

**STATE OF LOUISIANA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**  
**2019 FLOOD COMMERCIAL AND CHARTER VESSEL ACCESS GRANTS**  
**GUIDELINES**

**Overview**

Flood events often restrict access for commercial fishing and charter vessels. Floodwaters prohibit the use of boat ramps, mooring docks, fuel docks and can make navigation dangerous as it increases the number of underwater obstructions. This grant program provides funding to public and private entities interested in constructing new facilities or making improvements to existing facilities. The additions and/or improvements will allow commercial fishing and charter vessels to operate during flood events. A broad range of access facilities and associated amenities qualify for funding; however, they must provide benefits to commercial fishing and/or charter vessels during flood events and cannot restrict access to the public. Projects may include acquiring new land (if allowed within federal regulations) for facilities, building new facilities, or acquiring, renovating, or improving existing facilities to create or improve public access or improving the suitability of these waters for commercial or charter fishing during flood events. 'Facilities' include auxiliary structures necessary to ensure safe use of access areas.

**Grant Award**

Grants to applicants cannot exceed \$500,000.00

**Applicant Eligibility**

This program is available to any governmental entity, public entity, private organization or private company; however, the proposed project must be located in Louisiana. The applicant must own the property or have a lease/land control agreement with at least 20 years remaining post-project completion. If the applicant is a limited liability company (LLC), corporation, or partnership, the business must register and remain in good standing with the Louisiana Secretary of State. The applicant is responsible for maintaining the project elements for a period of 20 years.

**Project Eligibility**

- Projects must create or improve public access for and the resiliency of commercial fishers or charter fishers during flood events
- Project must be located in an area that was impacted by the 2019 Flood event
- Cannot restrict access to the public
- Projects may include acquiring new land (if allowed within federal regulations) for facilities; however, the project must also include the facility (i.e., land cannot be purchased for future development)
- Project may include building new facilities, or acquiring, renovating, or improving existing facilities
- 'Facilities' include auxiliary structures necessary to ensure safe use of access areas

## **Application**

Applicants will be required to submit an application with the following documentation:

- Project Title, Applicant Name (i.e., applicant) and Contact Information
- Project Location Maps and Drawings
- Proof of Ownership (title or a lease/land control agreement with at least 20 years remaining post project completion)
- Project Statement
  - *NEED*: Explain why the project is necessary and how it will provide protection or resiliency against future flood events. This section should also include information regarding the fishing and boating pressure relative to the site or area.
  - *USE*: Number of vessels currently using your facility on a daily basis. Expected number of vessels using your facility on a daily basis after the proposed improvements are made.
  - *OBJECTIVES*: Identify specific, measurable, attainable, and relevant objectives for the project.
  - *EXPECTED RESULTS AND BENEFITS*: Describe the expected results and benefits from accomplishing the objectives.
  - *APPROACH*: Describe the approach to meet the objectives including a timeline of significant milestones.
- Budget Narrative – Provide details regarding the allocation of funds for the project. (Note: planning costs are limited to no more than 10% of the construction budget)
- Resolution – A document approved by the governing entity of an organization or the owner(s) of a business authorizing a designated representative to apply and administer grant funds on behalf of the applicant. The document must include a 20- year agreement for the maintenance and operation of the project.

## **Project Evaluation and Selection**

LDWF will form an evaluation committee consisting of five (5) members of the Office of Fisheries. The committee will evaluate applications to determine the most beneficial and cost effective projects. The committee will disqualify applications if they do not meet the eligibility requirements or do not include the project elements listed above. Each project will receive a score based on a set of criteria (see Attachment A).

The committee will rank projects based on the score and will assign funding starting with the highest ranked project and work down the list until all funding is obligated. If the committee assigns the same score to multiple projects, they will rank those projects by the funding request amount. The lowest funding request amount will be ranked the highest among the projects with matching scores. This tiebreaker is intended to maximize the number of projects funded under this program. LDWF will inform the applicants when they finalize project selections. If an applicant withdraws a project after the selection process, the committee will choose the next application in order of rank.

LDWF will contact the applicant and then draft a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) for each project. Upon execution of the CEA, the applicant can begin the project. Cost incurred prior to the CEA agreement are not eligible for reimbursement unless specifically authorized by LDWF. The applicant is responsible for administering the entire project, which includes securing a United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) '404 permit' or clearance, a Louisiana Coastal Use Permit and any other required permits. The applicant is required to secure three (3) bids for construction and provide the bids to LDWF for review prior to awarding the contract.

The applicant is responsible for maintaining control of the property and maintaining the project for its intended purpose for a period of 20 years. The project shall be recorded on the property title through the Clerk of Court. If the applicant sells or transfers the property, the maintenance requirements remain with the property and are the responsibility of the new owner.

### **Monitoring**

LDWF will determine if an on-site visit is necessary to evaluate the project location and applicability. LDWF will make on-site inspections during the construction phase based on staff availability and will make a final inspection post construction.

### **Fund Distribution**

LDWF will provide financial assistance on a cost reimbursement basis for eligible expenses. Planning/design costs are limited to 10% of the construction budget. Reimbursement requests must be submitted electronically to LDWF and include the total reimbursement request along with copies of itemized invoices detailing the expenses. Requests must not be less than \$5,000. LDWF will hold the final payment until the applicant provides a Certificate of Substantial Completion, the Clear Lien Certificate and an on-site visit is completed.

**Attachment A**

**Commercial and Charter Vessel Access Grant Evaluation Form**

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Project Name \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_ Funding Requested \_\_\_\_\_

1. Applicant type:
  - a. Public/governmental \_\_\_\_\_(5 points)
  - b. Non-profit \_\_\_\_\_(3 points)
  - c. Private business \_\_\_\_\_(1 point)
  
2. Project provides benefits to commercial fishing/charter vessels that will make them more resilient to flood events and other disasters (i.e., 1 is no benefit and 5 is substantial benefit).  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1-5 points)
  
3. Project benefits:
  - a. Commercial fishers \_\_\_\_\_(3 points)
  - b. Charter guides \_\_\_\_\_(3 points)
  - c. Both \_\_\_\_\_(5 points)
  
4. Number of commercial fishers and charter captains regularly using this facility (i.e., 1 is no usage and 5 is heavy usage)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1-5 points)
  
5. Fishing pressure on waterbody or connected waterbodies (i.e., 1 is no pressure and 5 is heavy pressure)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1-5 points)
  
6. Project involves:
  - a. Land purchase and new facility \_\_\_\_\_(1 point)
  - b. New facility \_\_\_\_\_(3 points)
  - c. Renovations to existing facility \_\_\_\_\_(5 points)
  
7. Negative environmental impact (e.g., impacts to forested wetlands, marshes, reefs, or other sensitive habitats; no impact = 5 points)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1-5 points)
  
8. Cost benefit (i.e., Does the benefit of the proposed project justify the overall costs?)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1-5 points)