



September 9, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Neil Jacobs
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation
and Prediction, performing the duties of Under Secretary of
Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

FROM: 
Frederick J. Meny, Jr.
Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation

SUBJECT: Evaluation of NOAA's Implementation of CARES Act Funding
(#2020-382)

We are initiating an evaluation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries' plan for the implementation of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funding. Our objective is to determine whether NOAA complied with the requirements of the CARES Act. Specifically, we will determine (1) what steps NOAA took in implementing the requirements for awarding funds, (2) challenges NOAA faced during implementation, and (3) NOAA's current status in processing applications and award funds under the CARES Act.

We have scheduled an entrance conference for September 17, 2020, to discuss our evaluation objective and scope in further detail. If you have any questions about this review, please contact me at (202) 482-1931 or Monica Adamo, Director for Acquisition and Grants, at (202) 482-5185.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation during this effort.

cc: Rear Admiral Tim Gallaudet, Ph.D., USN Ret., Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Deputy NOAA Administrator, NOAA
Benjamin Friedman, Deputy Under Secretary for Operations, NOAA
Chris Oliver, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA
Arlene Simpson Porter, Director of the Grants Management Division of NOAA's Acquisition and Grants Office, NOAA
Katina Felts, Acting Audit Liaison, NOAA
Brian Doss, Alternate Audit Liaison, NOAA
Lisa Lim, Alternate Audit Liaison, NOAA