



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office

263 13th Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor of Florida
PL 05 The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott,

Congress appropriated \$200 million under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-123) for fisheries disasters that were determined by the Secretary of Commerce in calendar year 2017 and for fisheries disasters resulting from Hurricanes Maria, Irma, and Harvey. Twelve fishery disasters declared by the Secretary of Commerce are eligible for this funding. These disasters occurred in fisheries between 2014 and 2017. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) used commercial revenue loss information to allocate the funding among the eligible disasters. NOAA Fisheries' allocation of disaster funds also took into consideration persistence of impacts and/or subsistence or other traditional uses that cannot be accounted for in commercial revenue loss alone.

Based on this approach, NOAA Fisheries has allocated \$44,608,039 from these funds to respond to the 2017 Hurricane Irma (FL) Disaster, which was declared in February and March 2018.

NOAA Fisheries has determined that your organization will be a recipient of these funds for the purpose of addressing the 2017 Hurricane Irma (FL) Disaster. NOAA Fisheries will provide you with these funds, after we receive, review, and approve a grant application. Your grant application must reflect the appropriate use of funds and considerations as outlined here in a detailed spending plan. Funds can be used to address a range of fishery impacts, including impacts to commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen, charter businesses, subsistence users, shore-side infrastructure, and the fishing ecosystem and environment. Through the application process, you will establish a spend plan to meet the unique needs of local fishermen and related businesses in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act, and the NOAA Fisheries Disaster Policy.

NOAA believes that funds should be used for activities that restore the fishery or prevent a similar failure in the future and assist fishing communities affected by such failures. NOAA strongly recommends that recipients utilize these funds to strengthen the long-term economic and environmental sustainability of the fishery. This can include, but is not limited to, activities such as habitat restoration, research, state-run buybacks, job retraining, and fishery-related infrastructure. Additional guidance is available in Section VI "Forms of Financial Assistance" in the NOAA Fisheries *Policy Guidance for Disaster Assistance under Magnuson-Stevens Act 312(a) and Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act 308(b) and 308(d)*.



(<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/funding-and-financial-services/fishery-disaster-assistance>),

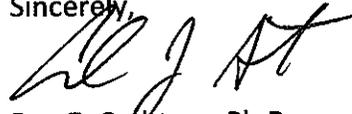
Your application should articulate how the items identified in your spend plan were prioritized and demonstrate how this assistance is aimed at preventing similar failures in the future. If your application includes a request for direct payments, the project narrative must describe why direct payments, instead of long-term economic and environmental measures, are the best mechanism to address the fishery disaster, and describe the anticipated economic impact on the local fishing community. In addition, your application should describe how you determine who is eligible for direct payments and how these funds would be allocated.

Your application needs to characterize how the hurricane fishery disaster spending fits into, is supportive of, or complementary to larger community disaster mitigation and/or recovery plans. Your spend plan should demonstrate how it takes into account harm mitigated by other means such as insurance or other government assistance. Per Federal award requirements under 2 CRF 200, your application must also identify any funds from other Federal programs (including, but not limited to, the Small Business Administration, Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration, Department of Housing and Urban Development, or Federal Emergency Management Agency) or other federal hurricane assistance funds that have been allocated to cover the requested items.

As soon as possible, please have a member of your staff contact Kelly Donnelly, SERO Grants Management Branch to begin the grant application process via the Grants.gov website. You may contact her at 727-551-5731 and kelly.donnelly@noaa.gov.

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

Sincerely,



Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.

ft Regional Administrator