

# WELCOME – THANKS FOR JOINING US!

## ZOOM WEBINAR/ CALL LOGISTICS

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# CARES Act Assistance to Fisheries Participants

Status Update on Washington CARES Round 1 Funding &  
Feedback Opportunity for CARES Round 2 Funding  
June 8, 2021



# Agenda

- Round 1 Status Update
- Background
- Spend Plan Development Process
- Key Details of the Spend Plan
- Feedback Opportunity

Photo Credit: [NOAA Fisheries](#)



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# **STATUS UPDATE ON CARES ROUND 1 FUNDING**



# Distribution Status & Unanticipated Challenges

- After several rounds of feedback and edits, NOAA-Fisheries approved the plan on January 14, 2021.
- Application deadline was originally March 25<sup>th</sup> but was extended to April 9 to allow additional time for industry members who fish or land their fish in Alaska but live in Washington to apply.
- PSMFC is currently reviewing applications and making corrections to applications.
- All applications must be compiled to determine allocations before distributing funds.
- Major issues that have caused delays:
  - Incomplete or incorrect applications
  - Washington residents who applied to Alaska's spend plan
  - Residency questions

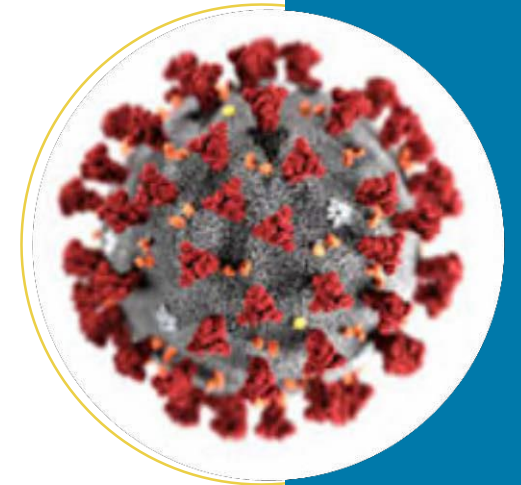




# **ROUND 2 FUNDING BACKGROUND & NOAA GUIDANCE**

# CARES Act Assistance

- In response to COVID-19 impacts to the commercial fishing and seafood industry, U.S. Congress appropriated another \$300 million.
- Coastal States - \$255 million
- Great Lake States - \$15 million
- Federally Recognized Tribes - \$30 million
- WA and AK once again received the highest portion of funding.
- \$40M designated for Washington commercial fishers, shellfish growers, charter boat owners, and processors.





# 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 August through December 2020 greater than 35 percent of their 2015-2019 average. Exceptions for those without a five-year history.
- Sec. 12005 Round 2 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 FOR ROUND 2 FUNDS**

# Washington Round 2 Spend Plan Development

- Update the spend plan from Round 1 that was developed by Gov Inslee with assistance from WDFW, Ag, Commerce and coordination with AK and OR.
- Round 2 Spend Plan will reflect lessons learned.
- \$40M to be split between eligible sectors. Additionally, WA-based fishers who fish 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 (e.g. Food and Game Fish licenses) and retail sales will again NOT be included.
- Timeframe: August – December 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.



# Lessons Learned

- Longer application period.
- Clearly establish residency parameters consistent with other states' definitions.
- Confusion around residency and eligibility.
- More than whole.



# NOAA Required Timeline

- Washington is in the process of developing its timeline to include in its Round 2 Spend Plan.

Spend Plan Deadline	July 1, 2021
Grant Obligation	September 30, 2021
Application Deadline	?







# 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.





# **FEEDBACK OPPORTUNITY**

# FEEDBACK

- Realize that funds have yet to be distributed.
- What worked for you during the application period?
- What did you find to be challenging?
- Thoughts on improvements that could be made?



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Questions?

