

Massachusetts CARES Act Fisheries Relief – Seafood Processor and Wholesale Dealer Sector

Round One Funding Information

Program Overview:

Round One of the Seafood Processor and Wholesale Dealer CARES Act Fisheries Relief Program has ended, and the participant list has been finalized. Checks were mailed on October 2, 2020, to those eligible to receive relief funds. These applications were mailed to all 2020 Wholesale Dealer permit holders on August 21, 2020; and all applications and appeals were due September 12, 2020. See the [Seafood Processor Round One Application Status for CARES Act Fisheries Relief](#) for the list of Round One applicants and recipients.

Basic Program Eligibility:

1. Wholesale dealers and processors must hold a 2020 Wholesale Dealer permit and have held a 2019 Wholesale Dealer permit.
2. Businesses must have suffered a documentable 35% or greater loss in revenue compared to the previous 5 year average due to Covid-19 impacts during the eligibility period (if one or more years are inactive, calculation of the average must be detailed). The eligibility period for losses is March 10, 2020 (Governor Baker’s State of Emergency declaration) through June 30, 2020.
3. Assistance from this and other federal relief programs plus traditional revenue must not make the applicant more than whole. The determination of “made more than whole” will include the calendar year and be based on a comparison to the average revenue earned across the previous 5-year period.
4. Wholesale dealers and processors are eligible to apply in the state(s) where their facilities are physically located.
5. Only seafood Wholesale and Processing activities will count toward eligibility criteria.
6. Businesses must have average annual wholesale seafood sales of at least \$100,000 over the past 5 years.
7. At least 70% of total wholesale business revenue must be from wholesale seafood sales.

Tiering & Payment Share:

- Payments were scaled to eligible recipients based on the number of employees. Businesses with multiple permitted wholesale seafood dealer locations operating under one Employer Identification Number (EIN) had payment scaled based on aggregate employee counts from all facilities.
- Pre-application questionnaires were distributed to all permitted Wholesale Dealers to collect data on employee counts and analysis of these data led DMF to define the below tiers.

- Applicants were able to appeal their assigned bins by providing documentation on employee counts.
- Since all applications have been qualified and appeals resolved, the number of permit holders in each tier have been determined, the total number of shares calculated, and the payment per eligible permit holder has been set.

Tier	Share	Employee Counts	Payment
1	1	>0 - 5	\$44,739.57
2	2	>5 -10	\$89,479.15
3	3	>10 -20	\$134,218.72
4	4	>20 -40	\$178,958.30
5	5	>40 -80	\$223,697.87
6	6	>80 -120	\$268,437.45
7	7	>120 -160	\$313,177.02
8	8	>160	\$357,916.60

Additional Information:

- ASMFC mailed 1099 forms to recipients on February 24, 2021.
- For 2020, if you have been made 'more than whole' by this relief payment, please see guidance to return relief funds: [MA CARES Act Fisheries Relief Payment Return](#)