

**Disaster Recovery Initiative
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

Public Law 109-234

*The Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on
Terror, and Hurricane Recovery*

**Louisiana Office of Community Development,
Division of Administration**

Louisiana Recovery Authority

Proposed Action Plan Amendment # 26 (First Appropriation)

**Fisheries Infrastructure Program - Round 2 - Commercial
Fishery Projects
July 24th, 2008**



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7/23/2008

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Commercial Fisheries Infrastructure and Assistance Program 2
Appendix 1 – Guidelines and Clarifications to the Program 4
Appendix 2 – Applicants Eligible for Funding 5

7/23/2008

1. Commercial Fisheries Infrastructure Program

Eligible Activity: 105(a) 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 17, 25

Examples of eligible activities within this program include: acquisition of property to implement projects; construction and improvements to public facilities, like docks and other infrastructure; clearance of sites for construction and improvements; and economic development assistance.

National Objective: Low to Moderate Income Benefit, Elimination of Slum and blight, or Urgent Need

Activity Amount: \$9,750,000 Million

The Commercial Fisheries Program will add \$9.75 million to the initial Fisheries Infrastructure Program created in Action Plan Amendment No. 17 in the fall of 2007. Only unfunded projects from the previous Fisheries Infrastructure Program will be eligible for funding in the new Commercial Fisheries Program. This program will be geared toward the commercial fishing industry which is still suffering serious losses from the 2005 hurricanes. After this program is launched, a total of \$28.5 million will have been allocated for fishery infrastructure projects across south Louisiana. Many of these projects address a continuing urgent need for commercial fisheries as expressed by local, parish and state officials, who see the commercial fishing industry as a key economic driver in community revitalization and resurgence.

This program is needed to address the continued devastation experienced by the fishing industries in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Louisiana's fisherman and fishing industry are also a defining element of the cultural identity of the State. Commercial fisheries in Louisiana provide significant sources of rural employment and are an economic engine for local municipalities, parish governments and the State's economy. Louisiana's multibillion dollar fishing economy is the second largest fishery in the United States, trailing only Alaska. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Federal agency that regulates marine fisheries and can provide disaster assistance to fishing communities, estimates the total economic loss from Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana exceeds \$1.2 billion. In the summer of 2008, however, less than \$100 million of Federal aid from NOAA has been allocated to address the commercial fishing crisis in Louisiana.

The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) has created a series of programs that attempt to address the funding shortfall for the commercial fishing industry. These programs include the Business Recovery Grant and Loan Program, the Long Term Community Recovery Program, and the Fisheries Infrastructure Grant Program which is used as the basis for this program. In June of 2008 the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) began to implement its \$41 million NOAA-funded aid program for

7/23/2008

commercial and recreational fisheries impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Under this program, LDWF will allocate \$27.6 million to commercial fishermen for direct aid payments based on an individual's landings during the 2005 fishing season. For the recreational sector \$11.5 million is set aside. LDWF will select recreation-based projects based on need and location. The unfunded recreation based projects submitted to the original Fisheries Infrastructure Program will be sent and reviewed for possible funding under LDWF's recreational allocation. The LRA's Commercial Fisheries Program and the LDWF recreational program are being coordinated to optimize the available federal resources and to ensure that no duplication of benefit occurs.

This initiative is made possible by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, provided by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Funding for this program will come from previously unallocated CDBG funds in the Infrastructure allocation contained in the 1st appropriation of uses for Disaster Recovery Funds Allocated by P.L. 109-234.

Program Administration and Implementation

OCD will administer the commercial fisheries program. Selection of proposals for funding will be accomplished according to the same protocols used in round one of Fisheries Infrastructure program, as modified in this action plan amendment. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and Louisiana Economic Development (LED) will continue to participate with (OCD) with project selection as the State Selection Panel, while the LRA will provide policy guidance to the program.

Applicant & Project Eligibility

Applicants will not need to re-apply for this program. Only applicants and proposals that met the eligibility outlined in round one of the fisheries infrastructure program, and which also meet the following requirements, will be eligible for funding under this round of the commercial fishery infrastructure program:

- proposal must have been submitted for funding under the original fisheries infrastructure program;
- proposal must have been found to be complete and been reviewed and scored by the fisheries infrastructure program Review Panel;
- proposal must not have been funded, even partially, under the original program;
- proposal must be deemed by the State Selection Panel to primarily address the needs of the commercial fishery.

Geographic Eligibility

Proposed projects must be located in the following hurricane impacted coastal parishes: Cameron, Vermilion, Terrebonne, Lafourche, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Orleans, and St. Tammany. Geographic allocations for the program will be made based on the projects location in proximity to the main water body that the project will serve.

7/23/2008

Appendix 1 – Selection Process Guidelines and Clarification

1. Applicants must have complied with the processes outlined in the original fisheries infrastructure program. Only projects that met the criteria from the first round of this program and the following elements below are eligible for funding in this round:
 - a. were found to meet all required elements in the first program
 - b. received no funding in the initial round of the program
 - c. have been peer reviewed and scored by the review panel in round one
 - d. provide benefits principally to commercial fisheries, as determined by the State Selection Panel
2. No project can be funded at a level that is less than \$250,000.
3. Regional aspects of projects must be considered, including the geographic distribution and economic purpose of projects funded in the initial round of the fisheries infrastructure program.
4. At least one proposal will be selected for funding in each parish that has an unfunded project meeting the above criteria. In parishes where there are more than one unfunded proposal meeting the criteria above, the rankings by the Review Panel from the initial round as well as the location of the unfunded project will be used by the State Selection Panel to determine possible funding and geographic distribution.
5. Requested project amounts may be adjusted during the selection process to maximize program effectiveness and to ensure that funds can be distributed across larger geographic areas.
6. The State Selection Panel must consider if a project under consideration can be funded with other Federal related recovery programs.
7. Fiscal agents for the selected proposals must demonstrate the willingness and ability to own, maintain, and operate the infrastructure through its useful life.

7/23/2008

Appendix 2 – Applicants Eligible for Funding by Parish and Region

Parish	Organization Name	Project Title
CAMERON	GULF COAST FISHERIES COOPERATIVE	RESTORING CAMERON CO-OP FISHERIES COMMUNITIES
JEFFERSON	TOWN OF JEAN LAFITTE	LOUISIANA SHRIMP AND SEAFOOD COMPANY, LLC
LAFOURCHE	GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION	SOUTH LAFOURCHE STORM HARBOR MARINA
ORLEANS	VIETNAMESE AMERICAN COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN'S UNION	THE HUB ORLEANS - FISHERIES INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM
PLAQUEMINES	PLAQUEMINES PARISH GOVERNMENT	EMPIRE SHIPYARD
PLAQUEMINES	DAYBROOK FISHERIES INC	EMPIRE FISHERIES COMPLEX
PLAQUEMINES	SOUTH PLAQUEMINES UNITED FISHERIES COOPERATIVE	WORKING WATERFRONT INITIATIVE
ST BERNARD	UNITED COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION	ICE HOUSE PROJECT - REBUILDING THE ICE HOUSE IN YSCLOSKEY
ST BERNARD	UNITED COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN UNION	HARBOR OF REFUGE PROJECT
ST BERNARD	UNITED COMMERCIAL FISHERMANS ASSOCIATION	AMERICAN FISHERMANS MARKETING COOP & BIO-DIESEL
ST BERNARD	UNITED COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION	HISTORICAL VESSEL & DOCK REPLACEMENT RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM
TERREBONNE	TERREBONNE PORT COMMISSION	BOURG COMPANY CANAL EMERGENCY MOORING PILES
TERREBONNE	TERREBONNE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	TERREBONNE COLD STORAGE / INCUBATOR KITCHEN