



## **Connecticut CARES Act Assistance to Fishery Participants**

### **Applications for Aid are Now Available, Application Deadline is October 30, 2020**

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act signed into law on March 27, 2020 created an aid program (CARES Act Aid to Fishery Participants, or CAAFP) for marine fishery participants in U.S. coastal states to offset losses incurred in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Connecticut has been allocated \$1,835,424 of CAAFP aid funds to distribute to qualified recipients in the commercial fishing, for-hire fishing, seafood dealing/wholesaling/processing, and aquaculture sectors. **Application materials for Connecticut CAAFP aid are now available at:**

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/Commercial/CT-CARES-Act-Assistance-to-Fisheries-Participants>

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) will distribute aid funds to qualified applicants at the direction of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DOAG). More details on the Connecticut CAAFP aid program including general and sector-specific eligibility criteria can be found in the Connecticut CAAFP spend plan, available at the link above. All interested parties are strongly encouraged to review the CAAFP spend plan before applying for Connecticut CAAFP aid. The following is a brief summary of primary Connecticut CAAFP aid eligibility requirements:

- You must be a Connecticut resident
- You must meet at least one of the following descriptions:
  - You are a Connecticut-licensed commercial fisherman.
  - You are a Connecticut-licensed for-hire fisherman.
  - You hold a Connecticut Seafood Dealer License, or own or operate a seafood dealing business in Connecticut that reports seafood purchases under a Connecticut Seafood Dealer License (one applicant per business).
  - You own or operate a seafood dealing/wholesaling/processing business (not to include seafood retail businesses or restaurants) in Connecticut that does not report seafood purchases under a Connecticut Seafood Dealer's License (one applicant per business).
  - You must own or operate a qualifying licensed aquaculture business in Connecticut.
- You must have incurred a greater than 35% loss in revenue from participation in one or more of the qualifying sectors (personal income and/or business revenue) during a specified period in 2020 (aquaculture: March 1 – May 31; all other sectors: February 1 – July 31) as a direct or indirect result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Losses during the specified period in 2020 must be measured relative to average revenue during the same period in 2015-19.

- You must meet certain requirements relative to sector activity and income during 2015-19:
  - Commercial Fishing: you must have reported commercial fishing effort and landings in Connecticut, and earned at least 20% of your annual personal income from commercial fishing, in at least three of the last five years (2015-19).
  - For-Hire Fishing: you must have earned at least 20% of your annual personal income from for-hire fishing in at least three of the last five years (2015-19)
  - Seafood Dealing/Wholesaling/Processing: you must have earned at least 20% of your annual personal income from seafood dealing/wholesaling/processing in at least three of the last five years (2015-19). You or the business you own/operate must have conducted seafood dealing/wholesaling/processing in at least three of the last five years (2015-19).
  - Aquaculture: you must have reported commercial shellfish sales, and earned at least 50% of your personal income from commercial shellfish sales, in 2018 and 2019.
- **Please review the CAAFP spend plan for further details and exceptions related to these requirements**

If you believe you are eligible for Connecticut CAAFP Aid, please fill out an application and an application affidavit, and submit them along with supporting documents by **October 30, 2020** using one of the following methods:

- E-mail submission: [CTCARES@asmfc.org](mailto:CTCARES@asmfc.org)
- Submission via U.S. Mail (must be postmarked by October 30, 2020):

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
 ATTN: Laura Leach  
 1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N  
 Arlington, VA 22201

**For questions about Connecticut CAAFP aid and the application process, please e-mail [deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov](mailto:deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov) or call 860-434-6043 and leave a voicemail for Marine Fisheries.**

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at 860.418.5910 or [deep.accommodations@ct.gov](mailto:deep.accommodations@ct.gov) if you: have disability and need a communication aid or service; have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language; or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint.