

WELCOME – THANKS FOR JOINING US!

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- We have **until 7:30PM** for questions. If we do not get to your questions, please submit them to CARESfisheries@dfw.wa.gov or WACares@psmfc.org or call toll-free: 1-866-990-2738.



CARES Act Assistance to Fisheries Participants

Overview of Washington's Spend Plan and
Question & Answer Opportunity
February 23, 2021



Agenda

- Background
- Spend Plan Development Process
- Key Details of the Spend Plan
- Common Questions
- Q&A

Photo Credit: [NOAA Fisheries](#)



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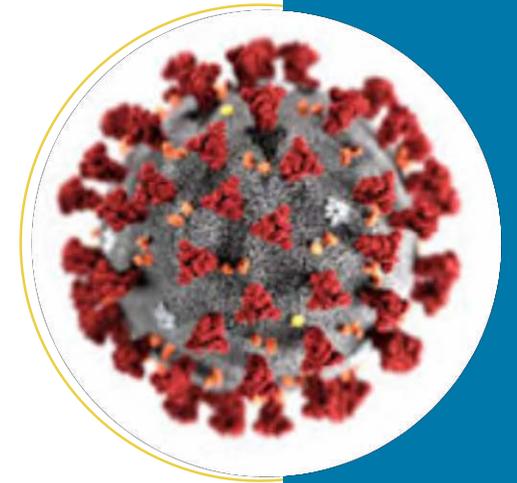




BACKGROUND ON CARES ACT & NOAA GUIDANCE

CARES Act Assistance

- In response to COVID-19 impacts to the commercial fishing and seafood industry, U.S. Congress appropriated \$300 million.
- WA and AK got the highest portion of funding.
- \$50 M designated for Washington commercial fishers, shellfish growers, charter boat owners, and processors.
- Allocations are based on baseline annual averages, i.e. "normal conditions."



Other NOAA Qualifying Criteria

- Applicants must be a fishery-related Washington business as defined in the Washington State and Treaty Tribe spend plans.
- The revenue loss must have been incurred as a direct or indirect result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The application process includes a self-certification affidavit that subject-to-federal-audit puts the burden on applicants to document their claims. The State will not pre-qualify applicants but will respond to data requests and answer questions.
- Applicants must show gross revenue loss from January through July 2020 greater than 35 percent of their 2015-2019 average. Exceptions for those without a five-year history.
- Sec. 12005 payments, and other forms of government assistance may not make the applicant more than whole.
- Applicants must be at least 18 years old.



Photo credit: [TheCrosscut](#)





WASHINGTON SPEND PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Washington Spend Plan Development

- Developed by Gov Inslee with assistance from WDFW, Ag, Commerce and Treaty Tribes and coordination with AK and OR.
- WDFW held public meetings to solicit feedback from industry stakeholders. It also communicated with congressional offices regarding statutory intent.
- \$50M to be split between state commercial fishing industry (\$39M) and tribal commercial fishing industry (\$11M).
- WA-based fishers who fish/ process in AK are eligible.
- Fishery participants must include ALL revenues regardless of whether they landed the fish.
- Eligible industry sectors include the charter, aquaculture, and seafood sectors (processors, buyers, wholesalers, etc.). Revenue losses from freshwater fisheries/activities and retail sales NOT included.
- Timeframe: January – July 2020. Applicants can choose smaller window periods within the timeframe so long as the period is at least 28 days.



Distribution Methodology

- The total amount and mix of claims is unknown and could not be reliably forecasted.
- State expects that the total amount of eligible claims will exceed the total funding available to the WA spend plan.
- If claims exceed the total available funding, funds will be distributed using a twostep approach:
 - Reduced using a prescribed marginal adjustment rate.

Applicants will not be responsible for making the calculation.

PSMFC will make the calculation when claims are processed.
 - If the total claims is still over the total funding amount after the marginal rate reduction, then all disbursements will be reduced proportionally to the shortfall.



Post-Approval Timeline

- Washington State submitted its spend plan to NOAA-Fisheries on December 8, 2020.
- After several rounds of feedback and edits, NOAA-Fisheries approved the plan on January 14, 2021.

Applications became available	February 8, 2021
Application Deadline	March 25, 2021 (45 days from website availability)
Application Review and Appeals	May 9, 2021 (45 days)
Disbursement payments sent	May 23, 2021
Final Report	June 22, 2021





KEY DETAILS OF SPEND PLAN



Washington's Fishing and Seafood Sectors

Washington is home to one of the nation's largest commercial fishing, shellfish aquaculture, and seafood economies. The businesses eligible to apply under this plan range from relatively small sole proprietorships to corporations with annual revenues in the hundreds of millions of dollars range, if not larger.



If You Fall Into One of These Categories:

- Applicants who are applying under a license or permit where multiple people or entities are sharing revenues through lease or other arrangement.
- Applicants that received payments from another state's or territory's Sec. 12005 Spend Plan.
- Applicants who experienced a federally designated fishery disaster, 2015-2019.
- Applicants without a full five years of revenue history 2015-2019.
- Applicants for which 2020 was their first year in business.
- Applicants who did not operate during the claim period.
- Applicant's automatic revenue adjustment using the Consumer Price Index.





COMMON QUESTIONS

Questions

- Why did you limit the timeframe to January 1 through July 31?
- Are the 28 consecutive days considered 28 consecutive *workdays* or 28 consecutive days (including weekends when processing did not occur)?
- If a business' revenues in its first year are not reflective of subsequent year's revenues, how do we establish that losses in 2020 exceed the 35% threshold?
- If they have IFQ's in their personal name but a fishing operation is in an LLC/S-Corporation, are they eligible to receive funding for both operations in separate applications?
- If an applicant purchased a new boat but retains the same CFEC permit, can the applicant count prior years of business?
- For applicants that don't get paid until after July 31, can applicants use revenues earned within the time period?



Questions Continued

- What additional assistance needs to be counted towards gross revenue?
- How are deckhands/crew to be addressed? Can they apply on their own? Is it expected that applicants share the assistance they may receive?
- What if applicants are unable to find records for one of the years?



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Questions?

