Consolidated Appropriations Act -- Fisheries Assistance Program

RIDEM
June 1, 2021
Introduction

• In December 2020, Congress enacted the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

• The Act includes $300 million in funding for COVID-related fisheries assistance, $255 million of which is allocated for fisheries assistance in the coastal states.

• On March 29, 2021, NOAA Fisheries announced the allocation of the $255 million among the coastal states.
Use of the Funds

• Funding intended to address the same core issue as the 2020 CARES Act -- provide assistance to eligible fishery participants to address direct and indirect COVID-19 impacts.

• NOAA has issued preliminary guidance pertaining to the new funds. Final guidance remains pending.

• Per the Act and NOAA's preliminary guidance, the framework for the second round of funding will closely follow and be consistent with the first round.
• NOAA Fisheries used readily available total annual revenue information from the commercial fishing, charter fishing, aquaculture, and processor/seafood sectors of coastal states and territories to proportionately allocate the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act funding (similar to CARES Act).
• RI's allocation will be approximately $2,929,000
  • This is the adjusted amount that accounts for NOAA’s, ASMFC’s, and DEM's administrative costs for the allocation and distribution of the funding to the states.
Eligibility

• Eligible fishery participants must have incurred a documented fishery-related loss in revenue during reference period, greater than 35% relative to average fishery-related revenues earned during the same reference period over the prior 5 years (2015-2019), or active portion thereof if fishery-related revenues did not encompass the entire 5-year period.
• Applicants cannot seek funds that would make them "more than whole" in 2020 relative to their average annual revenue earned across the previous five years (2015-2019).
Process

• Federal guidance has been that fewer deviations where possible from the previous CARES Act Spend Plan will result in expedient turnaround times on spend plan reviews.
• As such, RIDEM initial plans will be conduct similar processes:
  • Develop and submit spend plan to NOAA.
  • Regulation language and filing.
  • Application process and opening/closing periods.
  • Anticipating three meetings: this is the 2\textsuperscript{nd} meeting to finalize allocation breakdowns and impact periods.
Feedback Received

• RIDEM held a public virtual meeting on April 28, 2021 to receive feedback on two specific aspects of the spend plan:
  (1) Sector Allocations
    • How should funds be allocated by sector?
  (2) Impact Period
    • How should the impact period for this round of funding be changed, if at all?
• Tonight’s meeting is to present the feedback received to-date for final consensus.
(1) Sector Allocations

Feedback received is to keep allocation breakdown the same.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Allocation (%)</th>
<th>CARES Act Allocation ($) - Round 1</th>
<th>CAA Allocation ($) - Round 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Fishing</td>
<td>62.6%</td>
<td>$1,983,120</td>
<td>$1,833,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquaculture</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>$171,068</td>
<td>$158,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Party and Charter</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>$110,877</td>
<td>$102,524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processors</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
<td>$902,858</td>
<td>$834,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>$3,167,920</td>
<td>$2,929,243</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(2) Impact Period

Commercial Fishing

- Reference period for the CARES Act was March 1 – May 31, 2020
- Initial feedback indicated the need to include summer months that were not captured in the CARES Act.
(2) Impact Period

Commercial Fishing

Monthly Values in Dollars

Year
2015-2019_Average
2020
Aquaculture

• Reference period for the CARES Act was March 1 – May 31, 2020
• Initial feedback indicated preference for the same time frame: March 1 – May 31, 2020.
• Keep in mind that CFAP and EQIP money will be subtracted from claims, as will other sources of disaster relief.
(2) Impact Period

Processors

• Reference period for the CARES Act was March 1 – May 31, 2020.
• Initial feedback indicated preference for the same time frame: March 1 – May 31, 2020.
(2) Impact Period

Party and Charter

- Reference period for the CARES Act was March 1 – May 31, 2020.
- Initial feedback:
  - August/September-December 2020.
  - May 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021 (covering two calendar years).
(2) Impact Period

Party and Charter

*Federal VTR only*

RIDEM Recommendation:
May 1, 2020 – Dec 31, 2020

![Number of Party/Charter Trips by Month](chart.png)
Moving Forward

• With finalization of the impact periods, we will complete full draft of the spend plan and emergency regulations.
• Additional presentation of proposed spend plan (target: within the next two weeks.)
• Submission of spend plan for NOAA review and approval.

Presentations and relevant material will be placed on the RIDEM Division of Marine Fisheries website.