

2012 Alaska Salmon Fishery Disaster Relief
Supporting the fishery resource disaster for the 2010-12 Yukon River Chinook fishery, 2011-12 Kuskokwim River Chinook fishery, and 2012 Cook Inlet salmon fishery.

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) will administer the 2012 Salmon Fishery Disaster funds awarded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on August 18, 2014 and January 12, 2015. The initial grant of \$7.8M supported direct payments to impacted commercial fisherman and the second grant of \$13M will support direct payments to commercial buyers, recreational sector, and research in the Cook Inlet region and research, restoration, education and gear modification in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Why is the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, who is located in Portland, OR, administering these funds?

The Commission has a long tradition of supporting the State of Alaska in a variety of marine resource issues. At the request of the State and with the concurrence of Alaska's Congressional delegation, the Commission administered the fishery disaster relief program for the 2008-09 Yukon River Chinook salmon fishery failure. Given the Commission's experience and expertise, they were again requested to administer the Cook Inlet and Yukon-Kuskokwim salmon fishery disaster relief arising from the Secretary of Commerce's 2012 disaster determination and the subsequent 2014 Congressional appropriation of \$20.8M to Alaska. In addition to these Alaska programs, the Commission has administered disaster relief for a number of fisheries failures in the lower 48, including the Sacramento River Salmon Fishery Disaster, Klamath River Salmon Fishery Disaster, and Fraser River Disaster program.

2. The State of Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) has a strict confidentiality policy on releasing individual permit catch records. How does PSMFC obtain the release of these records without an official release signed by the individual salmon permit holder?

The Commission maintains the Alaska Fisheries Information Network (AKFIN) regional program that consolidates and supports the collection, processing, analysis, and reporting of fisheries statistics for North Pacific and Alaska fisheries. The data supplied to AKFIN are provided by a variety of state and federal sources including Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), State of Alaska, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC), and North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). The Commission employees who work on this program are required to sign a strict confidentiality agreement with the participating agencies to protect the confidential and financial status of entities.

3. How do the claimants verify if the correct amount was used to determine the individual distributions?

Based on the criteria for specific categories, documentation will need to be provided verifying eligibility and impacts (logbooks, financial records, etc.). The requirements are listed on the specific application forms.

4. How are the funds to be distributed?

The funds will be distributed to various categories of recreational fishing sector, businesses, and salmon research based on discussions among Representative Groups in Cook Inlet and the Yukon-Kuskokwim region. Spend plans were developed to allocate the funds within the guidelines of the approved funding appropriation from Congress

5. How has the \$20.8 million approved by Congress been allocated?

Allocations, both between the two regions and among impacted groups within the regions, was negotiated by regional stakeholder groups and approved by the State of Alaska and Alaska's Congressional delegation. The funding for the Commercial fishers was awarded under a separate NOAA grant in the amount of \$7,857,515 and was distributed to eligible fishers in October 2014. The recent NOAA award of \$12,919,212 will be allocated based on the NOAA grant's spend plan. The category of payments in this second grant are as follows: Recreational Fisheries, which includes Sport Fishing Guides, Sport Fishing Guide businesses, Sport Fishing-related businesses, Seafood Manufacturing, \$4,512,600; Commercial Buying Stations/Salmon Buyers – Cook Inlet, \$686,700; Salmon Disaster Research, Restoration, Capacity Building and Outreach, \$7,470,781, Administration and Oversight \$249,131.

6. What determines Eligibility?

Criteria was established for the various categories as part of the spend plan. Depending on the category, there are specific requirements to be eligible for these funds. The criteria was part of the decision process that the representative groups designed with the spend plan.

7. What is the process for applying for funds?

The Commission will be mailing letters and applications to individuals and businesses within the various categories in March 2015. The application form details the eligibility criteria, documentation requirements, and has an application close date of April 30, 2015. Once all the applications are received in the Commission's office, they will be reviewed for accuracy and completeness. Funds will be allocated and it is anticipated that checks are released by June 30, 2015 to all eligible and qualified participants.

The funds identified for research will be handled through an open and competitive process.

8. Who are the Representative Groups that designed the spend plan and criteria?

Yukon-Kuskokwim Representative Group

- Association of Village Council Presidents
- Tanana Chief Conference
- Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association
- Bering Sea Fishermen's Association

Cook Inlet Representative Group

- Kenai Peninsula Borough
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough
- Northern District Setnetters Association
- Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association
- Kenai River Sportfish Association
- Kenai River Professional Guide Association