

2019 Fisheries Disaster Funding – Louisiana White Paper

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Fisheries Disaster Funding Facts

- \$165 million total appropriated by Congress for declared fisheries disasters in the U.S. during the 2019-2020 federal FY
- Louisiana's allocation was announced in late May by NOAA and equals approximately \$58 million (before administrative costs)
- Administered through NOAA Fisheries with a grant coming directly to LDWF once a grant application and spending plan are approved by NOAA
- Funds cannot be used for activities for which the recipient has already been reimbursed

Purpose of Fisheries Disaster Funding (as outlined by NOAA)

- To restore the fishery or prevent a similar fishery disaster in the future and assist fishing communities affected by the fishery disaster
- Programs should strengthen long-term economic and environmental sustainability of the fishery
- May include direct payments to fishery participants, but an economic impact analysis and additional justification must be provided explaining why direct payments, instead of long-term economic and environmental measures, are the best mechanism to address the fishery disaster

Louisiana Spending Plan

There is no timeline/deadline for plan development, but LDWF staff will begin focusing on developing this plan once the CARES Act spending plan is submitted and approved. Below are some preliminary ideas for the spending plan. LDWF will work closely with the industry members to develop a final spending plan proposal.

- Potential Allocations Methods
 - Will likely follow the economic impact evaluation conducted by LDWF and NOAA following the 2019 flooding event
 - Based on the percentage each fishery contributed to the overall economic impact evaluation
 - Allocated to different coastal regions of the state based on impacts from flooding in those regions
- Potential Programs
 - Programs and guidance provided by the 2019 Louisiana's Seafood Future project (<https://www.laseafoodfuture.com/>) for all affected fisheries
 - Direct payments – such payments could be included as a way to assist fishery participants in recovery and expand on CARES Act funding efforts
 - Implementation of parts of the draft Oyster Management and Rehabilitation Strategic Plan currently in preparation by LDWF (cultch planting, spat-on-shell deployment, expanding hatchery seed-production capabilities, etc.)
 - Expand derelict crab trap removal programs
 - Provide reimbursement assistance to fishery participants for activities/initiatives that help them be more efficient in their operations or more resilient to future disasters
 - Provide funding for projects that address low shrimp prices (e.g. increased inspection of shrimp imports, etc.)