

Island Ad-Vantages

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

September 24, 2020 – Maine fishermen who are struggling due to hard-hitting tariffs can apply for the recently announced Seafood Trade Relief Program being implemented by the US Department of Agriculture. The process for applying began on September 14 and will remain open until December 14, 2020. This is a nationwide program, with many eligible species. Payments are based on an individual's 2019 landings of eligible species, multiplied by the value that has been assigned to each eligible species. The value for each eligible species landed in Maine is as follows: Flounder (\$0.15/lb), Goosefish (\$0.10/lb), Herring (\$0.4/lb), Lobster (\$0.50/lb, Pollock (\$0.1/lb), Sole (\$0.15/lb), Squid (\$0.20/lb), Tuna (\$0.13/lb), and Salmon (\$0.16/lb). Payments will not need to be repaid and there is no cost to apply, however the payment will be considered taxable income. There is a payment limitation of \$250,000 per person or entity for all seafood combined.

To be eligible, fishermen must have a valid federal or state license or permit to catch one or more of these species, and that catch must be sold through a legally permitted or licensed seafood dealer. To apply, fishermen need to self-certify their 2019 landings information on the application. The quickest way for fishermen to get this information is to contact their dealer(s). I'm told there are several pages to the application form but some of the required information is entered several times. Although this does not help the post-harvest parts of the seafood value chain, this should be welcome financial support for qualifying fishermen.

Additional information on the program as well as the application form is available at www.farmers.gov/seafood. For assistance, contact your local USDA FSA Service Center.

Do you have a question about our fisheries? Send it to info@coastalfisheries.org or call 207.367.2708. Learn more about MCCF by visiting us online at www.coastalfisheries.org.

FISHERIES LOG

Prices to Harvesters in Stonington

Lobsters (shedders): \$3.85/lb.

Bait (fresh pogies): \$80/crt.

Fuel (diesel): \$2.09/gal.