

## Federal Groundfish Disaster Assistance

### *Prospectus* for Rhode Island's Phase 2 Grant Application

#### *Draft Discussion Document*

November 17, 2014

- This draft discussion document sets forth proposals for use of the \$545,000 that is available to the RI groundfish community under the Phase 2 portion of the Federal Groundfish Disaster Assistance Program.
- The overall Program is set forth in a consensus plan issued by NOAA Fisheries/GARFO in May 2014. Pursuant to the plan, the \$32.8 million in federal fisheries disaster relief funding allocated to the Northeast Groundfish Fishery is being administered in three phases.
- Phase 1, which has been completed in RI, involves direct assistance payments (\$32,500 each) to holders of limited access Northeast Multispecies Permits that had at least 5,000 pounds of groundfish landings in any of the four fishing year 2010-2013. There are 43 such eligible permit holders home-ported in Rhode Island.
- Phase 2, which is the subject of this *Prospectus*, involves bulk grants to each of the six states in the region for use in supporting the needs of each state's groundfish industry. RI's total allocation under this block grant phase is \$545,000. To enact this phase, each state must develop and submit a detailed grant proposal to NOAA Fisheries for review and approval. Rhode Island, acting through the RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), is facilitating the Phase 2 grant application process on behalf of the State's groundfish industry.
- On October 14, 2014, RIDEM met with members of the RI industry to begin identifying ideas for the State's Phase 2 grant application. Several proposals were advanced. At the request of the attendees, RIDEM agreed to flesh out the proposals and then reconvene a meeting with industry to hone in on a final proposal, or set of proposals. This *Prospectus* outlines the four proposals that seem to have emerged as top priorities, along with some other options that have been suggested. This *Prospectus* is being issued broadly to the RI community for review and consideration. It will be the subject of a follow-up meeting on **Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 5 pm in the Hazard Room, Coastal Institute Bldg, URI Bay Campus, Narragansett, RI.**
- Those unable to attend the December 11 meeting may forward comments on this *Prospectus* to Bob Ballou, RIDEM's Director's Office, at [Robert.Ballou@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Robert.Ballou@dem.ri.gov), or 401-222-4700, ext. 4420.

## Outline of Proposals & Cost Estimates

1. **Compensation for captains and crews** [\$400K]
  - Those who served on the 43 RI-based commercial vessels that qualified under Phase 1.
  - Per eligibility criteria that would require proof of employment over a certain number of months/years during the 2010-2013 period.
2. **Compensation for the for-hire industry** -- permit holders, captains, crew, and/or shoreside staff [\$65K]
  - RI-based; and involved in the groundfish fishery during the 2010-2013 period.
  - Commensurate with Phase 1 qualifying standard for commercial industry.
  - Per eligibility criteria that would require proof of employment over a certain number of months/years during the 2010-2013 period.
3. **Support for Rhode Island Seafood Marketing Campaign** [\$60K]
4. **Captain's license training** [\$20K]

### Other Potential Options

Some or all of the above-noted options, plus:

- Educational program on commercial fishing for application in RI public school system
- Fuel vouchers
- Development of shoreside processing capacities ó e.g., fillet machine for scup
- Support for sector operations

Note: Adding any of these additional options would require adjustments to funding levels for items listed above.