

PUBLIC MEETINGS ANNOUNCEMENT

Groundfish Fishery Disaster Response Program

California Department of Fish and Game
in cooperation with
Employment Development Department

The State of California wants your advice on how disaster relief funds should be used. California will receive \$1.75 million in Federal funds and will provide \$583,000 in State matching funds, for a total of \$2.333 million.

Attend one of the following town hall meetings or provide written comments by June 29 to:

Intergovernmental Affairs Office
California Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Monday, June 25, 2001
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Woodley Island Marina
Harbor District
601 Startara Drive
Eureka, CA 95501

Thursday, June 28, 2001
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
California Dept. of Fish and Game
4665 Lampson Avenue
Suite C
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

Monday, June 25, 2001
3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Flamingo Resort Hotel
Courtyard One
2777 Fourth Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-4795

Friday, June 29, 2001
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
SLO Veteran's Building
801 Grand Avenue
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Tuesday, June 26, 2001
3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Coast Guard Auxiliary
Harbor Meeting Room
365-A Lake Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062-4641

—Please see reverse side for important information—

Who is eligible to receive funds?

Individuals in the commercial or charterboat groundfish fisheries who have been impacted by groundfish fishery reductions, or communities dependent on groundfish who have suffered losses. Also, entities that conduct research projects may be eligible for funds.

What kinds of activities can the money be used for?

The purpose of the program is to prevent a future failure in the fishery or an associated fishery or to assist in the recovery of the fishery, while aiding the affected individuals and communities. The State proposes that the funds be used for two major activities: 1) industry diversification and job re-training and 2) cooperative industry research. Some examples of projects include:

- direct assistance to individuals for education or job re-training;
- aid to develop new fisheries or gear that would target under-utilized stocks; and
- research projects that will provide better information to manage groundfish and prevent future fishery failures.

We are also seeking other partners to provide for additional activities such as grants for new business opportunities.

What activities do not qualify for funds?

Federal law [(Magnuson-Stevens Act Section 312(a)] places several requirements on how these funds can be used. In general, the Magnuson-Stevens Act does not allow these funds to be used for activities that expand the size or scope of the failure in the groundfish fishery or into other developed fisheries or other geographic regions. These funds have to be used in ways that restore the fishery or prevent a similar failure from happening in the future while providing assistance to fishermen and their communities. Activities that only provide financial assistance such as making cash payments to fishermen for use in paying moorage or overdue bills are unlikely to meet the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

What kind of public input is needed?

The State would appreciate your ideas about what kinds of assistance are most important, and how much money should be reserved for groundfish research projects.

If you are unable to attend one of the meetings, but would like to provide input, please send your comments to:

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