



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission

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Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

Steven G. Bowman
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On May 7th, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced Virginia fisheries will receive \$4.5 Million in disaster relief funding.

Congress appropriated \$300 million total for fisheries disaster impacts due to COVID-19 in the Corona Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act),

“We are greatly disappointed in the amount of disaster funding Virginia received. This funding falls woefully short of even beginning to address the devastating impacts fisheries and aquaculture businesses have suffered due to COVID-19,” said Matthew J. Strickler, Virginia’s Secretary of Natural Resources. **“The fishing industry in Virginia supports thousands of jobs and generates millions in revenue. The Administration must release more funding to help our coastal communities and businesses.”**

The funding will initially go to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and Virginia will develop a plan to distribute the funding.

“We will work to swiftly develop a plan to use this funding to address the economic impacts due to COVID-19 and identify opportunities to improve the resiliency of our fisheries and fishing businesses,” said Commissioner Steven G. Bowman.

The Marine Resources Commission will post further information regarding the disaster relief program as more details are made available.

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