Project Overview

NOAA Fisheries
Office of Sustainable Fisheries
Fishery Disaster Insurance Program Study

Background: The Office of Sustainable Fisheries (OSF) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) supports consideration and resolution of national domestic policy issues, provides support to the regional fishery management councils, manages fisheries for Atlantic highly migratory species, and works with federal partners to ensure the safety of seafood sold in the U.S. OSF is a headquarters office and works closely with the five NOAA Fisheries regional offices and six science centers and in partnership with the councils, interstate marine fishery commissions, and states to ensure U.S. fisheries are sustainably managed. OSF also engages the fishing industry (both commercial and recreational), seafood dealers, environmental groups, other federal agencies, and academia to ensure sustainable fisheries, sustainable economies, and healthy and nutritious shellfish and finfish.



About the National Academy of Public Administration

Chartered by Congress to provide non-partisan expert advice, the Academy is an independent, non-profit, and non-partisan organization established in 1967 to assist government leaders in building more effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent organizations. Learn more at www.napawash.org

Project Description

The Academy will conduct a 12-month study to examine the feasibility, requirements, and key considerations associated with establishing a fishery disaster insurance program. The study will:

- Evaluate policy, administrative, financial, and operational factors relevant to the potential development of a fishery disaster insurance program;
- Consider existing fishery disaster assistance processes, potential alternative approaches to risk management, and the conditions under which an insurance-based model could be implemented;
- Consider the roles of federal, state, tribal, and other stakeholders in the design and administration of a fishery disaster insurance program, as well as relevant legal, regulatory, and programmatic constraints; and
- Identify options, assess tradeoffs, and outline practical considerations that would need to be addressed in order to establish and sustain such a program.

The Academy has appointed a five-member Panel of Fellows to oversee and guide this study. Information on the Panel of Fellows and Study Team is provided on the next page. A final report will be completed by June 2027.

National Academy of Public Administration

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PANEL

F. Stevens Redburn, PhD (Chair) Dr. Redburn brings deep federal expertise in disaster response and insurance program budgeting. He chaired the 2021 NAPA study Panel on NMFS Budget Structure and Allocation. During his tenure at the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, he helped oversee the federal response to multiple disaster events and contributed to policy on how insurance programs are treated in the federal budget. He authored a Public Administration Review article on estimating budget costs for deposit insurance.

Scott Cameron Mr. Cameron brings 40 years of experience spanning federal natural resources policy, budget oversight, and management. Most recently, he served as the Department of the Interior's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget, and prior to that as Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science. Earlier in his career, under the George W. Bush Administration, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary at Interior. His extensive OMB experience includes serving as Deputy Chief of the Interior Branch, where he served as program examiner for the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Julia L Carboni, PhD Dr. Carboni brings deep expertise in collaborative governance and multi-stakeholder policy processes directly relevant to this study's need to navigate the interests of federal, state, and tribal stakeholders in designing a fishery disaster insurance program. As Executive Director of the William D. Ruckelshaus Center (the Center)— a joint unit of Washington State University and the University of Washington providing neutral facilitation for complex public policy issues — she designs and leads processes that bring together industry, tribal governments, state and federal agencies, and community interests to develop shared solutions. She currently serves as Lead Facilitator for Washington State's Department of Housing Task Force, a 17-member body charged with recommending consolidation of more than 200 housing programs across 30 state agencies. The Center's portfolio includes extensive work on natural resource issues, including fisheries, water, and flood management, and sustained engagement with Washington's 29 federally recognized tribes as well as tribes without federal recognition. Her scholarly research on interorganizational networks and cross-sector collaboration has been published in leading public administration journals, and the Center serves as Secretariat for the University Network for Collaborative Governance.

Claire Knox, PhD Dr. Knox brings specialized expertise in environmental vulnerability, disaster response, and coastal resilience directly relevant to this study's examination of fishery disaster risk and assistance frameworks. She is the Founding Director of the University of Central Florida's Master of Emergency and Crisis Management Program. Dr. Knox's research has earned significant recognition, including the 2021 Book of the Year Award from ASPA's Section on Democracy and Social Justice for her co-edited book on cultural competency in emergency management. She has also received numerous awards for research, teaching, and service, including FEMA's 2022 Kay C. Goss Award for Innovation in Emergency Management at its Higher Education Symposium.

Randolph Lyon, PhD Dr. Lyon brings extensive experience with the federal government's existing disaster relief programs, as well as related programs in other agencies that could serve as models for reform. Over more than two decades at OMB, he served as Chief of the Commerce Branch (1998–2013) and earlier as Senior Economist in the Office of Economic Policy (1991–1999)— experience that gave him a deep understanding of NOAA Fisheries' role in promoting the sustainability of the Nation's fisheries, along with the fishery-dependent businesses and communities that rely on them. He is also well-versed in the budgetary challenges facing disaster programs.

PROJECT STAFF

Brenna Isman, Senior Director of Research and Government Solutions

Chloe Yang, Project Director

Amanda Mullan, Senior Advisor

Nadia Faour, Senior Research Associate

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