



Notice of Proposed Changes in the Regulations of the Fishermen's Fund

Proposed Regulations - FAQ

February 2021

1. What is your goal with the changes?

See each section and changes below.

8 AAC 55.010(d)(1). Benefits

This section is being amended to allow injured fishermen with minor injuries more time to seek initial treatment.

- If the injured fisherman receives late treatment, the claim for benefits must be denied and presented to the Fishermen's Fund Advisory and Appeals Council.
- The Council meets twice a year.
- This will allow the fund administration to process minor injury claims more efficiently.

8 AAC 55.010(g)(3)

This section is being added to encourage vessel owners to cover potential liabilities associated with injured crewmembers.

- The Fishermen's Fund Advisory and Appeals Council may approve a claim for benefits in excess of the administrator's limit of \$10,000 per injury or illness. The fund only pays for medical expenses.
- Crewmembers are covered under the Jones Act. They may seek other remedies beyond medical costs such as lost wages and damages.
- An adjuster for a Protection and Indemnity insurer can typically provide the following:
 - Medical bill adjustment.
 - Ensure crewmember receives the proper maintenance (benefits) and unearned wages.

8 AAC 55.010(g)(4)

This section is being added to clarify for the petitioner that the fund may only reimburse medical expenses and not lost wages.

- Some insurers and third party administrators allow lost wage payments as a credit toward meeting the protection and indemnity deductible amount.