



Fisheries Compensation Program
for Atlantic Coast Offshore Wind

Regional Fund Administrator (RFA)

Public Webinar
February 2, 2026



Session Agenda

1. Welcome and Meeting Approach <i>Pat Field, Consensus Building Institute</i>	10 minutes
2. Overview of the Regional Fund Administrator <i>BrownGreer Team</i>	25 minutes
3. Overview of a Claims Process <i>BrownGreer Team</i>	10 minutes
4. Overview of Topics Addressed to Date <i>BrownGreer Team</i>	20 minutes
5. Questions and Comments <i>All (presenters and session attendees)</i>	20 minutes
6. Next Steps <i>Pat Field, Consensus Building Institute</i>	5 minutes



Meeting Objectives and Introduction



Meeting Objectives

- ❑ Introduce the RFA, advisory members, and staff supporting the initiative
- ❑ Provide a status update, an overview timeline, recent work, and next steps
- ❑ Answer questions about the process and issues under consideration
- ❑ Receive comments on topics being addressed to date

Rules of the Meeting

1. Use Zoom raise hand function to be called upon
2. The chat function is only to reach the host if there are technical issues
3. Please keep remarks focused on the topic at hand – designing a regional fund for compensation to fishermen for OSW impacts
4. Please limit your comments or questions to no more than 3 minutes to allow others to speak
5. Please respect the facilitator's time-keeping ensuring all who wish to can speak
6. Refrain from personal attacks on individuals
7. A general summary of the meeting will be prepared and posted
8. A recording of the presentation (not the Q&A) will be posted on the website



Background

 **11-state initiative** to establish a credible regional administrator for managing and distributing fisheries compensatory mitigation funds for impacts from offshore wind for the US eastern seaboard

 **Brown Greer**, together with **Carbon Trust**, selected to serve as the Regional Fund Administrator (RFA) in Nov. 2024

 The RFA is tasked with developing a process for distributing financial compensation to address potential economic losses from offshore wind development

 **Scope** – This process is focused on future compensation programs and does not affect programs already in place. It addresses how money is distributed out of a regional fund, not on how money comes into such a fund.

 This is different from compensation programs to date, as it has a **regional scope** and is **informed by input**.



What is the RFA and How Does it Work?

The Regional Fund Administrator (“RFA”) Team

BrownGreer

Independent third-party administrator emphasizing accessibility and transparency

Design and develop an equitable and transparent framework for Compensation Fund and associated claims process

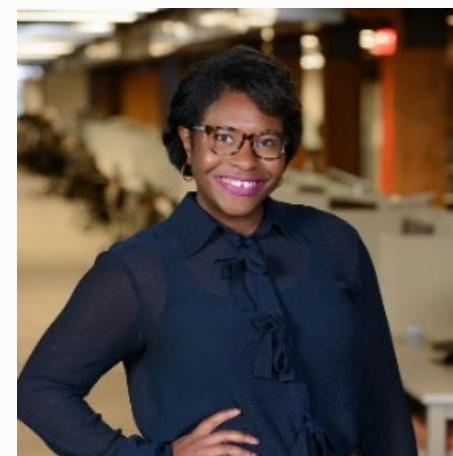
Uses significant stakeholder input for feedback on design elements



Orran Brown, Jr.
(Project Lead)



Phil Strunk



Sydney Gustafson



Justin Wind





Select BrownGreer Experience

\$2.3 Billion

Deepwater Horizon
Seafood Compensation
Program

\$26 Billion

National & Tribal
Opioid Settlements

\$800 Million

One October Fund

The RFA Engagement Team

Carbon Trust

Engagement lead for “1-2-1” conversations, sector group meeting facilitation

Works with local engagement leads, DOC and FHC members to ensure “bottom-up” approach

Facilitates factual exchange of design considerations based on feedback from external stakeholders



Olivia Burke
(Project Manager)

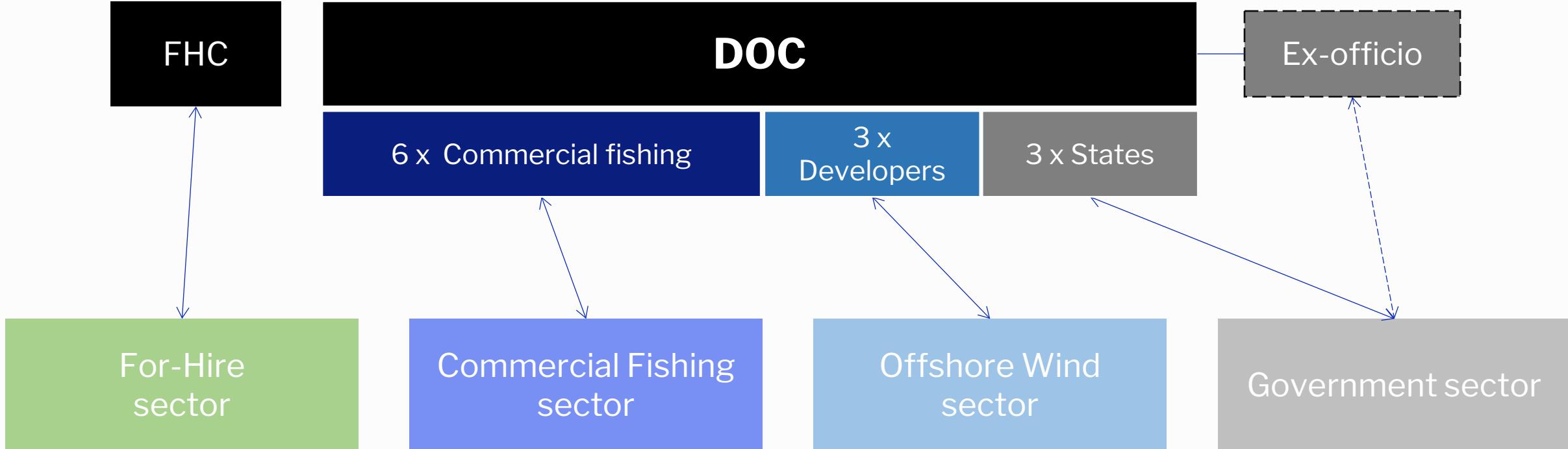
Jan Matthiesen

Caroline Cocolli

Laura Singer
(Local engagement
lead – New England)

Deirdre Boelke
(Local engagement
lead – Mid-Atlantic)

Supporting Members of the RFA Initiative



- RFA team facilitates regular meetings between DOC members and their sector
- Fisheries sector includes stakeholders from diverse fisheries, regions and ports



Advisory Committees

Design Oversight Committee (“DOC”)

Commercial Fishing Industry

- **Hank Soule, Vincent Balzano, Joe Gilbert, Roy Diehl, Wes Townsend, Jeff Kaelin**
- Alternate Members: *Beth Casoni, Bonnie Brady, Lane Johnston, Peter Hughes*

States

- **Brad Schondelmeier, Joe Cimino, Todd Janeski**
- Alternate Members: *Erin Wilkinson, Julia Socrates, Carrie Kennedy*

Offshore Wind Industry

- **Brian Krevor, Rick Robins, Samuel Asci**
- Alternate Members: *Elizabeth Kordoswki, Ross Pearsall*

For-Hire Committee (“FHC”)

Recreational Fishing Industry

- **Rick Bellavance, Bob Rush, Rom Whitaker**
- Alternate Member: *Mike Cerchio*.

States

- **Renee Zobel**
- Alternate Member: *Joe Cimino*

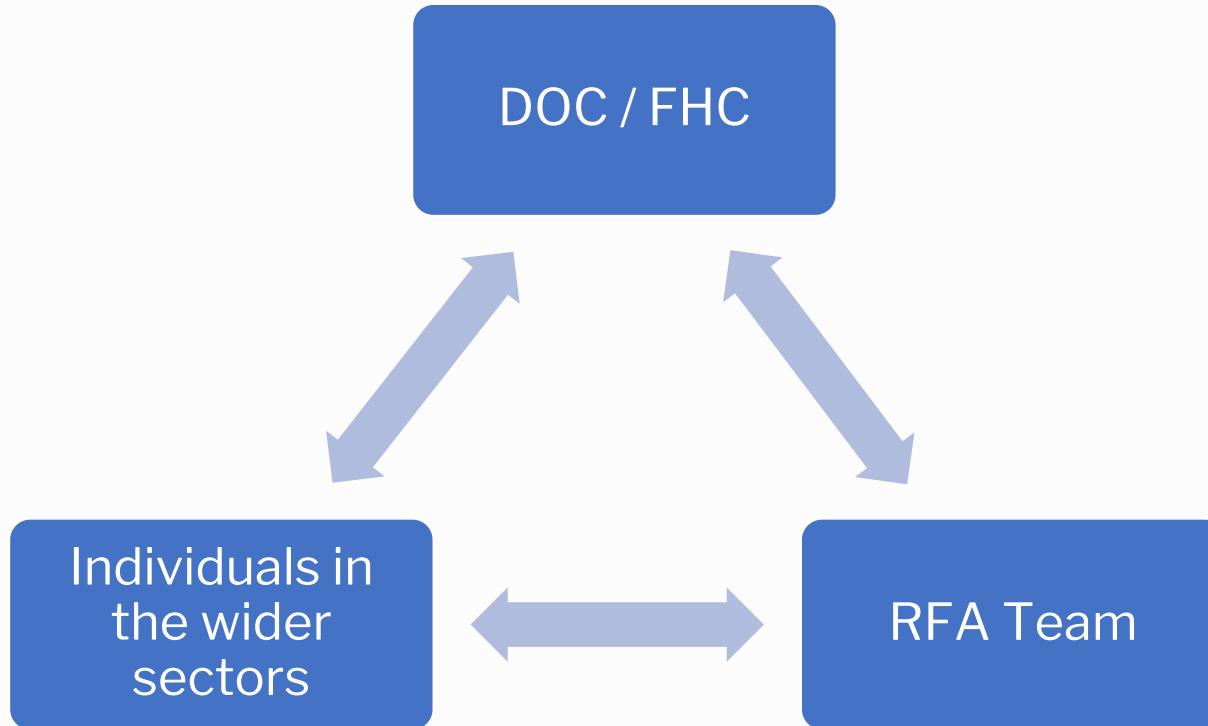
Offshore Wind Industry

- **Brian Krevor**
- Alternate Member: *Ron Larsen*

RFA Process

- This **bottom-up process** is informed by advisory committees (the DOC and FHC) plus stakeholder engagement.
- If consensus is not achieved among the DOC and FHC members, the **RFA will make decisions to move the process** forward and will document the rationale(s) for its decision-making.
- **90/10 rule:** the process is guided by the principle of designing a program for approximately 90% of affected fishing community members and will contemplate responsible, limited exceptions for less common situations given the complexity of fisheries.

RFA Engagement



The RFA team has:

- Considered feedback from individuals / DOC and FHC on the preferred mechanism for engagement
- Facilitated regular DOC and FHC meetings
- Organized 1-2-1 and group meetings with individuals in each sector
- Actively grown the network of individuals feeding into the RFA project
- Ensured feedback is captured and reflected in the fund design and claims process
- Adjusted our approach to maximize accessibility across the region



Questions About the RFA

*Do you have any questions about the materials presented so far on **RFA background, structure and process?***

Fisheries Compensation Program



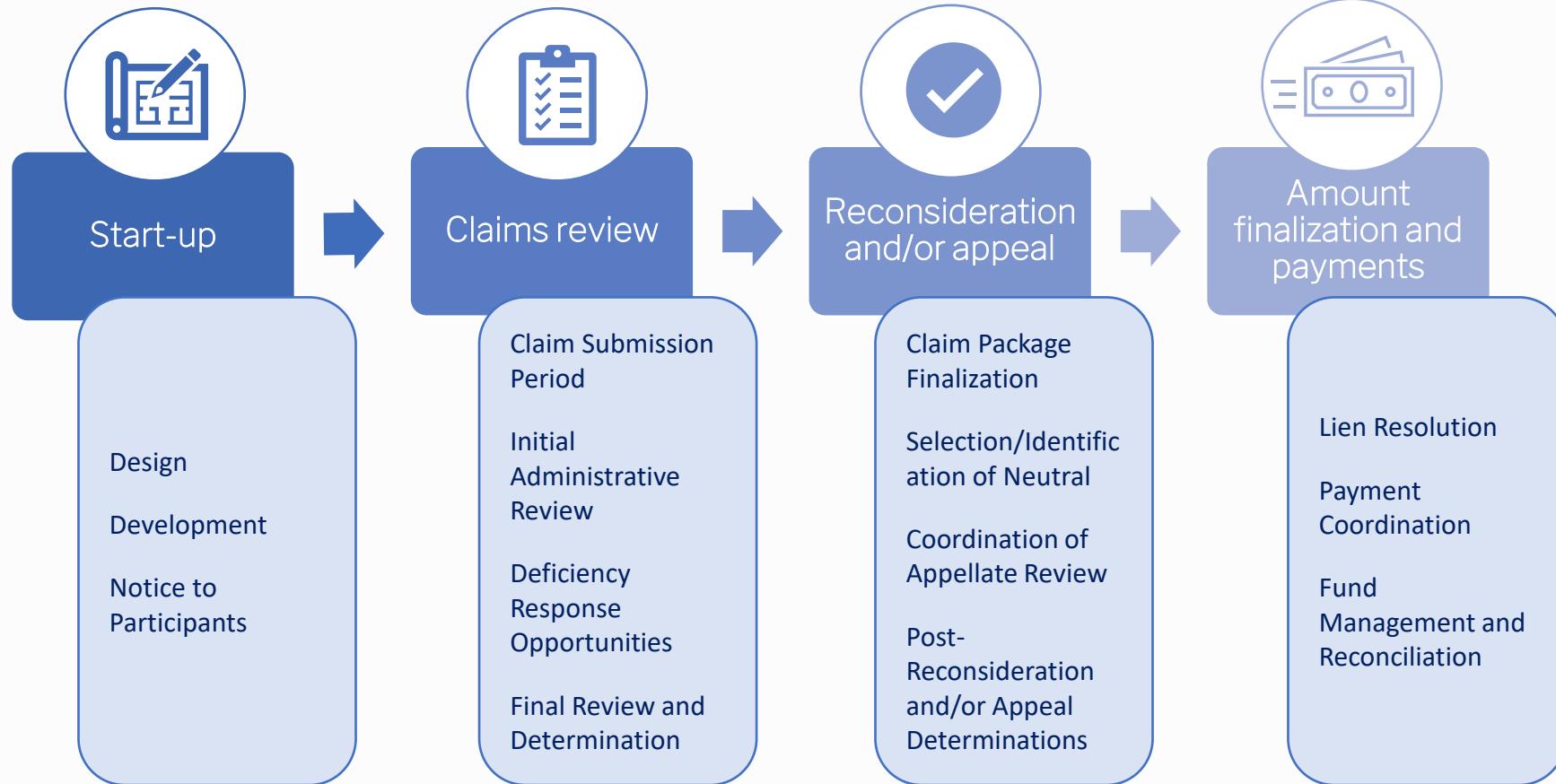
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Overview of a Claims Process

Compensation Funds and the Role of Administrators

What is a Compensation Fund?



What Does an Administrator Do?

- Inform the public about the compensation fund.
- Assess eligibility and compensable injuries.
- Define required proof of loss or injury.
- Develop the claims program structure and valuation methods.
- Create web platforms for participant interaction.
- Issue payments and oversee the program fund.

Program Design Considerations

- The Fisheries Compensation Program for Atlantic Coast Offshore Wind will be a regional program established to compensate affected commercial and recreational for-hire fishing businesses, through a fair and equitable claims process, for potential impacts caused by offshore wind development along the Atlantic Seaboard.
- The process development must consider generally:





Questions on Claims Processes

*Do you have any questions about the materials presented so far on **compensation funds and claims processes**?*

Fisheries Compensation Program



Fisheries Compensation Program
for Atlantic Coast Offshore Wind



Topics to Date

Guiding Program Principles for Regional Design

Summary Snippets of Detailed Draft

Consistent

Consistent in how to apply for, determine, and allocate monies to eligible recipients



Fair

Compensation, participation criteria, and processes that are fair and reasonable



Impact

Fairly and reasonably compensate those active fishing enterprises that suffer verifiable losses by OSW development



Intuitive

Straightforward, accessible, and easy to understand program



Incentives

Designed to sustain active commercial fishing operations and protect the long-term viability of the fishing industry and fishing communities, not incentivize withdrawal or reduction in effort



Equitable

Treat impacted fishermen equitably, regardless of fishery, home or landing port, or state affiliation



Transparent

Clearly explainable, its methods publicly available, and its aggregated results publicly shared while protecting the confidentiality of proprietary data



Efficient

Administratively limit burden for all relevant parties, but will not use efficiency as a justification to deny or undercompensate legitimate claims



Authentic

Rely on objective, verifiable, and best available data/evidence and discourage manipulation that would disadvantage affected fishing businesses



Comprehensive, aka the 90/10 rule

Program rules will reflect inclusiveness of the vast majority of likely claim scenarios and should afford restrained flexibility for outlier cases



What questions are involved in designing a compensation framework?

How should claimants submit claims?

What are potential causes of lost revenue?

How do crew members get considered?

Will impacts from the lease area be treated the same as impacts from the cable area?

How long will payments last?

What data will I need to submit to be eligible?

How will shoreside business be considered?

Will there be an appeals process?

Will there be different tiers for vessels that are more impacted?

Which fishing vessels are eligible?

What losses count as a claim?

Program Design Elements Organized into 4 Question Sets

Set 1: Overall Process Design; Definitions; and Claimant Eligibility Components

(e.g., design principles, crewmember eligibility, etc.)

Set 2: Remaining Claimant Eligibility Components (e.g., lookback period, "affected area," level of effort, shoreside, tenure etc.)



We are here

Set 3: Compensation Calculation Framework and Document Requirements

(e.g., two-track process details, compensable claim types, expedited, etc.)

Set 4: Program Mechanics (i.e., questions concerning how to submit, complete, and pay out claims)



Primary Claimant Eligibility Questions Analyzed

1. What specific geographic area (or “affected area”) is required?
2. What milestone triggers claimant eligibility?
3. How often must a claimant have fished in the affected area(s) before the trigger date?
4. What level of historic fishing effort in any particular year qualifies that year for the fisherman?
5. Must a claimant’s past fishing activity be the same or similar to the impacted fishing activity?
6. How does a business/vessel/permit transfer affect the seller’s and purchaser’s potential eligibility to participate in the program?



In Development: Phase-Based/Multi-Track Approach

Construction Phase

Track 1

Two Options

Expedited “Disruption” Payment

- ▶ Claimant eligibility required
- ▶ Criteria for payment least burdensome
- ▶ One-time, fixed payment amount for assumed construction disruption
- ▶ No requirement for causality
- ▶ Claimant may still file an individual claim for actual losses/increased costs

Track 2

Individualized Loss Compensation Payment

- ▶ Claimant eligibility required
- ▶ Must demonstrate harm caused by OSW construction
- ▶ Payment amount based on proven, documented, individual losses
- ▶ Could be subject to reduction or enhancement factors
- ▶ 90/10 Rule will allow some exceptions for extraordinary circumstances

Operations Phase

One Option

Individualized Loss Compensation Payment

- ▶ Claimant eligibility required
- ▶ Must demonstrate harm caused by OSW project operation
- ▶ Payment amount based on proven, documented, individual losses
- ▶ Could be subject to reduction or enhancement factors
- ▶ 90/10 Rule will allow some exceptions for extraordinary circumstances
- ▶ Can be filed for each year of actual loss/increased costs



In Conceptual Exploration: Standalone OECC Claims Process

A complementary compensation framework under the RFA umbrella specifically for impacts to fishing vessel owners and operators caused by offshore export cable corridor (OECC) construction.

- ▶ No demonstration of causation or proof of harm/loss required.
- ▶ Available to active commercial fishing vessel owners/operators historically engaged in fishing activities in the OECC (plus spatial buffer).
- ▶ One-time payments made in exchange for agreement not to fish in an OECC during OECC construction when notified by developers.
- ▶ Payment amounts determined through OECC impact analysis.
- ▶ Potential use of local fisheries advisors to supplement efforts to identify potentially impacted fishermen and support verification of fishing activity data.
- ▶ OECC impact analysis:
 - (1) identifies potentially impacted fisheries by assessing the fixed and mobile gear fisheries active along an OECC;
 - (2) uses best available data; and
 - (3) accounts for a project's permit conditions.



Questions on Topics to Date

Do you have any questions about the materials presented so far on emerging design details for a regional claims process?

Fisheries Compensation Program



Fisheries Compensation Program
for Atlantic Coast Offshore Wind



Timeline/Upcoming Project Focus

Project Timeline: 2026

Timeline for the RFA Project - design and development of the regional compensation fund	
January 2026	Consultation on documentation requirements for claimants – <i>What must claimants submit to prove their eligible losses?</i>
February – June 2026	Finalizing fund design and reporting on results – <i>What processes/systems are needed to administer the Program?</i>
February 2, 2026	Public Webinar
June 2026	<i>Circulation of complete compensation framework</i>
July – August 2026	Stakeholder comment period
September 2026	<i>Delivery of the final compensation framework</i>



Webinars



RFA Direct Correspondence



In-person meetings



Upcoming Project Focus

Loss Eligibility and Valuation

- What claims are compensable? (i.e., lost fishing effort due to gear loss, potential causes of increased costs, bankrupt fishing businesses, etc.)
- Are non-economic losses compensable? (i.e., Personal injury? Inconvenience? Other?)
- Should costs incurred to prepare a claim be reimbursed?
- Should the Program include an Expedited Construction Disruption Claim Track (“No Harm” Option)? How?
- How should the Program calculate a claim’s value under individualized review?
- If crew is not compensated directly, does a vessel owner’s claim include an amount designated specifically for them?
- What documentation must a claimant provide to demonstrate eligibility? Harm?
- How can a claimant access data/documentation if not already in their possession?



Upcoming Project Focus

Compensation Program Mechanics

- How should claimants submit claims to the Program?
- What support services should the Program provide to claimants?
- What deadlines should apply to the initial submission of a claim?
- Should a claimant who has exhausted all claim review opportunities with the administrator have an option to appeal to a neutral?
- How should claimants be paid?



Questions / Feedback on Initial Design Considerations Presented

Fisheries Compensation Program



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VISIT RFA WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

- Public meeting links posted in advance of DOC and FHC meetings
- List of DOC members and their contact details
- Common FAQs
- Summary of current topics under discussion
- Stakeholder engagement plan and engagement summaries by quarter

[Link to RFA Q&A](#)

Contact Us

RFA Website



Email Questions
and Comments
Here



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contact@rfainfo.com