



Paul J. Diodati
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

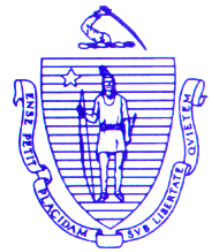
Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400

Boston, Massachusetts 02114

(617)626-1520

fax (617)626-1509



Deval Patrick
Governor

Maeve Vallely Bartlett
Secretary

Mary B. Griffin
Commissioner

PID for Public Comment on Commonwealth's Groundfish Disaster Aid Proposed Spending Plan

Background

On May 28, 2014 the state fishery directors from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York, in partnership with NOAA, announced a framework for the distribution of \$32.8 in federal disaster aid monies to the New England groundfish industry. In the consensus framework, the six states will apportion available monies between three themes (roughly \$11 million in each): one-third to be used for direct assistance, one-third to be split among the states and used for state-specific programs, and one-third to be used in developing a federally funded buyout or industry-funded buyback.

Excluding the \$11-million set-aside for regional consideration of a future vessel buyout/buyback, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will receive \$14.5-million: \$6.3-million in direct subsidies to pre-identified active commercial groundfishermen and \$8.2-million for consideration of additional assistance strategies in a state program. To assist the public in providing comments on the latter, DMF has prepared this PID with assistance from an Industry-based Working Group. On the back are suggested strategies for disbursement of \$8.2-million in federal aid that are aimed at restoring the groundfishery in Massachusetts, preventing a similar failure in the future and/or assisting the Massachusetts fishing community affected by the disaster – eligible resource disaster activities per Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act. In developing its final grant application for funds, DMF will be guided by public comment relying on a transparent public process.

Public Meeting Schedule: (all meetings start at 6PM)

Monday, July 14th – Gloucester
MA DMF – ARMFS
30 Emerson Ave.

Wednesday, July 16th – New Bedford
Marriott Fairfield Inn and Suites
185 MacArthur Dr.

Tuesday, July 15th – Plymouth Radisson
Plymouth Harbor
180 Water St.

Thursday, July 17th – Chatham
Chatham High School
425 Crowell. Rd.

Proposed Spending Strategies:

(1) Direct Aid to Federal and State Groundfish Permit Holders

a. Federal limited access multispecies permit holders not included in federal direct aid program

	Tier 1	Tier 2
Landed and sold a certain poundage of multispecies in any one year from FY'09-'13	5,000-lbs.	Lesser amount
Payment	Higher flat rate	Lower flat rate
Permit holder of record and homeported in MA as of:	April 30, 2014	April 30, 2014

b. State-only Groundfish Endorsement permit holders

- Landed and sold 5,000-lbs. of multispecies in any one year (FY2010 - FY2013)
- Permit holder of record on April 30, 2014
- Flat rate

c. Federal for-hire permit holders

- VTRs must document a certain number of trips were taken in the Gulf of Maine that landed a certain amount of multispecies in any one year during FY2010 – FY2013
- Flat rate

(2) Crew Direct Aid, Vocational & Vessel Safety Training

a. Direct Assistance

- 50% of gross income from fishing in any one year (FY2010-FY2013)
- Income verified by 1099s, W2s, Schedule C (etc.) and show associated with qualified commercial groundfish vessel
- Flat rate
- Include boat owner (e.g., captain) at a tiered rate

b. Trade and Safety Training

(3) Cooperative Research

- DMF solicitation for groundfish video survey in participation with fishermen to investigate abundance, spatial distribution, and size structure of GB yellowtail for current assessment
- Possible additional partnerships to inform stock assessments for GOM winter flounder, dabs and windowpane
- Funds primarily for vessel/crew payments; require match for any administrative funding

(4) Local Seafood Marketing

Synergistic work with existing Seafood Marketing Taskforce to promote consumer preference for local, fresh and healthy seafood (as opposed to imported), possibly including:

- Roadside Billboard
- Poster-Size Displays (i.e. in T Stations)
- Radio Spot
- Professional Video
- Newspaper/Magazine Ads
- Marketing Materials – posters and brochures for restaurants, super markets, and retail markets
- Online component

(5) Shoreside Industry

a. Direct Assistance

- Primary buyers who bought certain amount of groundfish in FY2010-FY2013
- Flat rate

b. Competitive grants/Revolving loans to provide long-term support for and improvement of fishery

- Match for grants
- Open to fishing operations