



ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

March 1, 2022

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 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 mailed and postmarked by 5pm on April 18, 2022. 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) 503-3091 or 1-800-682-2632 (toll-free in N.C. only).

Sincerely,

Kathy B. Rawls
Director