



NOAA
FISHERIES

Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act Report to Congress

FY 2021-2022



Cover photo credit: Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act Report to Congress for Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022

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 National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), 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 Fiscal Year 2021 and 2022 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 IFA 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 3 most recent years for which satisfactory data are available. Apportioned funds are then made available to the states through Grants Online, NOAA’s online grant reporting and monitoring system. Using Grants Online to disburse the funds ensures that funded 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 funds to support 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 the states to implement the Act in fiscal year 2021 was \$3,204,142 and \$3,681,820 in 2022, which includes accounting for required management and administration costs and rollover of any unused funds from the prior year. Beginning in fiscal year 2018, NOAA Fisheries removed all administrative and programmatic costs from the Act’s appropriations in order to provide more financial assistance to the states for these important activities. Apportionments by state are detailed in Table 1, and title descriptions for each project or activity supported with these funds in fiscal year 2021 and 2022 are provided by region in Appendix 1.

Biologist retrieving a trawl net for a fisheries-independent survey program. Photo credit: Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.



Table 1. Federal Funds in Support of Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management Activities as Authorized under IFA Section 4104 and 4107(a) for Fiscal Year 2021 and 2022.



Crew setting pot gear for a stock assessment survey in Southeast Alaska. Photo credit: Andrew Olson, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

State	FY 2021	FY 2022
Alabama	\$32,041	\$36,818
Alaska	\$192,249	\$220,909
American Samoa	\$164,538	\$220,909
California	\$192,247	\$220,909
Connecticut	\$16,021	\$18,409
Delaware	\$16,021	\$18,409
Florida	\$192,249	\$220,909
Georgia	\$16,021	\$18,409
Guam	\$16,021	\$18,409
Hawaii	\$105,716	\$136,121
Idaho	\$16,021	\$18,409
Illinois	\$16,021	\$18,409
Indiana	\$16,021	\$18,409
Louisiana	\$192,249	\$220,909
Maine	\$192,248	\$220,909
Maryland	\$32,041	\$36,820
Massachusetts	\$192,248	\$220,909
Michigan	\$16,021	\$18,409
Minnesota	\$16,021	\$18,409
Mississippi	\$184,492	\$220,909
North Carolina	\$98,870	\$36,818
Nthn. Mariana Islands	\$16,021	\$18,409
New Hampshire	\$32,041	\$36,820
New Jersey	\$192,248	\$220,909
New York	\$32,041	\$36,820
Ohio	\$16,021	\$18,409
Oregon	\$192,249	\$220,909
Pennsylvania	\$16,021	\$18,409
Puerto Rico	\$16,021	\$18,409
Rhode Island	\$119,251	\$158,424
South Carolina	\$16,021	\$18,409
Texas	\$192,249	\$220,909
Vermont	\$16,021	\$18,409
Virgin Islands	\$16,021	\$18,409
Virginia	\$192,248	\$220,909
Washington	\$192,249	\$220,909
West Virginia	\$16,021	\$18,409
Wisconsin	\$16,021	\$18,409
TOTAL	\$3,204,142	\$3,681,820

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 fiscal year 2019.

Total funds available to the three interstate commissions under the Act after accounting for management and administration costs, and the request to redistribute a portion of ASMFC's funds to the Atlantic Coast states, was \$3,076,530 in fiscal year 2021 and \$3,173,032 in fiscal year 2022. The distribution of funds by commission is shown in Table 2. NOAA Fisheries 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. Federal Funds in Support of Interstate Commission Activities as Authorized under IFA Section 4107(c) for Fiscal Year 2021 and 2022.

	FY2021	FY2022
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission	\$400,000	\$430,000
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission	\$1,338,265	\$1,371,516
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	\$1,338,265	\$1,371,516
TOTAL	\$3,076,530	\$3,173,032



Appendix 1: Funded Projects in FY 2021 and 2022

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 short-term projects supporting immediate fishery management objectives. The following provides descriptive titles of state and territorial projects funded in fiscal year 2021 and 2022, 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.
- Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Pennsylvania: Multi-jurisdictional Funding Support for Services Provided by the Michigan State University Quantitative Fisheries Science Center to Support Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management of the Great Lakes Region.
- Maine: Interjurisdictional Resources Monitoring and Assessment Program.
- Maryland: To Maintain Commercial Fisheries Catch and Effort Data Collection Systems under the Maryland Interjurisdictional Fisheries Statistics Program.
- Massachusetts: Interstate Fisheries Management Support in the Area of Conservation Engineering.
- New Hampshire: To Enhance Commercial Data Collection for Interjurisdictional Fisheries.

Maryland: To Maintain Commercial Fisheries Catch and Effort Data Collection Systems under the Maryland Interjurisdictional Fisheries Statistics Program

IFA funds are used to support the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Fisheries Statistics Project that oversees the collection and management of commercial catch and effort statistics for important fisheries including blue crabs, summer flounder, perch, and Atlantic striped bass. The project maintains four data collection systems for finfish reporting, blue crab reporting, fishing guide reporting, and seafood dealer reporting. The data collected from these systems are then used for stock assessments, quota management, and resources allocation decisions.



Yellow perch with commercial tags. Photo credit: Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

- 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.
- Rhode Island: Partial Funding for Continued Lobster Research and Management.
- Virginia: Research Fisheries Interactions with Protected Species and Support Interjurisdictional Fisheries Resource Management.
- Wisconsin: Great Lakes Commercial Fisheries Licensing and Harvest Statistics Information System.



Commercial fishing vessel on the Chesapeake Bay at sunset. Photo credit: Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Southeast

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

Louisiana: Assessment and Management of Louisiana's Coastal Fisheries

This IFA grant is a primary funding source for the Louisiana fisheries-independent trawl program, which supports the management of the largest wild harvest warm-water shrimp fishery in the U.S. The program was developed more than 50 years ago and continues to collect valuable data for shrimp management and research initiatives. The program consists of three different gear types (6-foot, 16-foot, and 20-foot trawls) that monitor different aspects of the shrimp population, including recruitment and abundance. Data collected from the program are used to develop management recommendations for shrimp seasons in different areas, and also provides indices of abundance for stock assessments of blue crab and several species of finfish.



State biologist retrieving a trawl for a fisheries-independent survey program. Photo credit: Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Alaska: Support for the Southeast Alaska Groundfish Project

This IFA grant provides funding to support the research and management of important groundfish fisheries in Southeast Alaska, including sablefish, lingcod, Pacific cod, and demersal shelf rockfish. Activities include collection of fisheries catch statistics, collection of biological information, stock assessment surveys, and management actions to open and close fisheries and to support subsistence fishery management objectives.

State biologists releasing a sablefish as part of the Southeast Alaska tagging study. Photo credit: Rhea Ehresmann, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.



West Coast and Alaska

- Alaska: Support for the Southeast Alaska Groundfish Project.
- California: Monitoring and Management of California Commercial Fish Species.
- Idaho, 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.

Pacific Islands

- American Samoa: Interjurisdictional Fisheries Stock Assessment and Monitoring Program.
- Guam: Data Collection and Entry in the Management of Guam's Interjurisdictional Fishery Resources.
- Hawaii: Maintain and Support Commercial Fisheries Reporting Web Portal System for the State of Hawaii.
- Northern Mariana Islands: Data Collection and Entry in Interjurisdictional Fishery Resources.



Alia fishing boat from American Samoa. Photo credit: Talanei.com.

American Samoa: Support for the Fisheries Stock Assessment and Monitoring Program

IFA funds help support the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources' boat-based creel program, which monitors catches of highly migratory species and other fish in nearshore and federal waters. Program activities include port sampling of commercial vessels, sampling tournament catches, and documenting market sales. In Fiscal Year 2021 and 2022, the boat-based creel program recorded activity from nearshore fishing boats (called "alia") targeting pelagic fish and reef fish including tuna, marlin, wahoo, parrotfish, surgeonfish, and lobsters. The catch data, coupled with information from the commercial invoice system, indicates that around 50 percent of fish consumed in American Samoa are supplied by non-target catches from large fishing vessels, 33 percent from alia boat fisheries, and the rest likely comes from frozen seafood imports.



Yellowfin tuna. Photo credit: American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources.



**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**