NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 01-105 ***AUGUST 21, 1997***
Fisheries Management
TIMELY ALLOCATION OF INTERJURISDICTIONAL FISHERIES ACT FUNDING
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FYI - Fox - cc

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

AUG 21 1997

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Regional Administrators

FROM: Fx2 - Richard H. Schaefer Dick

SUBJECT: NMFS Policy for Timely Allocation of Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act Funding

In order to improve NMFS' ability to submit Financial Assistance applications to NOAA for the more timely processing of grants and cooperative agreements (grants), NMFS is implementing the following policy, per the attached decision memorandum, for calculating funding allocations to states and territories under provisions of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986 (IFA):

<u>At the beginning of each fiscal year, NMFS will use the last finalized year's commercial landings data, as published in the Fisheries of the United States, along with the second and third previous years' commercial landings data, as corrected and updated in accessible NMFS data bases, for the three most recent years of data in the apportionment formula.</u>

This procedure has been implemented in response to requests from NOAA and Regional program personnel to streamline the certification of IFA funding and its notification to NMFS Regions. This procedure has been discussed by both Fx2 (Intergovernmental) and F/ST (Statistics) staff, and both groups feel that it is the best method to allow for timely allocation of funds while, also maintaining the incentive for states to provide data in a timely manner.

Please inform your program staff, and recipients of IFA funding, that these procedures are now being implemented.

Attachment

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

AUG 11 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: F/ - Rolland A. Schmitten

FROM: F/Fx2 - for RP Richard H. Schaefer

SUBJECT: NMFS Policy for Timely Allocation of Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act Funding --DECISION MEMORANDUM

In order to improve NMFS' ability to submit Financial Assistance applications to NOAA for the more timely processing of grants and cooperative agreements (grants), NMFS needs a policy to determine the cut off date for landings data used to calculate state and territory (state) allocations for the Interjurisdictional Fishery Act of 1986 (IFA) grants.

Under 16 U.S.C. 4103, IFA funding allocations to states are based on a precise formula that is applied to the three most recent calendar years of acceptable commercial landings data.

While it is desirable to use the most up-to-date and complete landings data for the allocation decision-making process, any delay in calculation of the IFA funding at the beginning of the fiscal year will seriously affect NMFS' ability to meet its goals for timely grants processing.

Because of end of the year updating to landings data, finalized data for the most recent past year is often unavailable at the beginning of each fiscal year. If NMFS waits to update the landings data base before determining allocations, processing of funding to states may not take place until several months after the start of the fiscal year. A late start in the processing of IFA grants will result in difficulty for NMFS to meet its NOAA grants processing schedule, and may cause disruptions to some states' long term fisheries monitoring programs that are funded through the IFA.

Conversely, late reporting of landings data to NMFS by some states continues to be a problem. One incentive for these states to provide more timely submissions of their data is the inclusion of such data in the final data base for funding allocations made to them under the IFA. However, use of data from past years, rather than the most recent year, provides for more accurate data because it has gone through more extensive review.

Therefore, in an effort to meet NMFS' and the states' needs for more timely administration of IFA funds, and to maintain the incentive for states to submit their landings data in a timely manner, NMFS should institute the following policy when calculating allocations for the IFA: At the beginning of each fiscal year, NMFS will use the last finalized year's commercial landings data as published in the Fisheries of the United States along with the second and third previous years commercial landings data as corrected and updated in accessible NMFS data bases.

This procedure has been discussed by both Fx2 intergovernmental and F/S&T statistics staff, and both groups feel that it is the best method to allow for timely allocation of funds while, also, maintaining the incentive for states to provide data in a timely manner.

If you concur, I will establish such procedures in cooperation with the F/S&T Office.

I recommend that you concur in the establishment of the above policy.

1. I concur. _____ AUG 15 1997.
Date

2. I do not concur _____.
Date