



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