



NOAA Fisheries

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)



Mission

NOAA Fisheries is responsible for the stewardship of the nation's ocean resources and their habitat. We provide vital services for the nation, all backed by sound science and an ecosystem-based approach to management:

- Productive and sustainable fisheries
- Safe sources of seafood
- Recovery and conservation of protected resources
- Healthy ecosystems



Regulatory Structure

- **Endangered Species Act (ESA)** and **Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)** consultations are done with Fisheries staff when a take is expected
- The **Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA)** is the primary law that governs marine fisheries management in U.S. federal waters
 - The MSA was amended with the **Fisheries Resource Disasters Improvement Act (aka FReDI)** in December of 2022
 - NOAA Fisheries will now administer disaster assistance requests received after December 29, 2022



Fishery Resource Disasters

How is a 'Fishery Resource Disaster' defined?

- a commercial **fishery failure**, a catastrophic **regional fishery disaster**, significant **harm incurred**, or a **serious disruption** affecting future production due to a fishery resource disaster arising from natural, undetermined, or in certain circumstances man-made causes
- factors that can cause a Fishery Resource Disaster include hurricanes, typhoons, oil & hazmat spills, harmful algal blooms and other natural and man-made disasters



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Fishery Resource Disaster Timeline

Request Received

An eligible entity requests a fishery resource disaster determination from the Secretary of Commerce.

day
0

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Acknowledgement

The requester receives a letter outlining the disaster process and identifying any missing information from the request.

20
days

Incomplete Package

The requester has up to 1 year to provide the missing information.

365
days

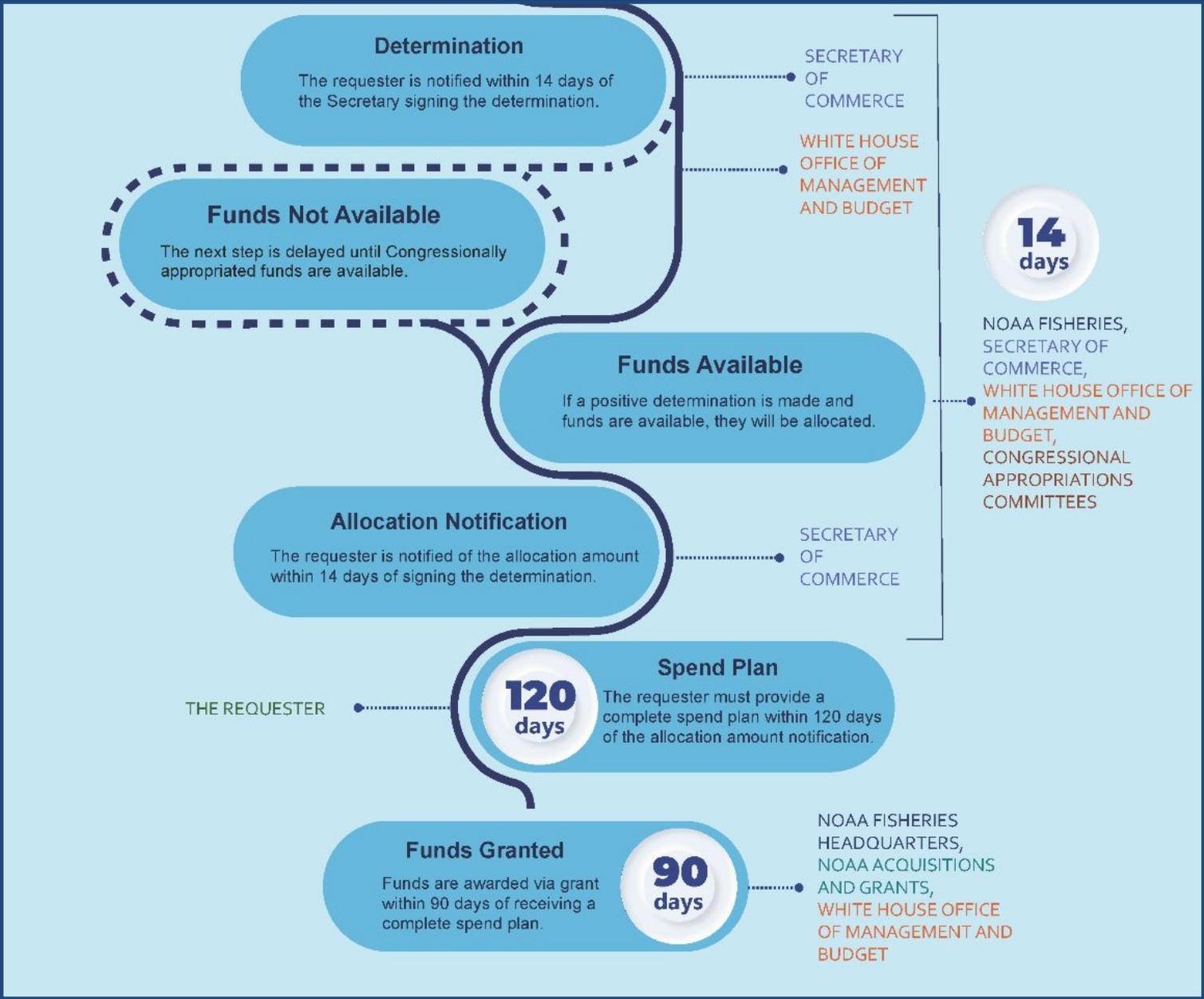
NOAA FISHERIES
HEADQUARTERS
&
REGIONAL OFFICES

NOAA FISHERIES,
NOAA,
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE

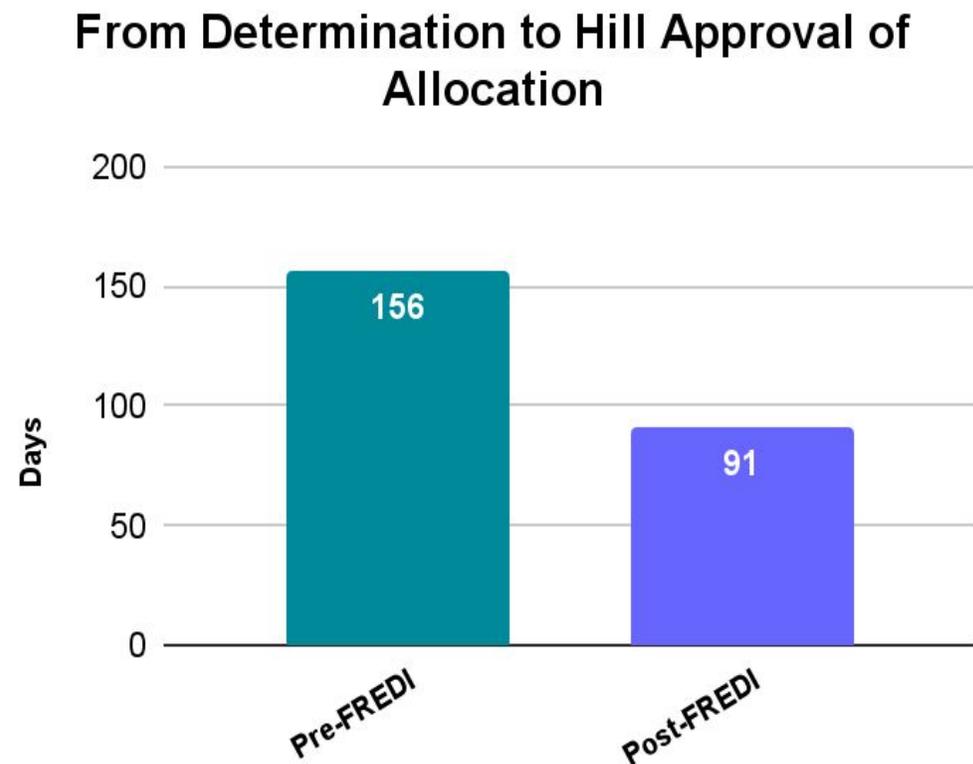
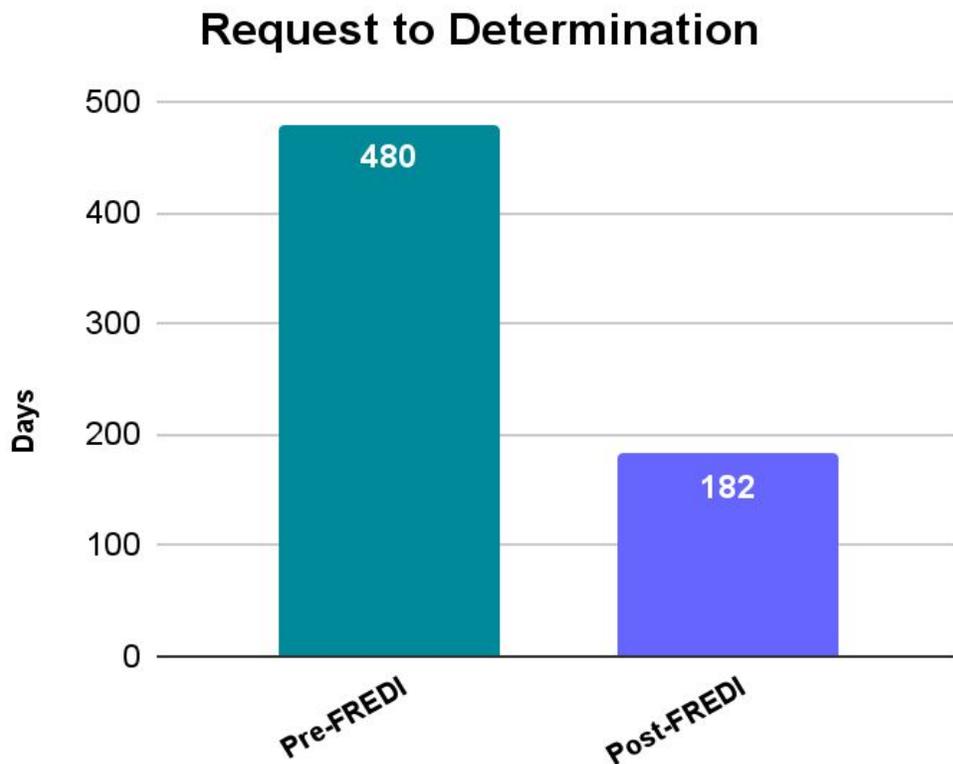
Complete Package

Package deemed complete. The request is evaluated within 120 days to determine if it is a qualifying fishery disaster.

120
days



Updated Timeline Comparisons





Past FL Disaster Declarations

1. Hurricanes Irma and Maria, 2017
 - a. Florida, Puerto Rico and USVI fisheries were affected and ~66M was appropriated
2. Hurricane Michael, 2018
 - a. Florida fisheries were appropriated ~7M
3. Hurricanes Sally (2020), Ian (2022) and Idalia (2023)
 - a. Pending

Takeaway: Fishery Disasters can be costly and take a while to recover, so it's best to get familiar with this process in advance of a disaster



Resources to Learn More

- [Policy on Disaster Assistance](#)
- [MSA](#)
- [FAQs for Fishery Disaster Assistance](#)