

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 31: Department of Agriculture Seafood Processors Pandemic Assistance

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Frederick

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means approve the submission of a federal grant application by the Department of Agriculture to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$1,532,089 to provide relief to seafood processors who have incurred costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The USDA has made \$50 million in funding available, with the amount for each state based on 2019 seafood landing data. The funding will allow for reimbursement to eligible seafood processors, facilities, dealers, and processing vessels for certain COVID-19 related costs incurred between January 2020 and December 2021. The Department plans to assess the number of eligible entities and types of costs to be reimbursed and will then determine a distribution method for the available funds.

This is a non-competitive grant and does not require a match. The grant application deadline is November 22, and the agency will utilize existing personnel to review processor applications and distribute the available funding.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.