

Name
Vessel Name
Permit Number, MRI Number
Address

Dear Limited Access Northeast Multispecies Permit Holder:

On September 12, 2012, the Department of Commerce determined that a commercial fishery failure due to a fishing resource disaster would exist for the “Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery” for the 2013 fishing year in the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York. As part of the 2014 fiscal year budget, Congress approved \$75 million in fishery disaster aid, of which about \$33 million will be distributed to the states affected by the northeast groundfish disaster. The fishery directors from these states, in partnership with NOAA, recently announced a consensus plan to distribute the disaster funds. This plan allocates about \$11 million to be distributed as direct assistance to northeast multispecies limited access permit holders from these states whose vessel(s) landed at least 5,000 pounds of northeast multispecies in any one of the past four fishing years (FY 2010-2013). A northeast multispecies limited access permit holder might be eligible to receive as much as \$32,500 for each qualifying permit.

This letter is to inform you that we have made a preliminary determination that you might be eligible for a direct assistance payment based on the reported landings history of the limited access northeast multispecies permitted vessel named above. The preliminary eligibility of your vessel is based on reports that your vessel landed at least 5,000 lbs. of the following regulated northeast multispecies, which were allocated to sector and common pool vessels, in any one of the 2010-2013 fishing years: cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, witch flounder, winter flounder, redfish, white hake, and pollock.

There may be additional requirements or criteria applied by the states that must be met before a disbursement may be made. If you meet all requirements, once disaster funds have been distributed to the states, your payment will be made by [INSERT HOMESTATE] based on the homeport state indicated on your fishing year 2013 northeast multispecies permit as of April 30, 2014. If your permit is in a confirmation of permit history (CPH), the payment will be based upon the state listed on the most recent address associated with the CPH.

The disaster funds will be distributed to the states as grants. We are working closely with the states to complete required reviews of state grant applications and spend plans to distribute the funds as quickly as possible. NOAA expects to make these awards in the fall.

If you have further questions about this program, you should contact the appropriate state fisheries agency listed below for additional information:

Maine Department of Marine Resources
Meredith Mendelson, 207-624-6553

New Hampshire Fish and Game
Cheri Patterson, 603-868-1095

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Melanie Griffin, 617-626-1528

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Robert Ballou, 401-222-4700, ext. 4420

New York State Division of Marine Resources
Steve Heins, 631-444-0436

Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
Mark Alexander, 860-434-6043

Sincerely,

John K. Bullard
Regional Administrator