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UFA Fleet Update



September 17, 2020

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Alaska Cares Act Money Update

Many inquiries have come into the UFA office asking what is happening with the **\$50 million in CARES Act Relief Funding** designated for the fisheries in Alaska.

UFA inquired to ADF&G where they were in the process. In an email received today (September 17) from Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang, the commissioner relayed that (*Fish and Game*) is "on track to have a spend out for public review by the end of the month. We (*Fish and Game*) will have an open public comment period (2-3 weeks) after which we will adjust the plan and submit to Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission for their submission to NOAA for approval. Application would be open in late October."

United Fishermen of Alaska will be tracking and keeping our membership informed of announcements, dates, and deadlines.

USDA Seafood Trade Relief Program Update

APPLICATIONS STARTED MONDAY (9/14)

For the first time in history, fishermen are getting relief from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) for trade impacts similar to relief given to farmers. You will need to show your 2019 landings which USDA will apply to a pre-determined formula. For a complete list of species and rates, click [HERE](#).

- **Salmon for example, salmon fishermen are eligible to receive .16/lb. for all salmon harvested in 2019. If you landed 90,000 lbs in 2019, you could get \$14,400 from USDA.**

Some restrictions apply, there is a \$250,000 cap on relief payments and fishermen must still be in business at the time of application. In addition, an applicant's average adjusted gross income (AGI) cannot exceed \$900,000 unless at least 75 percent of the AGI of the person or entity comes from farming, ranching, forestry, seafood harvesting, or related activities.

Set up your account with USDA [TODAY HERE](#) (<https://www.farmers.gov/mydocs>). Applications will be available Sep 14 - Dec 14 [HERE](#). **The USDA has announced this is NOT a first-come-first-served situation.** The monies awarded were already calculated to cover all permit holders and fisheries.

Apply through their local USDA Service Center. To find them visit the website www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator. The application can be found at www.farmers.gov/seafood. FAQs available at [HERE](#).

USDA Webinar

Join the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency as they talk about the Seafood Trade Relief Program for U.S. fishermen. If you are a U.S. fisherman impacted by retaliatory tariffs, you may qualify for funding through the Seafood Trade Relief Program (STRP). In this webinar, they will cover the basics of the program and how to apply through your local USDA Service Center.

STRP provides direct support to U.S. commercial fishermen who have a valid federal or state license or permit to catch seafood who bring their catch to shore and sell or transfer them to another party. Fishermen can sign-up for relief through the program from September 14, 2020 to December 14, 2020. You can find more information and access the program application at <https://farmers.gov/Seafood>.
[Registration Link](#)

Alaska Board of Fisheries Meeting Summary

Following introductions and brief ethics disclosures, the Board of Fisheries (board) heard from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) on its findings related to holding in-person meetings in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The department recommended to the board to 1.) conduct the October 15-16 work session through teleconference or a virtual meeting platform, 2.) cancel the December 2020 Prince William Sound meeting with the intention of postponing it to the 2021/2022 meeting cycle, or until there are adequate treatments to assure public, board, and staff safety, 3.) determine if there are certain issues before the board that must be addressed this year, and 4.) initiate the drafting of an action plan for postponing the January and March 2021 meetings to the 2021/2022 meeting cycle.

The board voted to hold the October 2020 work session on a virtual platform. The board voted in support of postponing both the December 2020 Prince William Sound Finfish and Shellfish meeting and the January 2021 Southeast and Yakutat Finfish and Shellfish meeting until March-May 2021 with specific dates to be determined at the work session. The board also voted that at the work session it would determine if there are certain issues before the board that must be addressed in a timelier manner.

UFA Announces Hoodie Design Winner

Congratulations to Emma Thissen, winner of the UFA Hoodie contest! Emma hails from Larsen Bay and spends her summers commercial fishing for salmon. The UFA board of directors overwhelmingly chose her design in a stiff competition. Thank you to everyone who submitted a design and we look forward to seeing what the fleet can produce next year!

UFA typically makes our hoodies available with purchase of a UFA membership only at Pacific Marine Expo, but due to the cancellation of an in-person Expo, UFA will be announcing plans soon about how members can renew their memberships and receive a hoodie. Stay tuned for more details and how you can get your hands on the most-wanted Alaska commercial fishing hoodie.



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