



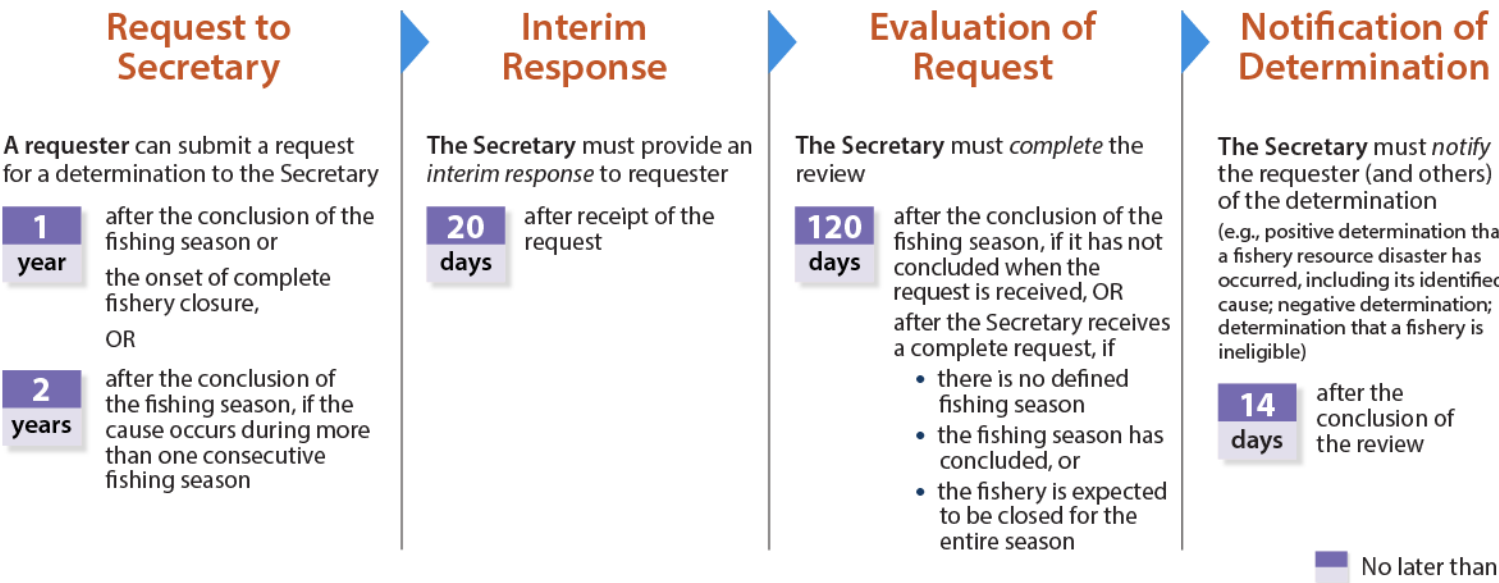
Fishery Resource Disaster Determination Timeframes

In the Fishery Resource Disasters Improvement Act (P.L. 117-328, Division S, Title II), enacted in December 2022, Congress amended or repealed several fishery disaster authorities administered by the Secretary of Commerce. Subsequently, in the Fishery Improvement to Streamline untimely regulatory Hurdles post Emergency Situation Act (FISHES Act; P.L. 118-229), enacted in January 2025, Congress further amended these authorities to include directives for the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget. The amended language directs the Secretary and others to complete—within specific timeframes—certain actions, such as initiating and completing fishery resource disaster reviews and disbursing available disaster relief funds.



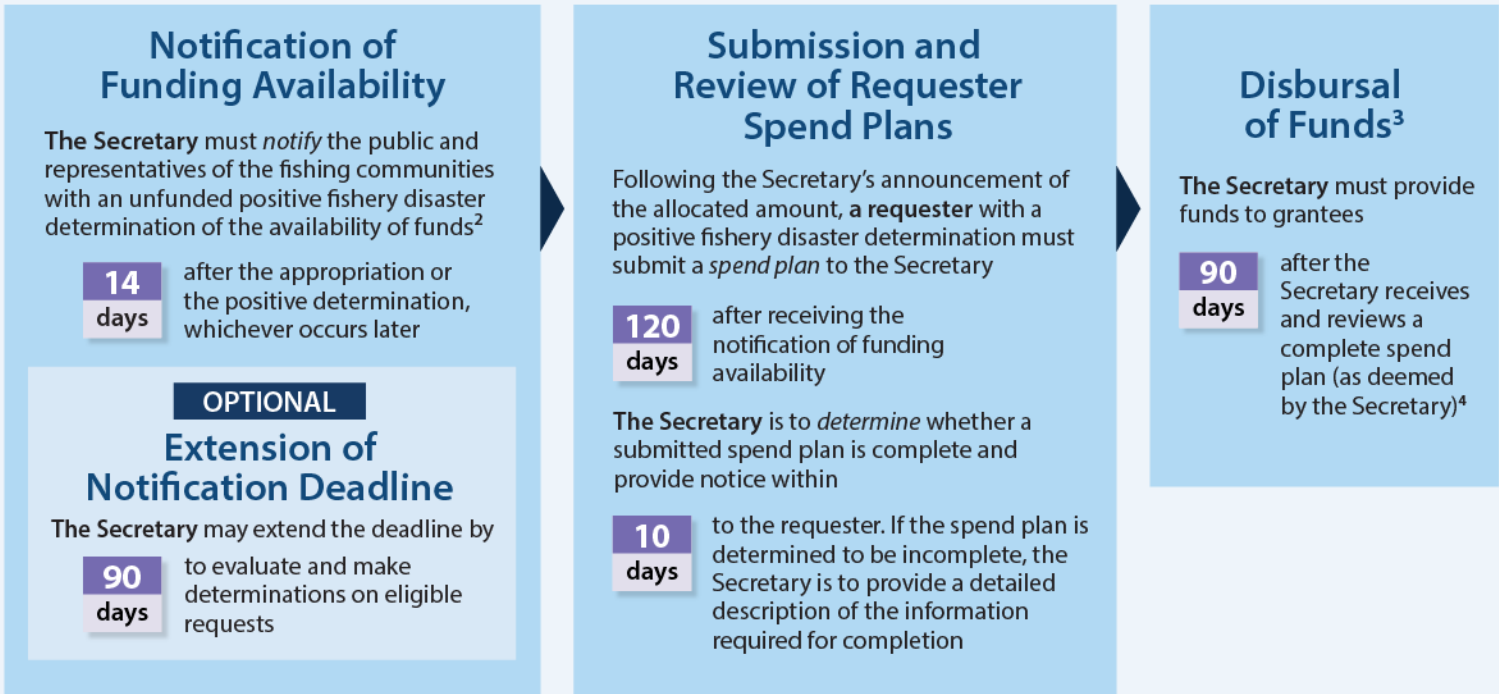
REQUEST AND REVIEW

The Secretary of Commerce may initiate—or be asked to initiate¹—a review to determine whether a fishery resource disaster has occurred. After an evaluation process, the Secretary makes a final determination based on criteria such as whether there was a loss of access to the fishery resource and if economic losses were greater than prescribed thresholds.



FUNDING DISBURSAL

The Secretary of Commerce may begin the process for disbursing funds to communities with unfunded positive disaster determinations once Congress has appropriated funds to support a particular fishery disaster or multiple fishery disasters. Congress may appropriate these funds on a case-by-case basis, typically post-disaster, or in anticipation of future fishery disasters.



¹ A request can be made by the governor of an affected state, an official resolution of an Indian tribe, or any other comparable elected or politically appointed representative as determined by the Secretary of Commerce. A title in **bold** indicates the individual for whom a given deadline applies.

² The legislative language (16 U.S.C. §1861a(a)) uses the terms *affirmative fishery resource disaster determination*, *positive determination*, and *positive disaster determination*. For the purpose of this infographic, CRS is assuming the three terms are intended to be interpreted interchangeably.

³ In determining the allocation of appropriations for a fishery resource disaster, the Secretary of Commerce shall consider revenue losses and negative impacts to subsistence or Indian tribe ceremonial fishing opportunity, for the affected fishery, among other factors.

⁴ If requested by the Secretary of Commerce, the Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget may review a completed spend plan concurrently with the Secretary in accordance with the 90-day timeline.

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