

## FHC Meeting Summary

**Date:** April 1, 2025

**Location:** Virtual Meeting

**Objectives:** Reintroductions, commencement of program design discussion, and alignment on future communications and meetings.

### Agenda:

8:00 a.m.	Welcome, Meeting Purpose, and Reintroductions
8:15 a.m.	Activity Update (Issues of concern, meetings to date, stakeholder engagement plan, frequency of communications, website, onboarding packets)
8:30 a.m.	Design Components
8:40 a.m.	Life Cycle of a Claims Program
9:00 a.m.	Design Elements: Eligibility
9:25 a.m.	Future Meetings
9:30 a.m.	Adjourn

### Decisions

- FHC agree to the stakeholder engagement plan with no further updates

### Actions

- RFA to circulate outstanding survey questions on the topic of eligibility
- RFA to circulate finalized stakeholder engagement plan and upload to the website (no updates since the draft was circulated)
- RFA to circulate an updated onboarding packet
- RFA to circulate draft bios for the website and FHC to provide comments

### Participants

For-hire fishing	States	Developers	Ex-Officio	Project Team
Bob Rush	Renee Zobel	Brian Krevor	Doug Christel	Pat Field
Rick Bellavance		Ron Larsen	Emma Chaiken	Orran Brown, Jr.
Rom Whitaker			Morgan Brunbauer	Olivia Burke
Mike Cerchio			Scott Steinback	Jan Matthiesen
			Ursula Howson	Caroline Coccoli
				Laura Singer
				Sydney Gustafson
				Justin Wind
				Joli Millner
				Charlotte Goeb

1. **Welcome, Meeting Purpose, and Reintroductions**

The project team welcomed the attendees, reiterated meeting etiquette and purpose, and provided an overview of the meeting's agenda. Each attendee provided a reintroduction of their background and role in the FHC to the group.

2. **Activity Update**

The project team provided an activity update to the attendees.

In response to common concerns raised in engagement efforts, the project team covered a few issues, including the relationship between “money-in” and “money-out”; the role of resilience in a compensatory mitigation fund; the hierarchy of mitigation efforts; and the legal basis for a regional claims process.

The project team gave updates on their engagement efforts by providing an overview of meetings-to-date, news on the project's website, and a summary of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. This included highlighting different ways of engaging and the schedule for the next three months.

The attendees reviewed a draft Onboarding Packet for FHC members, followed by discussion about the governance of a regional claims program.

3. **Design Components**

Transitioning towards the meeting's main discussion, the project team reviewed the relationship between compensation and mitigation as it relates to the RFA project. Reminder from the project team that while the scope of these specific RFA discussions is compensation, it is expected that conversations on how this interacts with mitigation will continue.

4. **Life Cycle of a Claims Program**

The project's design team presented a life cycle diagram of a claims program. The flow chart showed the typical process of claims programs, highlighting the complexity and different components that will need to be considered throughout this work. This encouraged discussion, particularly about claim payment duration.

5. **Design Elements: Eligibility**

The project team introduced the design component around eligibility and it was explained that they were not seeking a vote but to gauge ideas and opinions. It was explained that this topic had been coming up in small group or 1-2-1 discussions and that the project team wanted to discuss this with the FHC before creating some more concrete options or approaches which could be discussed in more detail.

Attendees discussed who should be eligible (i.e. vessel owners, captains, crew, etc.), the importance of simplicity for the accessibility and success of the claims program and how different business models (e.g. dual boat use and payroll) could be important. FHC members favored simplicity while allowing for different permutations of ownership and employees.

The discussion ended with how we can learn from prior fisheries compensation funds.

## 6. **Future Meetings**

There was a brief discussion about future FHC meeting schedules. The FHC provided feedback on potential dates for the next quarterly meeting, narrowing down to the last week of May or the week of June 9, preferably after 5:00 p.m., EST.

The project team noted that the FHC discussion will help inform further refinement of the eligibility components and that they intend to hold webinars over the next couple of months to discuss this component further. Alongside continued engagement, the project team noted that they are planning a two week in-person engagement activity from April 28 focusing on Virginia, North Carolina and potentially New York. They will contact the FHC for suggested meetings and to ensure alignment.