



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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October 13, 2015

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Requested Action

Authorize the Fish and Game Department (NHFG) to pay the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Washington, DC 20005 (Vendor #164395), \$12,687.50, 50% of the annual assessment as per RSA 213:1 Article XI effective the date of Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2016. Funding 100% Fish and Game Funds.

Funds to support this request are anticipated to be available in the following account in FY 2016 upon the availability and continued appropriation of funds in the future operating budget:

03 75 75 753020-2288 MARINE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT-Marine Fisheries Management

20-07500-22880000-026-500251 Organizational Dues FY16 \$12,687.50

Explanation

ASMFC is a compact of fifteen east coast states formed in 1941 to assist in managing and conserving their shared coastal fishery resources. With the recognition that fish do not adhere to political boundaries, the states formed an Interstate Compact, which was approved by the U.S. Congress. The states have found that their mutual interest in sustaining healthy coastal fishery resources is best achieved by working together cooperatively, in collaboration with the federal government. Through this approach, the states uphold their collective fisheries management responsibilities in a cost effective, timely and responsive fashion.

The compact parties agreed to make annual appropriations to the support of the Commission in proportion to the primary market value of the products of their fisheries.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Council organization dues and membership approval submissions:

- How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?
Since 1941, 74 years.
- Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?
No

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REGION 3
225 Main Street
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REGION 4
15 Ash Brook Court
Keene, NH 03431
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3. How many other state's belonging to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?

All 15 Atlantic coast states from Maine through Florida belong to this organization. Fish and Game is the only state agency which is a member.

4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc)

The base funding comes from the member states' appropriations, which are determined by the value of commercial fishing landings and saltwater recreational trips within each state according to a formula adopted by the Commission in 1984. The formula states that 50% of the targeted state contribution level set by the Commission is equally allocated to the 15 member states; 25% is based on the five-year moving average value of commercial landings, exclusive of cod and haddock; and 25% is based on the five-year moving average of total number of recreational fishing trips per state.

5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?

Cooperative interjurisdictional fisheries management and conservation of Atlantic coast fisheries such as striped bass, lobsters, herring, etc.

6. Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.

Yes, a number of trainings and educational materials are included each year and the cost of these is included.

7. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.

No, although membership does provide the state with access to larger amounts of federal funding from the Atlantic Coastal Act grant.

8. Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known and purposes of membership supported trips.

Travel is required and paid for by the Commission for at least 4 meeting per year for the 3 NH state Commissioners (Marine Division Chief, Governors appointee, and Legislative appointee) and technical committee staff from NH Fish and Game Marine Division. Meetings take place throughout the 15 Atlantic coast states and involve fisheries management meetings as well as technical/scientific meetings where scientific advice is developed regarding marine resources for the Commissioners to use in managing the fisheries.

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9. Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization.

The Marine Division Chief is a voting member of the Commission's various species management Boards and Sections and is also a member of the Commission's Executive Committee. Five Marine Division biologists and one Supervisor are members of various species technical committees and plan development teams.

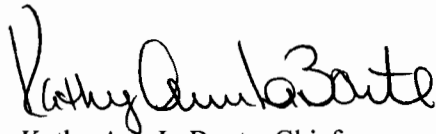
10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.

If the state were not a member, it would not have any input in the development of fishery Management Plans or other management actions that would affect commercial and recreational fisheries that NH residents participate in. In addition, if a State did not comply with measures in an ASMFC fishery management plan, the Secretary of Commerce can place a federal moratorium on harvest of that fish in the State.

Respectfully submitted,



Glenn Normandeau
Executive Director



Kathy Ann LaBonte, Chief
Business Division



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Dr. Louis B. Daniel, III, (NC), Chair Douglas E. Grout (NH), Vice-Chair Robert E. Beal, Executive Director

Vision: Sustainably Managing Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

TO: Douglas E. Grout
Chief
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
Marine Fisheries Division
225 Main Street
Durham, New Hampshire 03824-4732

Date: July 21, 2015

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Invoice 2 of 2: 50% of the Annual Appropriation calculated under Formula* for FY16, (July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016) from the State of New Hampshire:	\$12,687.50
Balance Due	\$12,687.50

APPROVED: Douglas E. Grout Date: 7/21/15
Douglas E. Grout, Commissioner

ATTEST: Robert E. Beal Date: 7/21/2015
Robert E. Beal, Executive Director

*This formula for appropriations of member states is based on an appropriation of \$665,255 with a 50% minimum contribution of \$22,175, 25% based on the average percentage value of five-year commercial catch statistics (2009-2013) exclusive of cod and haddock, supplied by the National Marine Fisheries Service, and 25% recreational value based on the average percentage of total number of fishing trips per state (2009-2013). This formula was adopted at the Executive Committee meeting on October 2, 1984 and by the full Commission at its regular Business Meeting, October 4, 1984 and is in effect for FY16 commencing July 1, 2015. The Commission's Federal I.D. number is 13-6006904.

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