



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission

Building 96

380 Fenwick Road

Fort Monroe, VA 23651

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

Steven G. Bowman
Commissioner

COVID-19 Federal Assistance for the Fishing and Seafood Industries

On May 7th, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced Virginia fisheries will receive \$4.5 million in disaster relief funding **to support the recovery of the Commonwealth's commercial fishing, seafood, aquaculture, and charter fishing industries from the impacts of COVID-19.** Congress appropriated \$300 million total for fisheries disaster impacts due to COVID-19 in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). VMRC is greatly disappointed in the amount allocated to Virginia, as it will not begin to address the economic damage in our region.

Before VMRC can distribute any funding, the agency must develop a plan consistent with the CARES Act and NOAA's guidance, and NOAA must review and approve this plan.

The agency is committed to working through this process as efficiently and transparently as possible and will post further updates regarding eligibility and how to apply for funding as they become available.

Please complete this brief survey by June 1, 2020. Click [HERE](#) to start the survey.

This survey will help the agency determine priorities and ensure that VMRC is making the best use of these limited funds as the agency develops our spend plan. This survey will be used for informational purposes only and does not constitute any guarantee of assistance or count as an application.

For further information on Virginia's plan for relief, the CARES Act as it relates to fisheries, or other sources of assistance, please email covid19relief@mrc.virginia.gov or call: 757-247-2272 OR 757-247-8155

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

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