check write (late responses) sent out on 5/13/19 to 32 fishermen totaling \$179,049.90

Final total of 1,041 checks to 1,041 fishermen amounting to \$7,456,025.99

Final Check Disbursement (1 check writes)

- Final checks sent out on 6/12/19 to 1,176 fishermen for \$450,000.00

Miscellaneous Information

September Disbursement

- Minimum payment amount was \$50
- Able to cover 85.54% of losses
- Average check amount was \$4,905.88
- Total of 40 resolved disputes

October/November Disbursement

- Minimum payment amount was \$50
- Able to cover 91.76% of losses for October and 82.29% of losses for November
- Average check amount was \$7,163.71
- Total of 30 resolved disputes

Final Disbursement

- Minimum payment amount was \$20
- Able to cover 3.52% of losses
- Average check amount was \$382.65