



NOAA
FISHERIES

Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act Report to Congress

FY 2019-2020



Cover: glass eels captured during young of year eel survey in the Coastal Bays of Maryland. Photo credit: Keith Whiteford, Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

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Introduction

Fish living along coastal areas and in rivers of the United States easily move across, state, federal, and fresh-saltwater boundaries. As a result, coordinated management across these boundaries is important to achieve sustainable fisheries. Recognizing this, Congress passed the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act 16 U.S.C. 4101 et seq. (IFA or the Act) in 1986 to support state, territory, and interstate commission activities to conserve and manage interjurisdictional fishery resources. The overall purposes of the IFA are:

- (1) To promote and encourage state [and territory] activities in support of the management of interjurisdictional resources;
- (2) To promote and encourage the management of interjurisdictional fisheries resources throughout their range; and
- (3) To promote and encourage research in preparation for the implementation of the use of ecosystems and interspecies approaches to the conservation and management of interjurisdictional fishery resources throughout their range.

The IFA effectively serves as a financial assistance program administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and requires the Secretary of Commerce to submit biennial reports to Congress on its efforts to fund initiatives that further the purposes of the Act. This report specifically contains information about the IFA funding process and apportionment of available funds, as well as a list of projects funded and information collected during the FY 2019 and 2020 reporting period.

Use of Federally Appropriated Assistance

Funds are authorized to be appropriated under four distinct sections of the IFA: (1) general interjurisdictional management and research activities, (2) development of fishery management plans through interstate commissions, (3) fishery resource disaster assistance to affected states, and (4) disaster assistance to commercial fishermen provided directly or indirectly through state and local government. The latter two sections are beyond the scope of this report and therefore are not discussed further.

General Interjurisdictional Fishery Management and Research Activities

Section 4107(a) of the Act authorizes Congress to appropriate funds to carry out the purposes of the Act, and provides an apportionment formula that describes how the funds

are to be allocated by the Secretary to each of the states and territories (hereafter states). The formula is primarily based on the ratio of the volume and value of fish landed by domestic commercial fishermen in each state to the total across all states during the three most recent years for which satisfactory data are available. Apportioned funds are then made available to the states through NOAA's online grant reporting and monitoring system, Grants Online. The grant process to disburse the funds ensures that projects further the purposes of the IFA.

Any state, either through its state agency or through an interstate commission, may submit a grant proposal for those funds that supports management of fishery resources that: (1) occur in waters under the jurisdiction of one or more states and the Exclusive Economic Zone; (2) are managed under an interstate fishery management plan; or (3) migrate between the waters under the jurisdiction of two or more states bordering on the Great Lakes. Projects funded specifically support either fisheries management, research, monitoring, or enforcement activities. The federal share for applicable projects is typically 75 percent, but may increase to 90 percent of total costs if the state has adopted fishery regulations consistent with an interstate or federal fishery management plan for the species to which the project applies. Enforcement agreements with state agencies of up to \$25,000 can be completely financed with federal funds.

Following direction in the annual Congressional appropriations, total funding available to implement the Act was \$3,203,174 in FY 2019 and \$3,409,367 in FY 2020, which includes accounting for required management and administration costs and rollover of any unused funds from the prior year. In order to provide more financial assistance to states for these important activities, NMFS removed any administrative and programmatic costs from the Act's appropriation and provided that funding from base funding. Apportionments by state are detailed in Table 1, and title descriptions for each project or activity supported with these funds in FY 2019 and 2020 are provided by region in Appendix 1.

Access Point Angler Intercept Survey interviewer collecting recreational angler data. Photo credit: Maine Department of Marine Resources.



Table 1. Federal Funds in Support of Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management Activities as Authorized under IFA Section 4104 and 4107(a) for FY 2019 and 2020.



Biologist tagging an adult red drum prior to release. Photo credit: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

State	FY2019	FY2020
Alabama	\$32,032	\$34,093
Alaska	\$192,190	\$204,562
American Samoa	\$141,402	\$170,333
California	\$192,190	\$204,562
Connecticut	\$16,016	\$17,047
Delaware	\$16,016	\$17,047
Florida	\$192,190	\$204,562
Georgia	\$16,016	\$17,047
Guam	\$16,016	\$17,047
Hawaii	\$102,378	\$107,232
Idaho	\$16,016	\$17,047
Illinois	\$16,016	\$17,047
Indiana	\$16,016	\$17,047
Louisiana	\$192,190	\$204,562
Maine	\$192,190	\$204,562
Massachusetts	\$192,190	\$204,562
Maryland	\$90,206	\$88,654
Michigan	\$16,016	\$17,047
Minnesota	\$16,016	\$17,047
Mississippi	\$167,755	\$166,410
North Carolina	\$100,999	\$102,661
Nthn. Mariana Islands	\$16,016	\$17,047
New Hampshire	\$32,032	\$34,093
New Jersey	\$192,190	\$204,562
New York	\$32,032	\$34,093
Ohio	\$16,016	\$17,047
Oregon	\$192,190	\$204,562
Pennsylvania	\$16,016	\$17,047
Puerto Rico	\$16,016	\$17,047
Rhode Island	\$106,404	\$114,770
South Carolina	\$16,016	\$17,047
Texas	\$187,744	\$204,562
Vermont	\$16,016	\$17,047
Virgin Islands	\$16,016	\$17,047
Virginia	\$192,190	\$204,562
Washington	\$192,190	\$204,562
West Virginia	\$16,016	\$17,047
Wisconsin	\$16,016	\$17,047
TOTAL	\$3,203,174	\$3,409,367

Development of Interstate Fishery Management Plans

In addition to the authorizations described above, Section 4107(c) of the Act authorizes the appropriation of funds to support efforts of the three interstate commissions (the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf States marine fisheries commissions) to develop interstate fishery management plans, and for research and monitoring of interjurisdictional fishery resources. The commission funds were historically distributed equally between the three interstate commissions; however, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission requested a portion of its funds be distributed directly to the Atlantic Coast states through the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act beginning in FY 2019.

Total funds available to the three interstate commissions under the Act after accounting for management and administration costs was \$3,123,518 in FY 2019 and \$3,006,346 in FY 2020. The distribution of funds by commission is shown in Table 2. NMFS again removed any administrative and programmatic costs from these appropriations in order to provide more financial assistance to the interstate commissions for these important activities.

Table 2. IFA Funds in Support of Interstate Fisheries Commission Activities, FY 2019 and 2020.

	FY2019	FY2020
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission	\$372,702	\$375,000
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission	\$1,375,408	\$1,315,673
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	\$1,375,408	\$1,315,673
TOTAL	\$3,123,518	\$3,006,346



Appendix 1: Funded Projects in FY 2019 and 2020

Funding provided to the states (and interstate commissions) through the IFA continues to be integral to realizing state and federal alignment of fishery management and data collection programs. All beneficiaries of the funding depend on it for essential services and for short-term projects supporting immediate fishery management objectives. The following provides descriptive titles of state and territorial projects funded in FY 2019 and 2020, listed by region. All of the projects are funded through multi-year grants.

States and Territories by Region

Northeast

- Connecticut: Interjurisdictional Enforcement of Species in Long Island Sound that are Managed Under a Fisheries Management Plan.
- Delaware: Management of the Knobbed Whelk (*Busycon carica*) Stock of Delaware Bay.
- Illinois: Quantitative Support for Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management of the Great Lakes.
- Maine: Interjurisdictional Resources Monitoring and Assessment Program.
- Maryland: To Maintain Maryland's Commercial Catch and Effort Data Collection Programs for Interjurisdictional Species and Make Those Data Available to Coastal Managers and Management Agencies.
- Massachusetts: Interstate Fisheries Management Support.
- Michigan: Quantitative Support for Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management; a Collaborative Approach to Prevention and Control of Great Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species.

Pennsylvania: Support for Quantitative Fisheries Center at Michigan State University and Collection of Creel Data

Walleye and yellow perch support large recreational and commercial fisheries and are the primary fisheries resources in Lake Erie. Since 2005, the Michigan State University Quantitative Fisheries Center (QFC) has provided technical support to fisheries managers on Lake Erie and has been instrumental in the refinement of assessment models and development of biologically sound harvest strategies for these species. To support ongoing work of the QFC pertaining to Lake Erie, the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission—one of five jurisdictions cooperatively managing the lake's fishery resources—has allocated a portion from its IFA grant to QFC each year beginning in 2013.



Collecting biological data for the billion-dollar Great Lakes salmon and trout fishery. Photo credit: Andrea Miehl, Great Lakes Fisheries Commission.

- Minnesota: Support for Quantitative Fisheries Center.
- New Hampshire: Commercial Fisheries Data Collection.
- New Jersey: Interjurisdictional Fisheries Surf Clam Inventory Survey.
- New York: Fishery Monitoring of the Crustacean, Horseshoe Crab, and Whelk Resources in the Marine District of Long Island, NY.
- Ohio: Quantitative Support for Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management on the Great Lakes.
- Pennsylvania: Support for Quantitative Fisheries Center at Michigan State University and Collection of Creel Data.
- Rhode Island: Lobster Research and Management.
- Vermont: Modeling a Mainstem Spawner: American Shad in the Connecticut River.
- Virginia: Interjurisdictional Fisheries Resource Management.
- Wisconsin: Great Lakes Commercial Fisheries Licensing and Harvest Statistics Information System.

South Carolina: Fishery-Independent Assessment of Adult Red Drum and Coastal Sharks

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources used IFA funds to collect abundance and biological data on adult red drum, including size, sex, age, maturity, and genetic information. Funds were also used to measure coastal shark captures for inclusion in the Cooperative Atlantic States Shark Pupping and Nursery Survey database managed by NMFS. These data are in turn used to assess their population status in South Carolina's coastal and estuarine waters.



Biologist tagging a tiger shark prior to release. Photo credit: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

Southeast

- Alabama: Enforcement and Coordination of Interjurisdictional Fisheries Protection Measures.
- Florida: Northeast Florida Blue Crab Fishery Profile and Horseshoe Crab Citizen Scientist Program.
- Georgia: Assessment of Georgia's Marine Fishery Resources.
- Louisiana: Assessment and Management of Coastal Fisheries.
- Mississippi: Monitoring and Assessment of Interjurisdictional Fishery Resources.
- North Carolina: Commercial Finfish Assessment.
- Puerto Rico: Puerto Rico/NOAA Fisheries Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program.
- South Carolina: Fishery Independent Assessment of Adult Red Drum and Coastal Sharks in South Carolina.
- Texas: Determine Status of Shellfish Populations for Formulating Shellfish Management and harvest Regulations in Coastal Waters.
- Virgin Islands: USVI Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program in Support of Fish and Lobster Age, Growth Studies and Long-Term Water Quality Monitoring.

West Coast and Alaska

- Idaho: Develop, Monitor, Revise, and Support Interstate Fishery Management Plans; Steelhead Management Workshop; and Abundance and Migratory Patterns of Steelhead Returning to the Snake River Basin.

California: Monitoring and Management of California Commercial Fish Species

IFA funds were used to collect fishery-dependent data (length, weight, age, sex, and maturity) and commercial landings information for coastal pelagic species targeted and landed by the California fishing fleet, mainly Pacific sardine, Pacific mackerel, northern anchovy, and jack mackerel. These data are used in annual stock assessments and management measures for actively managed species and for management measures for monitored species. Coastal pelagic species constitute a substantial portion of California's total commercial landings and are a major economic contribution to California and the U.S. economy.



Biologist with Pacific sardine sample taken from the purse seine fishery. Photo credit: Trung Nguyen, California Department of Fish & Wildlife.

- Oregon and Washington: Funds were awarded to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and allocated to the states to support fishery resource and management activities that are interjurisdictional in scope.
- California: Monitoring and Management of California Commercial Fish Species.
- Alaska: Southeast Alaska Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act.

Pacific Islands

- American Samoa: American Samoa Interjurisdictional Fisheries Stock Assessment and Monitoring Program.
- Guam: Data Collection and Entry in the Management of Interjurisdictional Fishery Resources.
- Hawaii: Development and Implementation of a Web-based Internet Commercial Fisheries Reporting System for the State of Hawaii.
- Northern Mariana Islands: Data Collection and Entry in the Management of CNMI's Interjurisdictional Fishery Resources.



Fish offloaded at Guam's Commercial Port. Photo credit: Monica Guerrero, Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans.



**U.S. Secretary of Commerce
Gina M. Raimondo**

**Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
Dr. Richard W. Spinrad**

**Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
Janet Coit**

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www.fisheries.noaa.gov

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**National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
SSMC 3, F/SF, Room 13362
Silver Spring, MD 20910**