

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

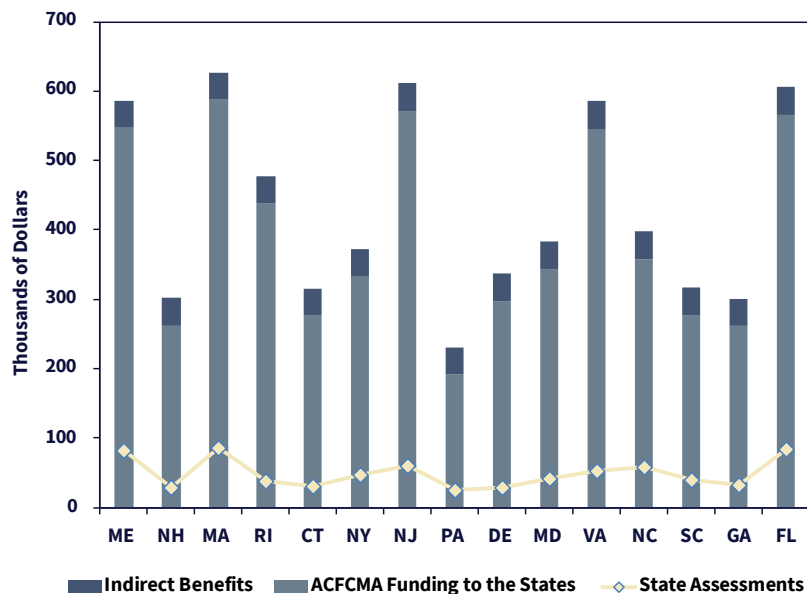
HOW IS THE COMMISSION FUNDED?

The Commission is currently funded at \$7.4 million. The bulk of the Commission’s funding comes from a combination of state and federal grants; the largest being a line-item in the NOAA Fisheries budget appropriated to implement the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) of 1993. The Commission also receives funds from NOAA Fisheries to carry out the mandates of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (IFA) of 1986 (P.L. 99-659). The accompanying graph illustrates the benefits that states receive from ACFCMA and IFA. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also provides grant funding to the Commission through its Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program (Wallop/Breaux). Also, since 1999 the Commission has overseen the administration of the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP), a state and federal partnership for Atlantic coastal fisheries data collection and management. Funding for this program is provided by the ACFCMA.

2024 Return on State Assessments to the Commission

Source: FY24 ASMFC Appropriations and FY23 ACFCMA & IFA Allocations

* Indirect Benefits include travel and per diem for 6 people from each state to participate in Commission meetings. Please note that this figure does not include the collective benefits derived from the work of the FMP Coordinators and Science Staff.



The base funding (\$733,444) 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.

WHAT IS THE COMMISSION'S BUDGET PROCESS?

The Commission's budget is largely driven by the grants the Commission receives, since 90% of the Commission's income is from federal and/or state government grants. The annual action plan developed by the staff and approved by the Commissioners is the other driving force behind budget preparation. A funding spreadsheet is prepared in conjunction with the action plan, and that is when the programmatic funds are allocated.

An annual fiscal year (7/1-6/30) budget is prepared each spring and presented to the Executive Committee for approval at the Commission's Spring Meeting. However, all of the Commission's grants have different start dates and must be tracked according to their start date. This means that, although the "official Commission budget" is approved in the Spring, the majority of the programmatic budgeting is completed in the fall in conjunction with the development of the annual action plan. The FY23 budget directly follows this overview.

As mentioned in the introductory paragraph, the majority of the Commission's funding comes from federal and state grants. The indirect costs (just over \$1.6 million) that the Commission receives for administering its grants bridges the difference between the state assessments and the cost to keep the Commission operating. Currently the Commission receives about \$4.7 million from the ACFCMA, (\$2.5 million for fisheries management, science and habitat and \$2.2 for ACCSP). It received \$200,000 from Wallop/Breaux and \$243,000 from IJF. The Commission received just under \$2 million from NMFS to fund projects of mutual interest to the Commission and NMFS.