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Charles D. Baker
Governor

Matthew A. Beaton
Secretary

George N. Peterson, Jr.
Commissioner

February 6, 2015

Name on Permit
Address
City, State, Zip Code

Re: Phase 2 Groundfish Disaster Aid Program

Dear Permit Holder:

You are receiving this informational mailing because you are: a federal limited access multispecies permit holder homeported in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as of April 30, 2014 or a 2014 Massachusetts commercial permit holder with a Groundfish Endorsement (GE) or for-hire permit.

On May 28, 2014, NOAA announced a consensus framework to distribute \$32.8-million in federal disaster aid to the New England groundfish industry. Funds have been apportioned between: (1) direct assistance to federal commercial groundfish fishermen; (2) individual state programs; and (3) buyout (or buyback) development. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, having nearly completed distribution of \$6.3-million to pre-qualified federal commercial groundfishermen (Phase 1), is now implementing a Phase 2 program whereby the state will distribute \$8.3 million for additional assistance to the Commonwealth's groundfish industry and communities.

On February 5, 2015 NOAA approved our Phase 2 grant application and DMF has finished auditing state, federal, and for-hire permits, and associated catch data, to qualify permit holders. Following are details on the qualifying criteria. You (have or have not) been pre-qualified for payment based on your commercial or for-hire groundfish permit history. If you believe there was a technical error in the landings data to qualify your vessel, you may appeal to MA DMF in writing (c/o Samantha Andrews, 251 Causeway St., Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114; or by email at Samantha.n.andrews@state.ma.us). Appeals must be postmarked no later than February 20, 2015.

Crew members who fished aboard eligible commercial and for-hire vessels during the qualification periods are also eligible for assistance, but will need to apply to DMF under a separate aid program. A direct mailing with application details will be sent at a later date to crew members who provided their contact information to DMF either directly or through the Massachusetts Fishermen's Partnership. Crew members who have not done so already should provide their addresses to DMF (see below for contact information).

Following the disbursement of aid to qualified permit holders and crew, DMF will address other areas of assistance approved in our federal grant application, such as shoreside businesses and subsidizing groundfish sector administration costs. More information on this, as well as the overall program, can be found online at mass.gov/marinefisheries, click on the link for "Groundfish Disaster Economic Assistance Program."

Should you have any questions about the Commonwealth's Phase 2 Groundfish Disaster Aid Program, please contact Samantha Andrews at (617) 626-1564 or by email, Samantha.n.andrews@state.ma.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melanie Griffin".

Melanie Griffin
Fishery Policy Analyst

DETAILS OF PHASE 2 GROUNDFISH DISASTER ECONOMIC RELIEF
FOR PERMIT HOLDERS AND CREW

1. Commercial Permit Holders - Total Available Funds: \$3,000,000

Eligibility Criteria

Higher Flat Rate

- Federal limited access multispecies permit holders who landed 5,000-lbs. or more of groundfish in fishing year (FY) 2009.
- State GE permit holders who landed 5,000-lbs. or more of groundfish in any one year from FY2009-FY2013.

Lower Flat Rate

- Federal limited access multispecies permit holders who landed 3,000-lbs. or more of groundfish in any one year from FY2010-FY2013.

Additional Criteria: Federal permit holders must be the permit owner of record as of April 30, 2014 with a vessel homeported in MA and have held a MA DMF permit authorizing commercial landing of groundfish in the Commonwealth in the year of qualification. State permit holders must have held a GE in the year of qualification as well as renewed the GE in calendar year 2014.

Groundfish for qualification purposes means the following thirteen species: cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder, pollock, plaice, witch flounder, white hake, windowpane flounder, Atlantic halibut, winter flounder, redfish, Atlantic wolffish, and ocean pout.

2. For-Hire Permit Holders – Total Available Funds: \$800,000

Eligibility Criteria

Higher Flat Rate

Federal limited access multispecies permit holders and federal open access multispecies category I permit holders who conducted at least 50 for-hire trips in the Gulf of Maine with at least 1 cod, pollock or haddock kept per trip in any one year FY2010-FY2013

Lower Flat Rate

Federal limited access multispecies permit holders and federal open access multispecies category I permit holders who conducted at least 30 for-hire trips in the Gulf of Maine with at least 1 cod, pollock or haddock kept per trip in any one year FY2010-FY2013

Additional Criteria: Federal limited access multispecies permit holders must be the permit owner of record as of April 30, 2014 with a vessel homeported in MA and have held a MA DMF for-hire permit in the year of qualification.

A federal open access multispecies Category I permit must be held by a qualified entity as of April 30, 2014 with a vessel homeported in MA. Fishing history does not follow any transfer of a federal open access multispecies Category I permit (i.e. the history is assigned to the permit holder of record in that year and becomes part of the qualifying record for that named entity). A MA DMF for-hire permit must have been held by a qualified entity in the year of qualification.

3. Crew Members – Total Available Funds: \$3,000,000

Eligibility Criteria

- Crew members (including owner operators and longshoremen) employed by a Phase 1 or 2 vessels in a qualifying year;
- 50% of their total income is from commercial or for-hire fishing in a qualifying year; and
- A minimum of \$5,000 from commercial or for-hire fishing is earned annually in a qualifying year.

Additional Criteria: All income criteria would need to be verified by 1099s, W2s, Schedule C (etc).

Crew members will be eligible for a prorated payment based on the number of years employed by a Phase 1 or 2 vessels during the qualification period. Prorated payment amounts will not be finalized until all crew member applications have been processed.