



## USDA/FSA Seafood Trade Relief Program (“STRP”)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) is making \$530 million dollars available to U.S. commercial fishermen affected by retaliatory trade disruptions. This financial relief program is not in response to COVID-19, but specifically for trade relief for commercial fishermen.

**Program opened:** September 14, 2020  
**Program ends:** December 14, 2020

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### IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

**USDA/FSA Website for STRP:** [www.farmers.gov/seafood](http://www.farmers.gov/seafood)

**USDA/FSA Call Center Number:** (877) 508-8364

The Call Center is available for fishermen who would like additional one-on-one support with the STRP application process. You are encouraged to call directly and speak with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. The Call Center can provide service to non-English speaking customers.

### Helpful Links and Resources:

- [Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
- [FAQs – www.farmers.gov/seafood/strp-faq](http://www.farmers.gov/seafood/strp-faq)
- [September 22, 2020 Informational Webinar](#) (*fill in the contact form like you are “registering” for the webinar to access the webinar recording*)

**Find FSA Office Locations:** [www.farmers.gov/connect](http://www.farmers.gov/connect) or [www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator](http://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator)

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### TO APPLY:

All required forms and instructions for the STRP application can be found on the USDA/FSA STRP website: [www.farmers.gov/seafood](http://www.farmers.gov/seafood)

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### FAST FACTS:

- These are *not* loans that have to be repaid
- Must be a U.S. citizen to be eligible
- Available to all commercial fishermen, which is defined by NOAA as “someone who harvests seafood (in U.S. waters to the EEZ) for sale/trade through a dealer) who were actively fishing/in business in 2020 and targeting the eligible species” (*see list of eligible STRP species below*)
- Must have a federal or state license to commercially land and sell fish

**FAST FACTS, continued:**

- The STRP payout is based on 2019 landings caught and sold
  - *This is important! The payout is based on **2019** landings, but in order to be eligible you must have been actively fishing/in business in **2020** (any amount of time in 2020). Your 2020 landings do not factor into the payout.*
- There is a payment limitation of \$250,000 per person or entity for all seafood combined
- Aquaculture businesses are not eligible for this program except for salmon and geoduck (*see list of eligible STRP species below*)
  - Aquaculture businesses should refer to the **USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP):** [www.farmers.gov/cfap](http://www.farmers.gov/cfap)
- Commercial fishermen can apply online or in person through your local FSA office
  - Epping Service Center is the FSA office for New Hampshire’s Rockingham County

**Local FSA Office in New Hampshire – Rockingham County:**

FSA Office	Contact	Physical Address	Mailing Address
Epping Service Center <i>Open for phone appointments only (as of September 24, 2020)</i>	Carol Sargent <a href="mailto:Carol.Sargent@usda.gov">Carol.Sargent@usda.gov</a> (603) 679-1587	629 Calef Highway Knightly Plaza, Suite 203 Epping, NH 03042	629 Calef Highway Suite 203 Epping, NH 03042

**ELIGIBLE SPECIES:**

Seafood	Payout Rate (\$/lb.)
Atka Mackerel	0.10
Crab (Dungeness)	0.47
Crab (King)	0.47
Crab (Snow)	0.47
Crab (Southern Tanner)	0.47
Flounder	0.15
Geoduck	0.76
Goosefish	0.10
Herring	0.04
Lobster	0.50
Pacific Cod	0.14
Pacific Ocean Perch	0.10
Pollock	0.01
Sablefish	0.10
Salmon	0.16
Sole	0.15
Squid	0.20
Tuna	0.13
Turbot	0.15

# SEAFOOD TRADE RELIEF PROGRAM

USDA is helping U.S. fishermen who have been impacted by retaliatory tariffs from foreign governments through the Seafood Trade Relief Program (STRP).

## Overview

STRP is part of a relief strategy to support American producers while the Administration continues to work on free, fair, and reciprocal trade deals to open more markets to help American farmers and fishermen compete globally.

STRP is funded by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and administered by the Farm Service Agency. FSA is accepting applications for STRP from **September 14, 2020** to **December 14, 2020**.

## Who is Eligible?

The program provides direct support to U.S. commercial fishermen who have a valid federal or state license or permit to catch seafood who bring their catch to shore and sell or transfer them to another party. That other party must be a legally permitted or licensed seafood dealer. Alternatively, the catch can be processed at sea and sold by the same legally permitted entity that harvested or processed the seafood.

Products grown in a controlled environment are not eligible for the program except for geoducks and salmon.

Payments are based on 2019 landings of:

- Atka mackerel
- Crab (Dungeness, King, Snow, Southern Tanner)
- Flounder
- Geoduck
- Goosefish
- Herrings
- Lobster
- Pacific Cod
- Pacific Ocean Perch
- Pollock
- Sablefish
- Salmon
- Sole
- Squid
- Tuna
- Turbot



STRP assists U.S. licensed or permitted commercial fishermen for covered species caught in U.S. waters. Seafood processors and processed products are not covered by this program.

## Payment Limitations

STRP prohibits a person or legal entity from receiving more than \$250,000 from the program. In addition, an applicant's average adjusted gross income (AGI) cannot exceed \$900,000 unless at least 75 percent of the AGI of the person or entity comes from farming, ranching, forestry, seafood harvesting, or related activities.

## How to Apply

Fishermen should contact their local USDA Service Center to apply for the program. To find your local Service Center, visit [Farmers.gov/service-locator](https://www.farmers.gov/service-locator).

The STRP application can be found on September 14, 2020 at [Farmers.gov/Seafood](https://www.farmers.gov/Seafood). FSA will work with fishermen via phone, email, fax, mail or online tools like Box and Onespan, and in person appointments where applicable.

A Call Center is available for fishermen who would like additional one-on-one support with the STRP application process. Please call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance.

## More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only, other restrictions may apply. For more information about the STRP program, visit [Farmers.gov/Seafood](https://www.farmers.gov/Seafood).



**Seafood Trade Relief Program  
Frequently Asked Questions  
Last Updated: September 18, 2020**

**Eligibility**

Q: Who is eligible to participate in the Seafood Trade Relief Program (STRP)?

A: U.S. commercial fishermen who have a valid federal or state license or permit to catch seafood who bring their catch to shore and sell or transfer them to another party. That other party must be a legally permitted or licensed seafood dealer. Alternatively, the catch can be processed at sea and sold by the same legally permitted entity that harvested or processed the product.

Q: I don't participate in any USDA programs. Can I apply for STRP?

A: Yes. Prior participation in USDA programs is not a prerequisite.

Q: Is there an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limit to participate in STRP?

A: Yes. To participate, a person or legal entity's AGI cannot exceed \$900,000 (using the average for the 2016, 2017, and 2018 tax years). However, the AGI limit does not apply if 75 percent or more of an eligible person's or legal entity's AGI comes from seafood production, farming, ranching, forestry, or related activities.

Q: As a tribal fisherman, the treaty does not require me to submit annual income tax returns for fishing. Will this affect my ability to apply to STRP?

A: No, that does not affect the application process. Tribal fishermen should submit their applications to FSA. Guidance on documentation by tribal members to certify compliance of meeting the adjusted gross income limit of \$900K is forthcoming.

**Eligible Seafood**

Q: What seafood is eligible?

A: Eligible seafood species must have been subject to retaliatory tariffs and suffered more than \$5 million in retaliatory trade damages.

Eligible species are Atka mackerel, Dungeness crab, King crab, Snow crab, Southern Tanner crab, Flounder, Geoduck, Goosefish, Herring, Lobster, Pacific Cod, Pacific Ocean Perch, Pollock, Sablefish, Salmon, Sole, Squid, Tuna and Turbot.

Q: What aquaculture species are eligible under STRP?

A: In general, seafood grown in controlled conditions are not eligible for STRP. However, geoduck and salmon grown in controlled conditions are eligible.

**Application**

Q: When does STRP sign up start and end?

A: Program sign up will begin September 14, 2020 and ends December 14, 2020.

Q: Do all producers need to apply through the Farm Service Agency?

A: Yes. Producers of all eligible seafood must apply for assistance through their local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Service Center. Fishermen can locate their Service Center, download application forms, and find additional information at [farmers.gov/seafood](https://farmers.gov/seafood).

Q: How can I prepare to apply for STRP?

A: If you are a new customer to USDA, your local FSA staff will work with you to apply for the program, and will ask for this type of information:

- Name and address
- Personal information, including your Tax Identification Number
- Farm operating structure
- Adjusted Gross Income compliance certification to ensure eligibility
- Direct deposit information to enable payment

Q: My local USDA Service Center is not open for walk-in service. How do I apply for STRP?

A: USDA Service Centers are open for business, including some that are open to visitors to conduct business in person by appointment only. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with FSA should call ahead and schedule an appointment. While program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with producers in office (where available), by phone and using online tools. You can find the phone number and the location of your local USDA Service Center at [farmers.gov/seafood](https://farmers.gov/seafood) and view the status of your local Service Center at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

Q: Where can I get a STRP application?

A: Applicants can download application forms at [farmers.gov/seafood](https://farmers.gov/seafood) starting September 14, 2020. Producers also have the option of signing and sharing their STRP applications using our new document signature solutions initiated by Service Center staff.

Q: Are STRP funds a loan that must be repaid? Is there a fee to apply?

A: No. STRP is not a loan program and there is no cost to apply.

Q: Is STRP a first-come, first-served program? Will the funds run out once a certain number of applications are received?

A: No, STRP is not a first-come, first-served program. The average domestic landings reported between 2017 and 2019 were used to determine payment rates per pound of eligible seafood commodities. The total amount of estimated damage was used to determine how much funding would be needed, and knowing payments are limited to \$250,000 for all seafood commodities combined per person or legal entity.

Q: I'm new to USDA, are there any additional forms I'm required to fill out besides the application? Do I need a "farming number"?

A: New customers are not required to establish a farm record; no farm number is required. New customers should complete an AD-2047 form to establish a profile in FSA's Business

Record system. An optional form that is offered, but not required, is the AD-2106 Race, Ethnicity and Gender (REG) form completed by applicants to assist in increasing program participation by REG.

## **Payments**

Q: How much is USDA spending to directly support fishermen negatively impacted by unfair retaliatory tariffs?

A: STRP will provide up to \$530 million in direct support for commercial fishermen.

Q: When are payments expected to begin?

A: Program approval is handled at the local level and FSA county offices process applications as they receive them. The timeline for this approval process, including required internal controls and data validation, varies from county to county and applications are paid as they are approved.

Q: What are the payment limits for STRP?

A: There is a payment limitation of \$250,000 per person or entity for all seafood combined.

## **Funding and Payment Calculations**

Q: How will STRP help commercial fishermen impacted by unfair retaliatory tariffs?

A: STRP will provide commercial fishermen with direct financial assistance that gives them the ability to absorb sales declines and increased marketing costs associated with retaliatory tariffs.

Q: How were payment rates determined?

A: Payment rates were calculated using USDA's assessment of the expected trade damage by the 2019 landings for each species.

**For more information on the Seafood Trade Relief Program, visit [farmers.gov/Seafood](https://farmers.gov/Seafood).**