



2008 Federal Disaster Assistance - OSC Recommendation to Pacific States

At the Oregon Salmon Commission meeting held June 17, 2008, the commissioners reviewed the input received from commercial fishermen from the eight coastal meetings in May 2008, and from phone calls, emails, mail, and direct contact with commissioners.

The OSC approved the following and submitted this as their recommendation to Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission for distribution of 2008 Oregon Federal Disaster Assistance Funds.

The OSC realizes that this is just a recommendation and may NOT be the final criteria. Pacific States will be reviewing the recommendations for all three states and will make a final determination.

Commercial Fishermen:

Criteria to Qualify for Oregon Funds

- Must have a 2008 troll license permit
- Must have one landing in Oregon in 2005, 2006, 2007, or 2008. If 2008 is the only year with a landing (i.e. no landings in 2005, 2006, or 2007), then they must have landed at least 100 pounds by 8/1/08.

Qualify For:

- **Base amount** of \$8,000 for everyone who qualifies. If a fisherman has permits in other states, he only qualifies for the base amount in his state of residence.
- **Lost personal income** – (in addition to the base amount) Best year using the window years of 2002 – 2007. If a fisherman landed fish in multiple states and wants to claim the income from several states – the same year must be selected in each state. Income to be based on the value of the fish, not poundage
- **Cap of \$75,000** – includes base and income (Same cap of \$75,000 for all applicants – commercial, charter, wholesale, related businesses, etc.)

Wholesale Buyers:

- Increase amount paid per pound
 - \$.50 for whole fish
 - \$.75 for value added product
- Cap of \$75,000

Port Outreach Specialist Project:

- \$75,000 to support the Outreach in their contacts/communications with fishing families and connecting them to state and local resources.

Crew:

The Oregon Salmon Commission realizes the importance of captains and crew members for the salmon fishery and discussed how to include specific funding for them. After much discussion, commissioners found that there was no easy way to have accountability/verification of participation in the salmon fishery and that permit holders should honor any contract they have with captains/crews for payments. Commissioners would like to see the cover letter that is sent out to commercial fishermen include the importance of the permit holders including their captains and crew in the disbursement of funds.

Status of Federal Funds

The Farm Bill passed with \$170 million in assistance to the three states.

Attempts have been made by the President to take money from this federal assistance package. The three states' Governors, and our Senators and Representatives have said "No" and are working hard to keep the funding intact.

From the Farm Bill, which is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the funds will be transferred to the Department of Commerce and NOAA. Pacific States will write a contract with NOAA for distribution of the funds.

Applications for commercial, charters, wholesale buyers, and related businesses should be available by late August.

State Disaster Funds

Governor Kulongoski has allocated \$500,000 from his Strategic Reserve Fund to assist the salmon industry. The Oregon Department of Agriculture, the Governor's Office, the Oregon State Marine Board and an advisory group have been meeting to discuss distribution of these funds. A proposal requesting an additional \$500,000 will come before the Emergency Board on June 26.

At this time it looks like the **state checks will be written and distributed no earlier than late July or early August.** If you have changed your address recently, be sure to contact the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (commercial), or the Oregon State Marine Board (charters).



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Dwight Collins • Eugene (Public Member)
Carl Finley • Corvallis (Fisherman)
Ray Monroe • Pacific City (Fisherman)
Barry Nelson • Winchester Bay (Fisherman)
Mark Newell • Newport (Processor)
Jeff Werner • Gold Beach (Processor)

The Oregon Salmon Commission working with the Governor's office and state agencies has contracted with Community Colleges and Workforce Development to reinstate the Port Outreach Specialist Project.

The Outreach will work with fishing families that are impacted by the salmon disaster to help them access state and local emergency services, i.e. food stamps, counseling, housing assistance, jobs programs, etc. If you need assistance, please contact the Outreach in your area. They will help evaluate your needs and connect you to the appropriate services.

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*Tagline is the official newsletter of the
Oregon Salmon Commission*

*The Oregon Salmon Commission is an
industry-funded state commodity commission
under the Oregon Department of Agriculture.*

I will be on vacation from June 22 - July 8 and will not be available to respond to phone calls (office or cell) or emails. Hopefully this newsletter will answer many of your questions until I return. If you do need an immediate answer, please contact the Chair, Darus, or the commissioner in your area.
(Thanks from Nancy)

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