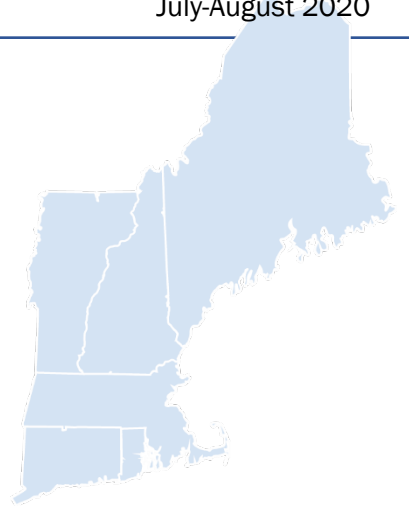




Industry Overview:

A Crisis is unfolding in the Fisheries/Aquaculture Sector:

- The Task Force’s Rapid Needs Assessment determined that the New England Fisheries/Aquaculture Industry is in a dire economic situation.
- 70% of the catch is typically sold to restaurants with peak seasons from May through September and that demand has collapsed.
- The Portland, ME Fish Exchange is down from 60,000 to about 20,000 pounds per week. Much of that industry is made up of seasonal, migrant workers who are ineligible for federal aid.
- There is no easy pivot for selling fishery catch to the home consumer market.
- It is simply not financially feasible to go to sea with such little demand.
- The “middlemen” (i.e. processors and wholesalers) are essential to the overall system and have suffered dramatic impacts from the downturn as well.
- Aquaculture in New England generates nearly \$150M worth of seafood annually and is the 3rd most valuable fishery in terms of economic revenue behind scallops and American lobster. Overall in New England, fisheries are a multi-billion industry.



Sector Impact Media Coverage:

[Commercial fishing industry in free fall: restaurants close, consumers hunker down and vessels tie up](#)

The novel coronavirus pandemic has destroyed demand for seafood across a complicated U.S. supply chain, from luxury items such as lobster and crab, generally consumed at restaurants, to grocery staples sourced from the world’s fish farms. Now, with restaurants closed, many of the nation’s fisheries – across geography, species, gear types and management – have reported sales slumps as high as 95 percent.

[OECD Fisheries, aquaculture and COVID-19: Issues and policy responses](#)

Fisheries and aquaculture provide nutritious food for hundreds of millions of people around the world and livelihoods for over 10% of the world’s population. All aspects of fish supply chains are strongly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with jobs, incomes and food security at risk. Government and industry responses are needed to address the immediate economic and social hardships that the crisis is provoking in the fish sector. Governments also need to maintain long-term ambitions for protecting natural resources and ecosystems, and the viability of fisheries.

FEMA’s Role:

FEMA Region I established the COVID-19 Long-Term Recovery Task Force under the [National Disaster Recovery Framework](#) (NDRF), which promotes effective recovery from large-scale incidents and enables orchestrated support to impacted states, tribes and local jurisdictions. The NDRF focuses on how best to restore, redevelop and revitalize the health, social, economic, natural and environmental fabric of the community as well as build a more resilient nation.

This COVID-19 Long-Term Recovery Task Force works in tandem, but separately from other FEMA Short-Term Recovery Support programs such as Public Assistance and Individual Assistance. The Long-Term Recovery Task Force coordinates access to funding from federal agencies but does not provide direct funding.

About this Resource Guide:

This Resource Guide has been developed to provide businesses and individuals who work in Fisheries/Aquaculture (and related industries) in New England with a summary of federal agency partners, how they might be able to assist, and the resources available (funding and technical assistance) to support a resilient recovery.

Intended Audiences:

This Resource Guide is meant to provide useful information and resources for the following targeted audiences:

Sub-Sector Overview (list is representative, not comprehensive)

State Agencies:

- State Emergency Management Agency
- State Economic Development Agency
- Division of Marine Fisheries

Industry Associations:

- Fishery Management Councils
- Lobstermen's Associations
- Shellfish Associations
- Charter Boat Associations

Businesses:

- Seafood company owners/operators
- Wharf owners
- Charter Boat companies
- Warehouse owners
- Fish Processing companies
- Transportation companies
- Cold storage companies

Individuals:

- Operators and Owners
- Industry employees

Federal Agency Partner Overview:

This next section of the Resource Guide gives a description of the key federal agency partners that can support long-term recovery for the Fisheries/Aquaculture sector. Included are examples of how to engage with these agencies, what types of programs and support can be leveraged for recovery, along with helpful links and regional contact information.

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (USDA-RD)

[USDA](#) has created this valuable Resource Guide with comprehensive information about all the programs and resources offered within this agency. **COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide:**

https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_COVID-19_Fed_Rural_Resource_Guide.pdf

USDA Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. The term 'rural' is much broader and encompasses a much larger portion of New England than many might imagine. There are multiple rural definitions to reflect the reality that rural and urban are multidimensional concepts. Sometimes population density is the defining concern, in other cases it is geographic isolation. Population thresholds used to differentiate rural and urban communities range from 2,500 up to 50,000, depending on the definition. Please contact your local USDA-RD representative for clarification.

USDA-RD offers loans, grants and loan guarantees to help create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing; health care; first responder services and equipment; and water, electric and communications infrastructure.

The agency promotes economic development by supporting loans to businesses through banks, credit unions and community-managed lending pools. It offers technical assistance and information to help agricultural

producers and cooperatives get started and improve the effectiveness of their operations. Technical assistance is also available to help communities undertake community empowerment programs.

USDA-RD also helps rural residents buy or rent safe, affordable housing and make health and safety repairs to their homes. USDA's rural utilities programs provides loans and grants for rural telecommunications companies and broadband providers to build and expand broadband networks and deliver service to rural households and businesses.

Types of support:

USDA made available \$1 billion in loan guarantees to help rural businesses meet their working capital needs during the coronavirus pandemic. Additionally, agricultural producers that are not eligible for USDA Farm Service Agency loans may receive funding under USDA. The USDA includes Aquaculture in some of its funding opportunities so Aquaculture businesses should pay particular attention to these options:

- [Business & Industry \(B&I\) CARES Act Program](#) This program offers loan guarantees to lenders for their loans to rural businesses and agricultural producers to supplement their working capital to prevent, prepare for and respond to the economic impacts of the coronavirus. For-profit businesses, nonprofits, cooperatives, federally-recognized tribes and public bodies may qualify for these loans.
- [Single Family Housing Repair Loans Grants](#) Should anyone in the Fishing/Aquaculture industry need help in making home improvements so that they can invest their own resources in their business, they should consider this funding option. Also known as the Section 504 Home Repair program, this provides loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve or modernize their homes or grants to elderly very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards.
- [Coronavirus Food Assistance Program \(CFAP\)](#): The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program provides direct relief to producers who faced price declines and additional marketing costs due to COVID-19. Aquaculture businesses may be eligible for this program.
- [Direct Loan Program](#): USDA has waived or relaxed certain parts of the application process for Single-Family Housing Direct Loans, including site assessments, and has extended the time period that certificates of eligibility are valid.
- [Guaranteed Loan Program](#): Extension of Temporary Exceptions: The temporary exceptions issued on March 27, 2020 pertaining to appraisals, repair inspections and income verifications for the Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program (SFHGLP) due to the COVID-19 pandemic have been extended until August 31, 2020 and apply to the requirements in the program handbook HB-1-3555 for new loans, described below.
- [Distance Learning/Telemedicine](#): There is an opportunity for members of the Fishing/Aquaculture industry to use Distance Learning to take classes for professional development. For example, a class about marketing or building a website could be valuable as fishing businesses pivot to selling direct to consumer.
- [Water & Environmental Programs](#): Through Rural Utilities Service Water and Environmental Programs (WEP), rural communities obtain the technical assistance and financing necessary to develop drinking water and waste disposal systems. Safe drinking water and sanitary waste disposal systems are vital not only to public health, but also to the economic vitality of rural America.

WEP provides funding for the construction of water and waste facilities in rural communities and is proud to be the only Federal program exclusively focused on rural water and waste infrastructure needs of rural communities with populations of 10,000 or less. WEP also provides funding to organizations that provide technical assistance and training to rural communities in relation to their water and waste activities. WEP is administered through National Office staff in Washington, DC, and a network of field staff in each State.

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Department of Aquaculture

<https://www.nifa.usda.gov/program/aquaculture>

Global demand for seafood is projected to increase by 70 percent in the next 30 years, and harvests from capture fisheries are stable or declining. A consensus is growing that a dramatic increase in aquaculture is needed to supply future aquatic food needs. In cooperation with our land-grant university partners and diverse stakeholders, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) provides leadership and funding for aquaculture research, technology development, and extension programs

Types of Support:

- Grant opportunities are found at <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/page/search-grant>

U. S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)

<https://www.eda.gov/>

Mission: To lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. The EDA's investment policy is designed to establish a foundation for sustainable job growth and the building of durable regional economies. This foundation builds upon two key economic drivers - innovation and regional collaboration. Innovation is key to global competitiveness, new and better jobs, a resilient economy, and the attainment of national economic goals. Regional collaboration is essential for economic recovery because regions are the centers of competition in the new global economy and those that work together to leverage resources will fare better than those that do not. EDA encourages its partners around the country to develop initiatives that advance new ideas and creative approaches to address rapidly evolving economic conditions.

Types of Support:

- **Public Works** Empowers distressed communities to revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure to attract new industry, encourage business expansion, diversify local economies, and generate or retain long-term, private sector jobs and investment. [Printable Public Works Program \(PDF\)](#)
- **Economic Adjustment** assists state and local interests in designing and implementing strategies to adjust or bring about change to an economy. The program focuses on areas that have experienced or are under threat of serious structural damage to the underlying economic base. Under Economic Adjustment, EDA administers its [Revolving Loan Fund \(RLF\) Program](#), which supplies small businesses and entrepreneurs with the gap financing needed to start or expand their business. [Printable Economic Adjustment Program \(PDF\)](#)
- **Planning** supports local organizations ([Economic Development Districts](#), Indian Tribes, and other eligible areas) with short and long-term planning efforts. The [Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy \(CEDS\) Content Guidelines](#), provides suggestions, tools, and resources for developing comprehensive economic development strategies. [Printable Planning Program \(PDF\)](#)
- **Build to Scale** (formerly known as *Regional Innovation Strategies*) The [Build to Scale \(B2S\) Program](#) builds regional economies through scalable startups and includes three competitions supporting entrepreneurship, acceleration of company growth and increased access to risk capital across regional economies.
- **Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms** A national network of [11 Trade Adjustment Assistance Centers](#) to help strengthen the competitiveness of American companies that have lost domestic sales and employment because of increased imports of similar goods and services. [Printable Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms Program \(PDF\)](#)

- **University Centers** A partnership of the federal government and academia that makes the varied and vast resources of universities available to the economic development community. [Printable University Centers Program](#) (PDF), Report: [Making Connections, Evaluation Project to Assess Best Practices in EDA's University Center Program](#) (PDF)
- **Research and National Technical Assistance** supports research of leading edge, world class economic development practices and information dissemination efforts. [Printable Research and National Technical Assistance Program](#) (PDF)
- **Local Technical Assistance** helps fill the knowledge and information gaps that may prevent leaders in the public and nonprofit sectors in distressed areas from making optimal decisions on local economic development issues. [Printable Local Technical Assistance Program](#) (PDF)
- **Economic Development Integration** Because of EDA's broad and deep experience in successfully coordinating resources across multiple programs and special initiatives and historic track record of successful collaboration with a range of federal and non-federal stakeholders the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has designated EDA to lead the federal government's efforts to maximize the integration of economic development resources from all sources, including federal, state, local and philanthropic, to achieve more impactful and sustainable outcomes for communities across America.

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

NOAA Fisheries New England/Mid Atlantic

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/new-england-mid-atlantic>

Dedicated to conserving, protecting, and rebuilding endangered and threatened marine and anadromous species in rivers, bays, estuaries, and marine waters off New England and the Mid-Atlantic. NOAA's work to maintain sustainable fisheries and protect marine life is a joint effort of the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office and Northeast Fisheries Science Center, offering sound science to help inform management decisions in an ever-changing environment. To find out more, read the 2020-2023 New England and Mid-Atlantic Regional Strategic Plan. <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/noaa-fisheries-strategic-plans>

Types of Support:

- **CARES Act:** On May 7, 2020, the Secretary of Commerce announced the allocation of \$300 million in fisheries assistance funding to states, Tribes, and territories with coastal and marine fishery participants who have been negatively affected by COVID-19. <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/commerce-secretary-announces-allocation-300-million-cares-act-funding>
- **Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program:** The purpose is to address the needs of fisheries and fishing communities in optimizing economic benefits by building and maintaining sustainable fisheries and practices, dealing with the impacts of conservation and management measures, and increasing other opportunities to use existing infrastructure to support keeping working waterfronts viable. \$10,000,000 with application deadline of Nov. 20, 2020
- **Sea Grant** Sea Grant's mission is to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine and Great Lakes resources to create a sustainable economy and environment.
NOAA Sea Grant has created a clearinghouse that provides pertinent and timely information and resources to the U.S. seafood industry - both wild harvest and aquaculture. Content is currently focused on challenges related to COVID-19, <https://seagrant.noaa.gov/seafood-resources>

Additional Resources:

[Tips for Building a Proposal for Funding from NOAA](#)

Small Business Administration (SBA)

The [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) (SBA) helps small business owners and entrepreneurs pursue the American dream. As the nation's only go-to resource and voice for small businesses, the SBA provides counseling, capital, and contracting expertise so businesses can confidently start, grow, expand, or recover. The SBA is the only cabinet level federal agency fully dedicated to small business. With a powerful seat at the table in Washington, D.C., the SBA promotes job growth and a stronger economy by advocating for and supporting small businesses.

Types of Support:

- [SBA's Resource Partner Network](#) offers free or low-cost mentoring, counseling, and training to help entrepreneurs start-up and thrive at all stages of business. SBA's resource partners can help you plan your business, conduct market research, analyze your competition and secure funding.
- **SCORE** – is the nation's largest network of volunteer business mentors harnesses the passion and knowledge of real-world business executives to provide invaluable mentorship in person, via email or over video chat. Visit www.sba.gov/score to start working on your business goals.
- **Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs)** - Small Business Development Center counselors help entrepreneurs through free counseling and low-cost training on topics such as marketing, regulatory compliance, technology development, and international trade. Find your local Small Business Development Center at www.sba.gov/sbdc.
- **Women's Business Centers (WBCs)** - If you are interested in starting a small business, tap into WBC's national network of community-based centers for counseling, training, mentoring, and referrals. For your nearest Women's Business Center, visit www.sba.gov/women.
- **Veterans Business Outreach Centers (VBOCs)** - Veteran entrepreneurs or small business owners can receive business training, counseling and mentoring, and referrals to other SBA Resource Partners at a Veterans Business Outreach Center, www.sba.gov/vboc . This is also the place to receive procurement guidance, which can help your business better compete for government contracts.
- **Funding to Help Start or Grow a Business** - <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans>

While SBA has many specialty loan lines, our loan programs can be divided into three main categories:

- [The 7\(a\) Loan](#): Can be used for almost any purpose, including buying real estate, equipment, inventory, or for working capital, refinancing business debt, or purchasing a small business.
- [SBA Microloan Program](#): Great for helping start-ups launch and grow, or repair credit. Loans from \$500 to \$50K plus free business counseling.
- [504 Certified Development Company Loan Program](#): Competitive fixed-rate mortgage financing to purchase land, heavy equipment, or real estate for businesses that do not qualify for traditional financing.
- **Funding from Private Investors** - <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/investment-capital>
To facilitate the flow of long-term capital to America's small businesses, the SBA partners with private investors (Small Business Investment Companies or SBICs) to invest in qualifying small businesses with guaranteed capital and private funds.
- **Funding Programs for Research & Development** - <https://www.sbir.gov/>
The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs provide more than \$2.5 billion annually in early stage capital through more than 4,000 new awards. Visit sbir.gov to find funding opportunities and helpful program tutorials.
- **Funding to Make You More Competitive** - <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/surety-bonds>

Surety bonds are often required to win construction, supply, and service contracts. The SBA's Surety Bond Program is for small businesses that lack the financial resources or performance track record needed to secure bonding through traditional commercial channels.

- **Contracting Assistance Programs** - <https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-assistance-programs> These special programs help small businesses win at least at 23 percent of all federal contracting dollars each year. The SBA provides several programs to help small businesses win federal contracts. Participating in these programs helps small businesses:
 - Win a fair share of federal contracts
 - Qualify for exclusive set-aside and sole-source contracts
 - Partner with established contractors to win contracts
 - Get business mentoring and education to learn how federal contracting works
 - **Coronavirus Funding Options** - <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options>
- **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)** –is designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll. SBA will forgive loans if all employee retention criteria are met, and the funds are used for eligible expenses. The loan will be fully forgiven if the funds are used for payroll costs, interest on mortgages, rent, and utilities (due to likely high subscription, at least 60% of the forgiven amount must have been used for payroll).
 - PPP loans have an interest rate of 1%.
 - Loans issued prior to June 5 have a maturity of 2 years. Loans issued after June 5 have a maturity of 5 years.
 - Loan payments will be deferred for six months.
 - No collateral or personal guarantees are required.
 - Neither the government nor lenders will charge small businesses any fees.
- **Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)** – SBA's EIDL program offers long-term, low interest assistance for a small business or non-profit. EIDL loans may be used to pay debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact, and that are not already covered by a Paycheck Protection Program loan. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses, for non-profits is 2.75%. To keep payments affordable for small businesses, SBA offers loans with long repayment terms, up to a maximum of 30 years. Plus, the first payment is deferred for one year.
- **SBA Bridge Loan** – Enables businesses who currently have a business relationship with an SBA Express Lender to access up to \$25,000 quickly. These loans can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue and can be a term loans or used to bridge the gap while applying for a direct [SBA Economic Injury Disaster loan](#).
- **SBA Debt Relief** – As part of our coronavirus debt relief efforts, the SBA will pay 6 months of principal, interest, and any associated fees that borrowers owe for all current 7(a), 504, and Microloans in regular servicing status as well as new 7(a), 504, and Microloans disbursed prior to September 27, 2020. This relief is not available for Paycheck Protection Program loans or Economic Injury Disaster loans. Borrowers do not need to apply for this assistance. It will be automatically provided as follows:
 - For loans not on deferment, SBA will begin making payments with the next payment due on the loan and will make six monthly payments.
 - For loans currently on deferment, SBA will begin making payments with the next payment due after the deferment period has ended and will make six monthly payments.
 - For loans made after March 27, 2020 and fully disbursed prior to September 27, 2020, SBA will begin making payments with the first payment due on the loan and will make six monthly payments.

Department of Labor (DOL)

The [US Department of Labor's](#) mission is to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers, and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights.

Types of Support:

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

Workplace Safety: The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has resources to help employers and workers prepare for and respond to coronavirus in the workplace.

- [OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#) – Developed in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to help employers respond in the event of coronavirus in the workplace.
- [Temporary OSHA Guidance on Respiratory Protection Standard](#) – This guidance provides suggestions and options to help increase the availability of N95 filtering facepiece respirators for healthcare providers.
- [COVID-19 Webpage](#) – Provides infection prevention information specifically for employers and workers.

Wages, Hours and Leave: The Wage and Hour Division is providing [information on common issues employers and workers face when responding to COVID-19](#), including the effects on wages and hours worked under the Fair Labor Standards Act and job-protected leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Unemployment Insurance Flexibilities: NOTE: [Check with your state's unemployment insurance program](#) regarding the rules in your state.

The **Employment and Training Administration** announced [new guidance outlining state flexibilities in administering their unemployment insurance programs to assist Americans affected by the COVID-19 outbreak](#).

Under the guidance, federal law permits significant flexibility for states to amend their laws to provide unemployment insurance benefits in multiple scenarios related to COVID-19. For example, federal law allows states to pay benefits where:

- An employer temporarily ceases operations due to COVID-19, preventing employees from coming to work;
- An individual is quarantined with the expectation of returning to work after the quarantine is over; and
- An individual leaves employment due to a risk of exposure or infection or to care for a family member.

Federal law does not require an employee to quit to receive benefits due to the impact of COVID-19.

[Learn how to file for unemployment insurance benefits.](#)

Short Term Compensation (STC), also known as work sharing or shared-work program, is an alternative to layoffs for employers experiencing a reduction in available work. STC preserves employees' jobs and employers' trained workforces during times of lowered economic activity. STC allows employers to reduce hours of work for employees rather than laying-off some employees while others continue to work full time. Those employees experiencing a reduction in hours are allowed to collect a percentage of their unemployment compensation (UC) benefits to replace a portion of their lost wages. STC cushions the adverse effect of the reduction in business activity on workers by averting layoffs and ensures that these workers will be available to resume prior employment levels when business demand increases. Twenty-seven states have active STC programs, including CT, RI, MA, NH, and ME.

Applying for Federal Grants

[Grants.gov](#)

A centralized location for grant seekers to find and apply for federal funding.

[Registration](#)

[Video Training Series](#)

The [Grants Community Blog](#) offers information to assist you in the grant seeking and submission process.

[Recovery Resources Catalog](#)

Tools, resources, and information disaster recovery, grant proposals, and funding opportunities for Non-profits and Service Organizations

American Jobs Centers are designed to provide a full range of assistance to job seekers under one roof. Due to Covid-19, many American Jobs Centers provide virtual services. The centers offer training referrals, career counseling, job listings, and similar employment-related services. The [American Job Centers](#) system is coordinated by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA). To find the American Jobs Center serving your community, visit:

<https://www.careeronestop.org/localhelp/americanjobcenters/find-american-job-centers.aspx>.

Support for Dislocated Workers and States: The Employment and Training Administration announced the [availability of up to \\$100 million in National Health Emergency Dislocated Worker Grants to help states, territories, and tribal governments respond to the workforce-related impacts of COVID-19.](#)

The Office of **Foreign Labor Certification's** [frequently asked questions regarding COVID-19.](#)

Supporting Workforce Needs in the Agricultural Sector. The U.S. Dept of Labor and U.S. Dept of Agriculture announced a partnership to facilitate the identification of domestic and foreign workers that may be available to fulfill critical [U.S. agricultural sector workforce needs](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recursos de Seguridad en el Lugar de Trabajo en Español El Departamento de Trabajo de los Estados Unidos tiene recursos para ayudar a los trabajadores y empleadores durante la pandemia del coronavirus.

- [Guía sobre la Preparación de los Lugares de Trabajo para el virus COVID-19](#)
- [Tome Medidas para Prevenir la Exposición de los Trabajadores al Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The mission of [EPA](#) is to protect human health and the environment. EPA works to ensure that:

- Americans have clean air, land and water;
- National efforts to reduce environmental risks are based on the best available scientific information;
- Federal laws protecting human health and the environment are administered and enforced fairly, effectively and as Congress intended;
- Environmental stewardship is integral to U.S. policies concerning natural resources, human health, and are similarly considered in establishing environmental policy;
- All parts of society—communities, individuals, businesses, and state, local and tribal governments—have access to accurate information sufficient to effectively participate in managing human health and environmental risks
- Contaminated lands and toxic sites are cleaned up by potentially responsible parties and revitalized; and
- Chemicals in the marketplace are reviewed for safety.

Types of Support:

Several offices have potential intersects with the fisheries and aquaculture sector, including work in enforcement and compliance assurance, site remediation for redevelopment, assistance and pollution prevention, chemical safety and waste management, water quality, permitting, and coastal resource programs among others.

- The EPA Smart Sectors program (<https://www.epa.gov/smartsectors>) puts a focus on sector-based environmental protection. EPA Region 1 has chosen to focus on the Maritime, Food & Beverage, and Outdoor Recreation sectors of New England. Fisheries and Aquaculture clearly fits within these regional priority sectors. This program provides points of contact in headquarters and regional offices to help facilitate meaningful sector-agency collaboration and problem solving.
- Information on how the EPA is providing support and guidance during the COVID crisis can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus>

Contact Information:

FEMA

Jim McPherson, Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator

james.mcpherson@fema.dhs.gov

Bob Fogel, Deputy Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator.

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Cassandra Thomas, Federal Disaster Recovery Officer

cassandra.a.thomas@fema.dhs.gov

Dr. Christopher Zevitas, FEMA Liaison for Connecticut.

chris.zevitas@dot.gov

USDA Rural Development:

Maine

Tim Hobbs, State Director

Phone: (207) 990-9160

www.rd.usda.gov/me

Massachusetts | Rhode Island | Connecticut

George Krivda, State Director

Phone: 1 (800) 352-8015 (toll free) or (413) 253-4300

www.rd.usda.gov/ma

www.rd.usda.gov/ri

www.rd.usda.gov/ct

Vermont | New Hampshire

Anthony Linardos, State Director

Phone: (802) 828-6000

www.rd.usda.gov/vt

www.rd.usda.gov/nh

DOL:

Peter Steele, Regional Representative

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Alexandra (Alex) Oster, FEMA Liaison for New Hampshire and Tribes

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Amy Plovnick, FEMA Liaison for Maine and Rhode Island.

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FEMA Federal Agency Field Coordinators:

EDA:

Please refer to the Regional Office Section on the website below to find the state by state contact guide.

<https://eda.gov/contact/>

SBA:

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NOAA:

NOAA greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

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NOAA Aquaculture Office

Phone: (978) 282-8494

kevin.madley@noaa.gov

EPA:

Information and contacts for EPA programs in New England can be found

at: <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-1-new-england>

Jessica Dominguez

Opportunity Zone and Smart Sector Advisor

EPA New England - Region 1

Phone: (617) 918-1627

<https://www.epa.gov/opportunity-zones>

<https://www.epa.gov/smartsectors>