



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NYS Begins Distribution of Federal CARES Act Funding for Relief to NY's Fishing Industry, Following Pandemic-Related Losses

Advocacy by local, state officials on behalf of our commercial fishing industry pays off; Feds add \$5.7 million in aid to the initial, \$6.7 million allocation

An announcement last week by NYS Governor Andrew M. Cuomo regarding federal assistance for the commercial fishing industry was good news for a key East Hampton Town industry.

Last June, the East Hampton Town Board wrote to U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross to push for a more equitable system of apportioning the CARES Act funds to support fisheries, in order to assure a fair share of assistance to our local fishing industry.

At the time, it was proposed that New York State would receive only 2 percent of the \$300 million in CARES Act funding for fishing industry assistance, based on a flawed fishing quota system.

The Town's letter echoed calls by New York legislators, including Assemblyman Fred Thiele, to allocate the fishing industry relief funds based on economic need, focusing on the areas most hard-hit by the COVID-19 virus. At the time, New York was the epicenter of the COVID outbreak nationwide.

"I am pleased to see this much-needed relief for our beleaguered fishermen," said East Hampton Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc. "Restaurant closures and cutbacks due to the virus reduced the demand for seafood, leaving both of those industries, along with others, economically impacted by the pandemic."

East Hampton Town has worked throughout the pandemic to uphold and support our local economy and businesses, including the commercial fishing industry, that have experienced devastating economic impacts from the COVID-related shutdowns and restrictions.

In addition to advocating for a more equitable disbursement of federal funds to our fishing industry, the town has worked during the pandemic with a Business Recovery Committee comprising members from various local industries, and Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc has consistently elevated their concerns and requests to regional and state officials for action.