



Fisheries Compensation Program
for Atlantic Coast Offshore Wind

Draft Regional Compensation Framework

NEFMC Meeting
September 17, 2026



NOTICE

Participation in the RFA process by any individual, organization, business, or agency does not constitute agreement with, endorsement of, or approval of any statement, element, design choice, methodology, or conclusion contained in this Draft Framework. While the Draft Framework has been informed by extensive stakeholder engagement and feedback, it should not be interpreted as reflecting agreement among participants or stakeholder groups. Relatedly, because the Draft Framework was developed through a consensus-driven and collaborative process involving stakeholders with differing interests and perspectives, it should not be interpreted as a statement of the RFA's independent preferences or recommendations; rather, the Draft Framework reflects the RFA's best efforts to synthesize stakeholder input and develop a fair, balanced, practical, and functional approach under the circumstances presented.

The concepts, options, approaches, and design elements described in this Draft Framework are working proposals developed for discussion and evaluation.

This Draft Framework is not a regulation, policy statement, legal determination, permit condition, contractual obligation, funding commitment, or final program protocol. Nothing contained in this Draft Framework creates any substantive or procedural rights, expectations of compensation, entitlement to funding, or obligations on the part of any state, agency, developer, stakeholder, participant, or future program administrator. The contents of this Draft Framework may be revised, supplemented, refined, or replaced based upon continued stakeholder input, policy direction, legal review, project-specific circumstances, future data and analysis, regulatory developments, funding conditions, implementation considerations, or other factors.

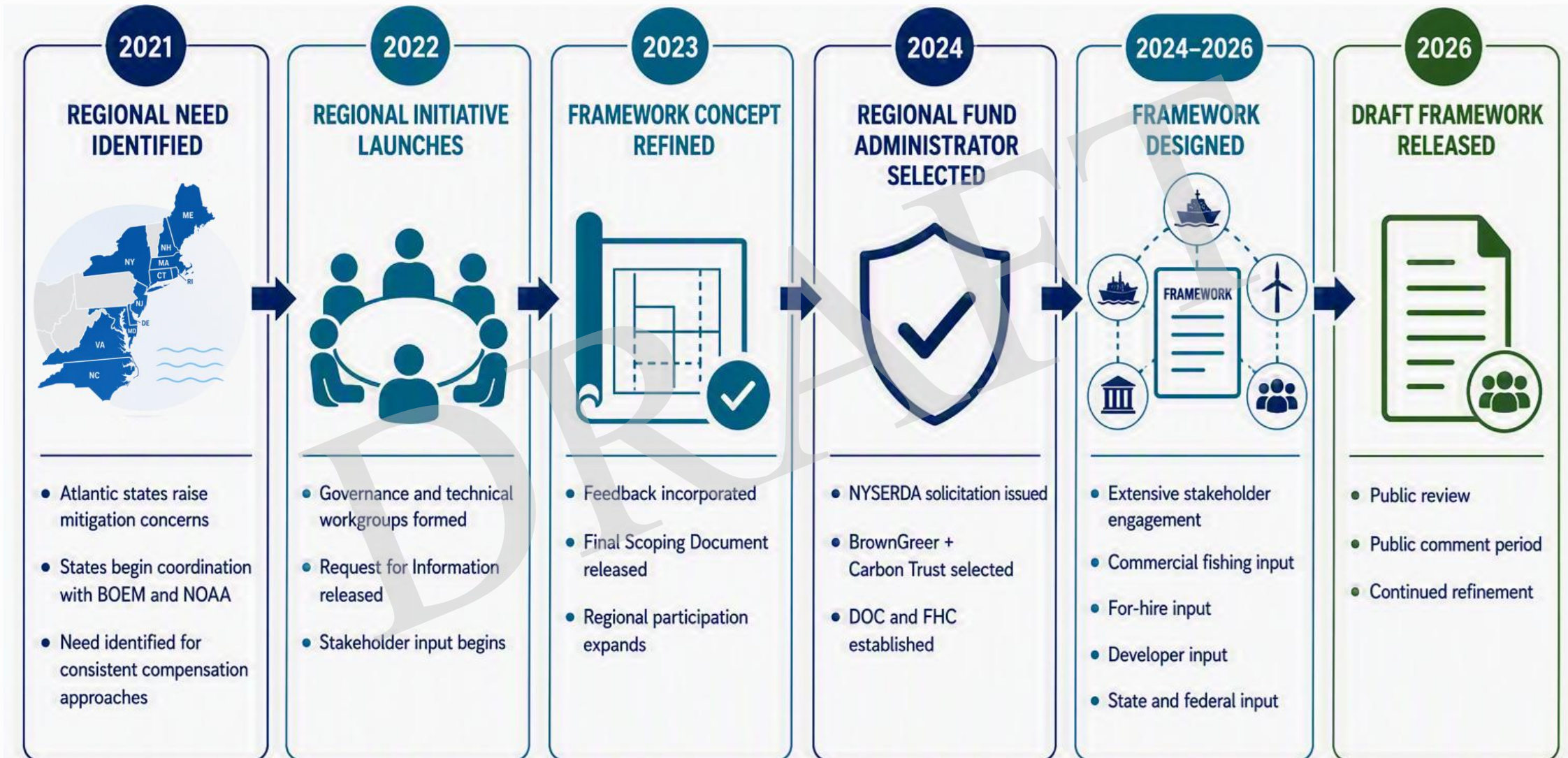
PURPOSE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS

This presentation is meant to provide a simple walkthrough of the concepts in the Draft Framework. It is meant to be used alongside the Draft Framework to help the reader better understand the detailed information included within and is not meant to be evaluated by itself or replace the work of the Draft Framework. Comments are to be based on the information provided in the Draft Framework, not the presentation.

Click [here](#) for a direct link to the Draft Framework available on the RFA website.

DRAFT REGIONAL COMPENSATION FRAMEWORK	
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FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENT JOURNEY



WHO SHAPED THE FRAMEWORK?



STATES

Atlantic Coast states collaborated throughout the process.



COMMERCIAL FISHING

Commercial fishermen and fishing organizations provided extensive input.



FOR-HIRE FISHING

For-hire/recreational fishing businesses and organizations participated.



FEDERAL AGENCIES

Federal advisors and subject matter experts contributed technical expertise.



OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPERS

Developers and industry organizations informed the design.



SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS & PUBLIC

A broad range of experts and members of the public shared their perspectives.



COLLABORATIVELY DEVELOPED

The Framework reflects years of stakeholder engagement and is intended to provide a practical, fair, and administratively workable approach for distributing fisheries compensation funds when project-specific funding becomes available.





ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Design Oversight Committee (“DOC”)

Commercial Fishing Industry

- Bonnie Brady, Vincent Balzano, Beth Casoni, Roy Diehl, Joe Gilbert, Peter Hughes, Lane Johnston, Jeff Kaelin, & Hank Soule

States

- Brad Schondelmeier, Todd Janeski, Erin Wilkinson, Julia Socrates, Carrie Kennedy, & Sebastian Velez

Offshore Wind Industry

- Jennifer Flood, Brian Krevor, Ross Pearsall, & Rick Robins

For-Hire Committee (“FHC”)

Recreational Fishing Industry

- Rick Bellavance, Mike Cerchio, Bob Rush, & Rom Whitaker

States

- Joe Cimino & Renee Zobel

Offshore Wind Industry

- Brian Krevor & Ron Larsen

Draft Framework Subordinate to Preceding Permitting & Consistency Processes

The Framework administers compensation funds but does **not** determine funding amounts or negotiate project agreements.

PRECEDING PROCESS – BEFORE RFA INVOLVEMENT

Steps 1 and 2 occur prior to RFA involvement on any project.

1 COMPENSATION FUNDS ESTABLISHED



Compensation funding becomes available through project-specific agreements, commitments, or funding arrangements.



2 PROJECT-SPECIFIC ALLOCATION REQUIREMENTS



Each compensation fund may include project-specific requirements that influence allocation decisions.

- Fund types
- Claimant categories
- Claim track allocations
- Geographic allocations
- Funding restrictions
- Other project-specific requirements



3 RFA ADMINISTRATION



The RFA administers compensation according to established requirements and Framework rules.



FRAMEWORK ALLOCATION PROCESS

KEY PRINCIPLE

Absent predetermined direction, compensation is allocated according to demonstrated economic impact.



RFA ADMINISTERS, NOT NEGOTIATES

The Framework does not determine compensation funding levels. It provides a transparent methodology for distributing available compensation funds once project funding and allocation parameters have been established.



OVERALL FRAMEWORK ARCHITECTURE



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PARTICIPATION “ELIGIBILITY” FOR ALL TRACKS

- Eligibility determines the opportunity to participate in a claim track.

ELIGIBILITY AND COMPENSATION



- Eligibility determines whether a fishing business may participate in a claim track.
- Eligibility does not establish that a compensable loss occurred.
- Eligibility does not guarantee loss-based compensation.

FRAMEWORK APPROACH TO ELIGIBILITY



- Multiple claim tracks with different purposes and goals.
- Common eligibility criteria across tracks.
- Promotes consistency and simplicity.
- Improves administrative efficiency.

STANDARD ELIGIBILITY RULE



- Fishing revenue in the **Project Area** for
- **at least one day** during
- **at least 3 of the previous 10 years** before
- **Final Investment Decision (FID)**
- **Exception Process Available**

PERMIT AND AUTHORIZATION CONTINUITY



- Historic fishing activity should generally occur under the same or similar permits and authorizations.
- Material differences may be addressed through an exception process.

DATA HIERARCHY

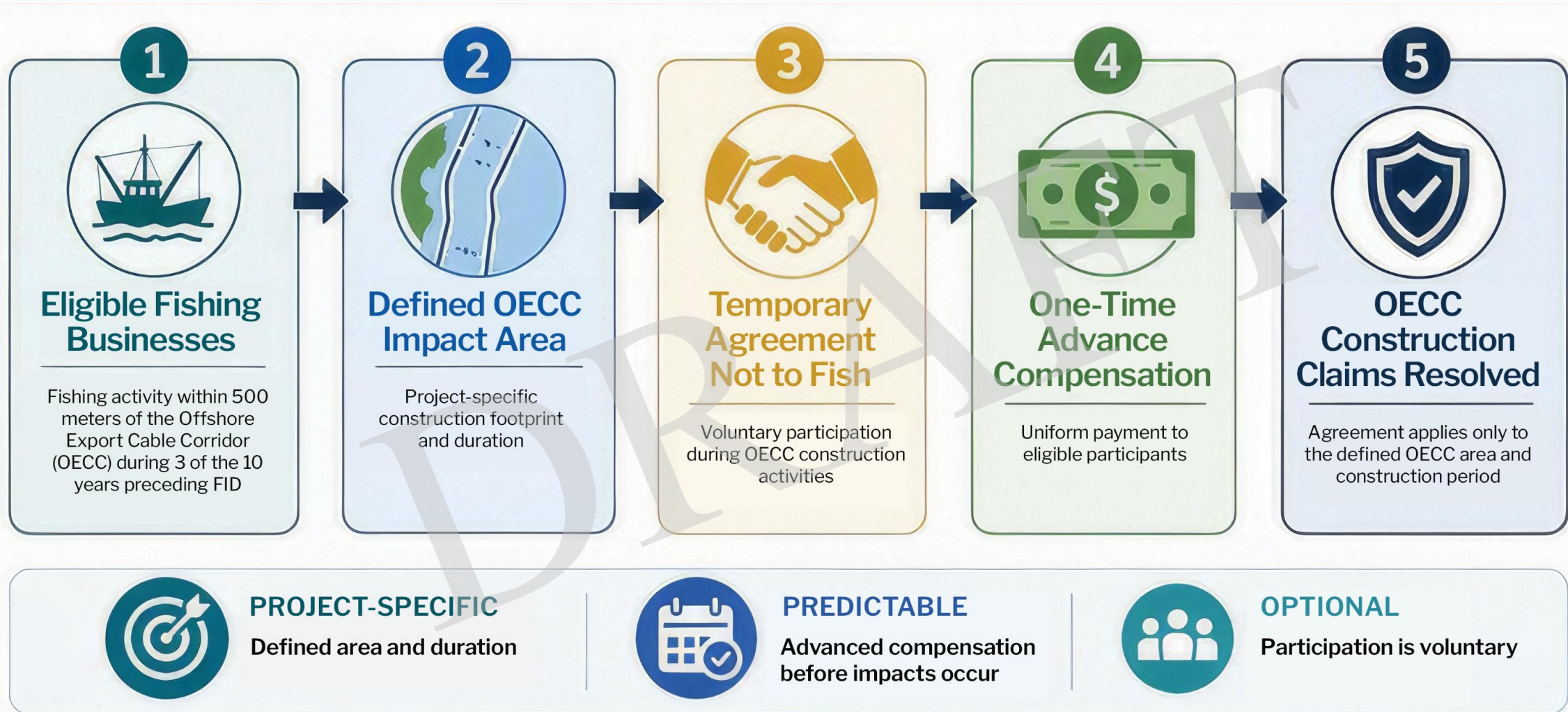
- 1 VMS
- 2 AIS
- 3 VTR
- 4 Other Data

Supporting Sources

- Logbooks
- Chart plotter tracks
- Handwritten notes
- Observer data
- Survey data
- Other reliable information

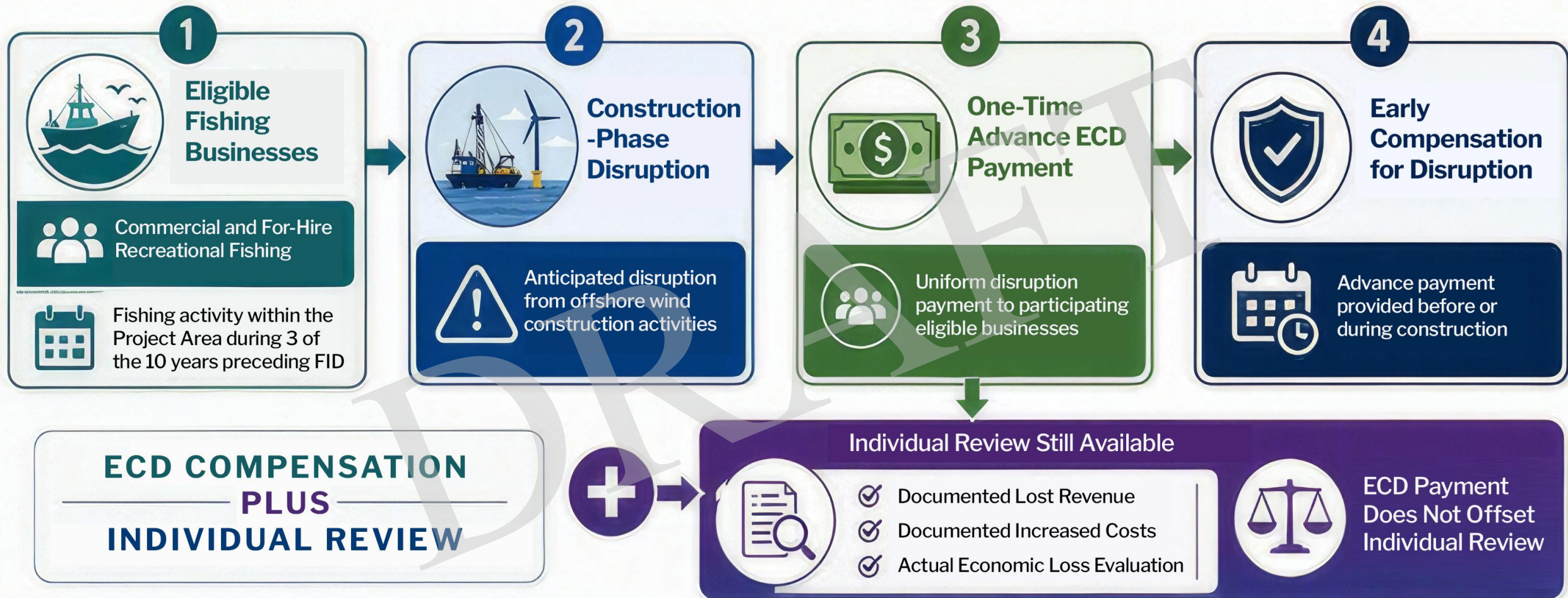
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OFFSHORE EXPORT CABLE CORRIDOR CLAIM TRACK



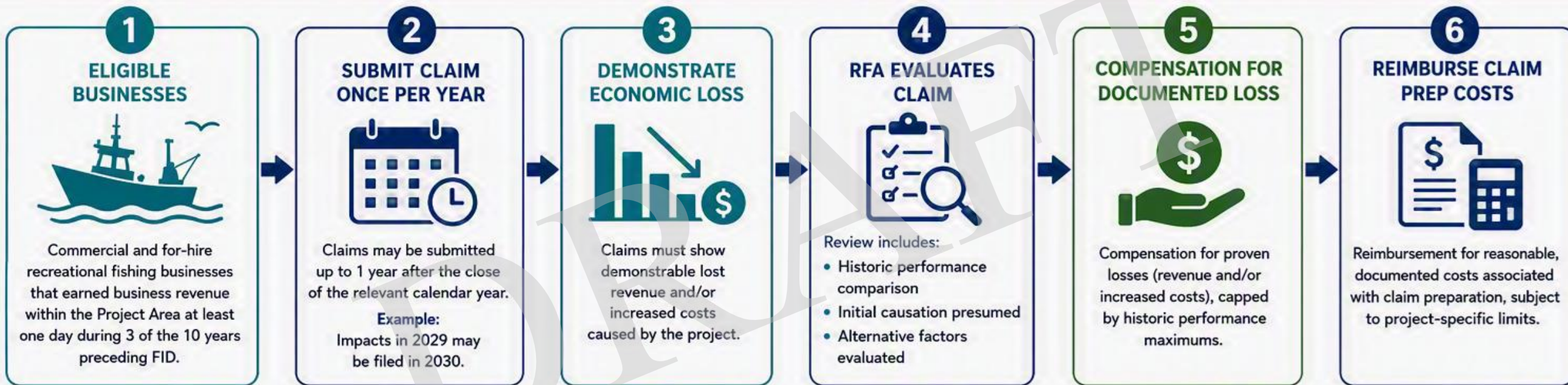
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EXPEDITED CONSTRUCTION DISRUPTION CLAIM TRACK



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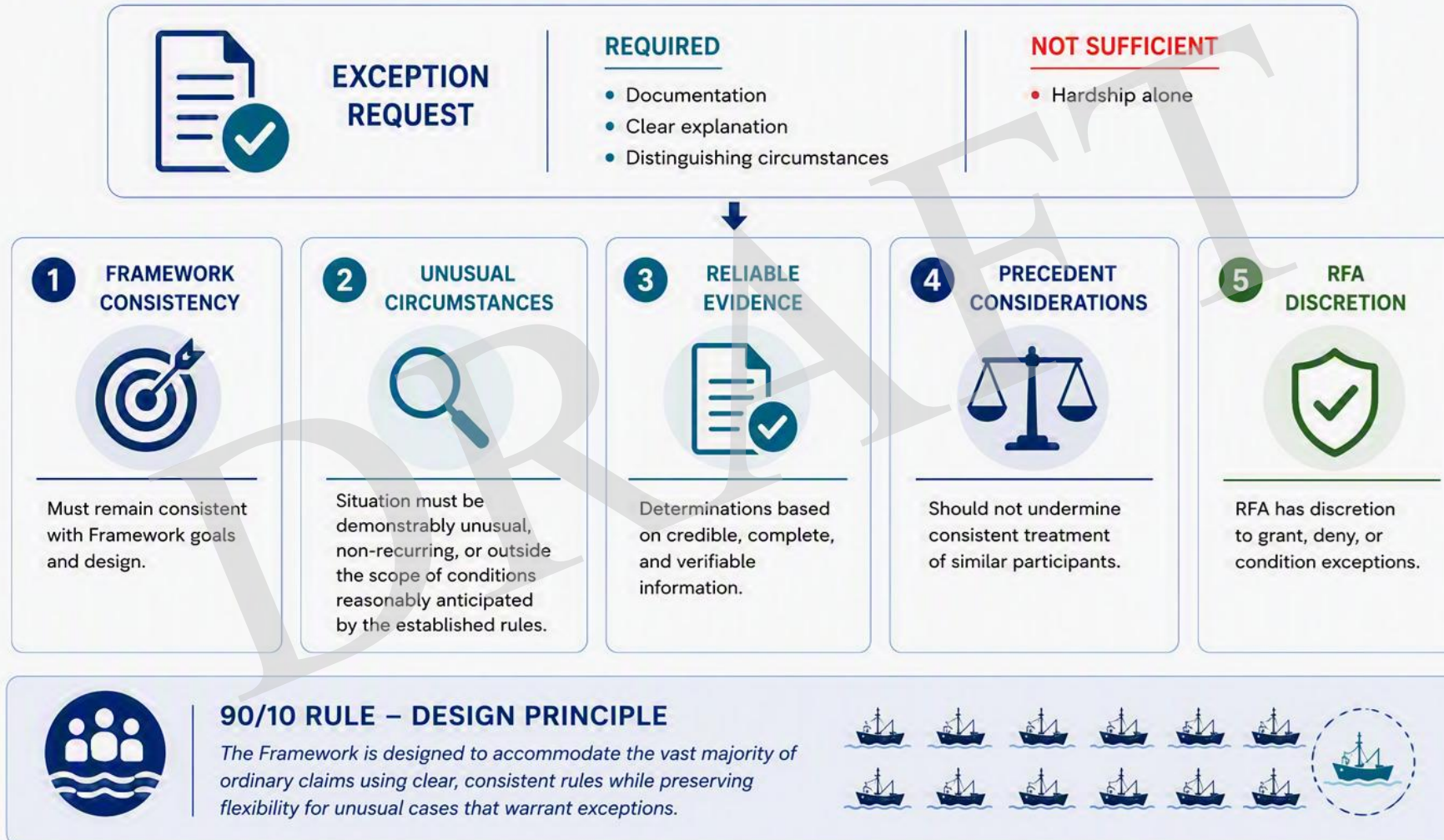
INDIVIDUAL REVIEW CLAIM TRACK



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EXCEPTIONS

The Framework recognizes that unusual circumstances may warrant exceptions where strict application of a rule would produce an unintended or inequitable result.

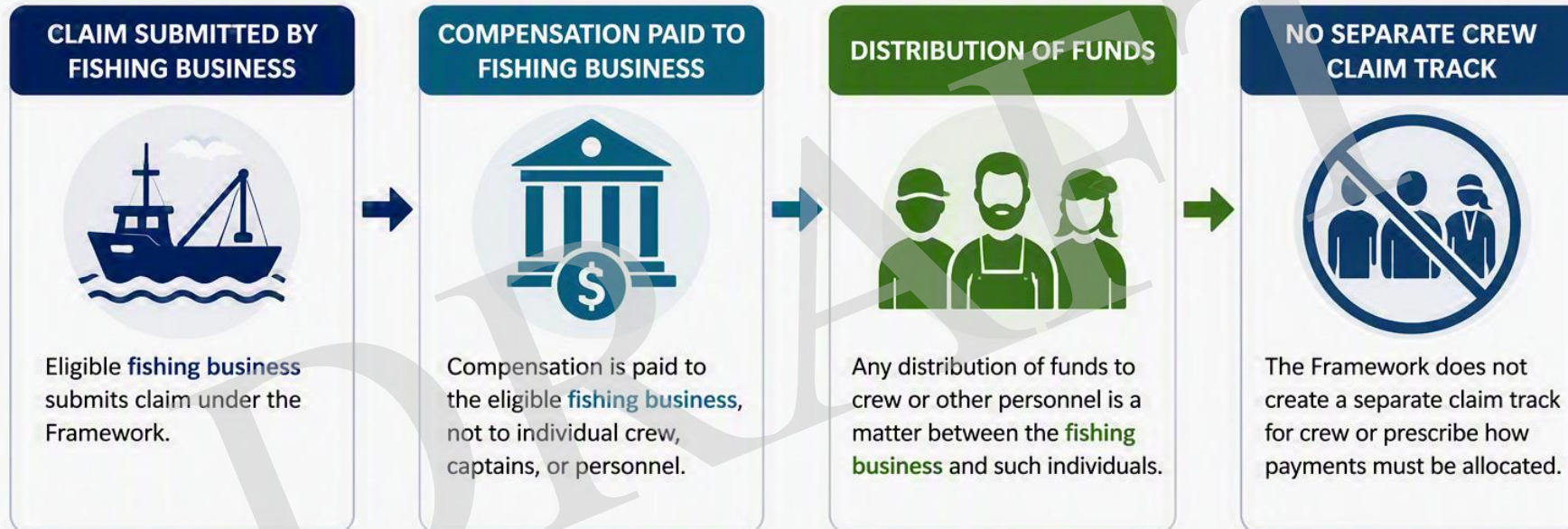


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CREW

The Framework is designed around eligible fishing businesses—not individual crew members.



LEGAL AND CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

Obligations regarding distribution of compensation to crew or other personnel are governed by applicable employment agreements, share arrangements, or other legal obligations.

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SHORESIDE BUSINESSES

TWO TYPES OF SHORESIDE BUSINESSES



Shoreside Downstream Support Businesses

✓ Eligible for compensation

Examples:

- Dealers
- Processors
- Packing houses



Shoreside Upstream Support Businesses

✗ Not compensated under Framework

Examples:

- Bait
- Ice
- Fuel
- Gear
- Equipment



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To qualify, a business must:

- ✓ Be an active business one year before project FID
- ✓ Support commercial fishing businesses through direct, first-order transactions
- ✓ Demonstrate economic loss

LOSS TYPES

Reduced Volume



Loss of processing or dealer revenue due to reduced landings.

Increased Costs



Higher costs to obtain substitute product.

Other Compensable Losses



Other losses approved under Framework standards.



DOCUMENTATION

Examples:

- Licenses and permits
- Revenue records
- Financial statements
- Business records
- Transaction records



LOSS CALCULATION

Uses the same general principles applied to commercial fishing vessel losses.



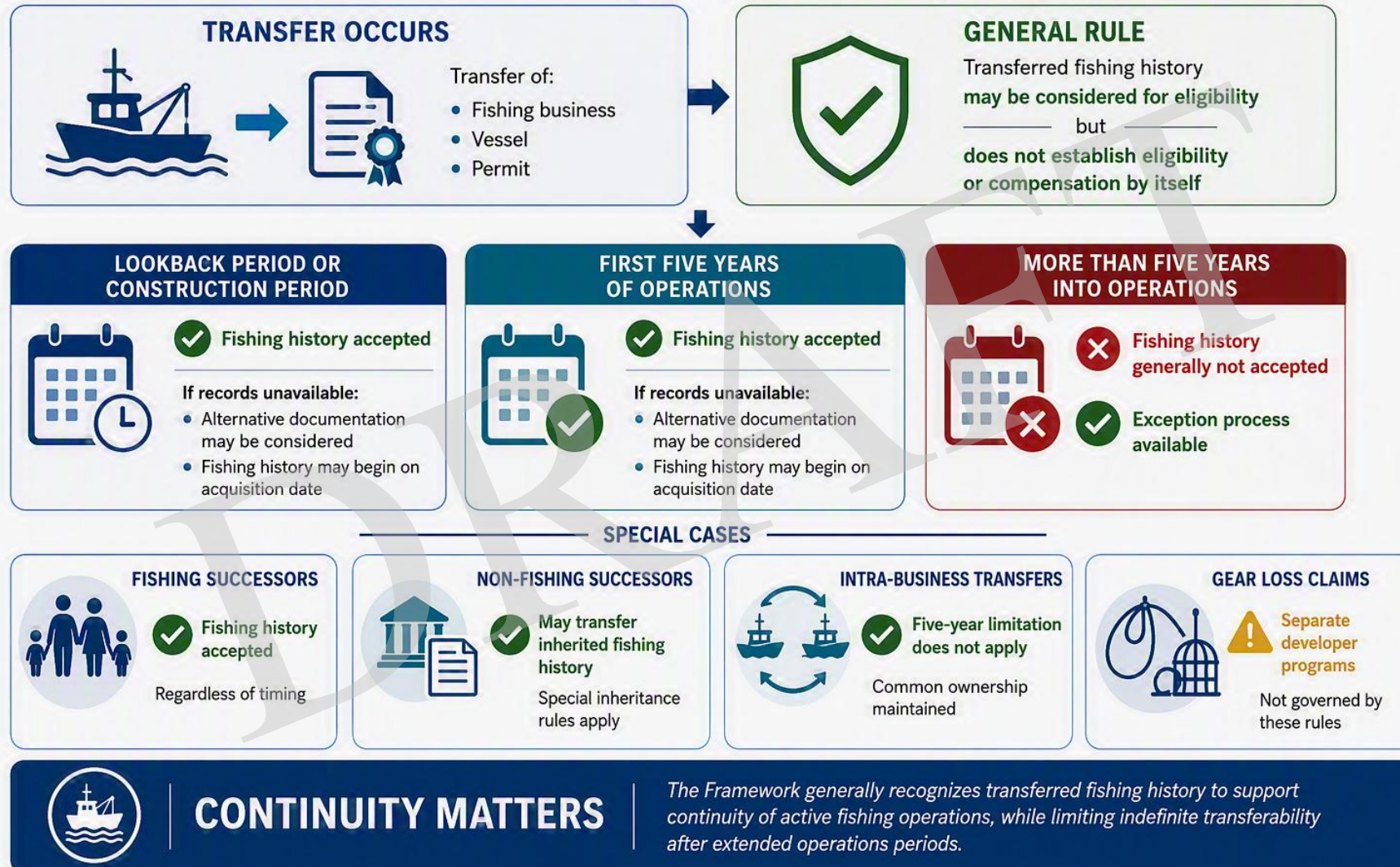
FIRST POINT OF EXCHANGE

The Framework focuses on economic losses occurring between vessel landing and the processor or dealer's first point of sale, where downstream businesses add value to harvested seafood products.

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BUSINESS TRANSFERS

When can transferred fishing history be used for Program eligibility?



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OVERVIEW OF UPCOMING ENGAGEMENT PLANNED



IN-PERSON PORT-SIDE MEETINGS



Introduce Draft Framework
to members of the
fishing industry.



Early September



PRESENTATIONS



- NEFMC – Sept. 17
- NJ Marine Fisheries Council – Sept. 10
- NY Marine Resources Advisory Council – Sept. 15
- NH Fish & Game Advisory Committee – Oct. 5
- MAFMC – Oct. 6 or 7
- MA Commercial Fisheries Commission – Oct. 8 (tent.)



RFA HOSTED WEBINARS





Review of Draft

Sept. 30, 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM
[Register to Attend](#)



Review of Final

Early December



WRITTEN COMMENTS INVITED





Comment Period

Early September – Early November



Submit Through

- [RFA Website](#)
- [Email](#)



Transparency

Comments will be posted online following the close of the public comment period.

PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS

1 COMMENT PERIOD



The Framework is available for public comment during a defined review period.

**Early September
through
Early November**

2 HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS



RFA Website:
www.RFAInfo.com/Home/ContactUs

RFA Email:
Contact@RFAInfo.com

3 WHO IS ENCOURAGED TO COMMENT



The RFA welcomes feedback from all interested parties and affected stakeholders.



4 HOW COMMENTS WILL BE USED



Comments received during the public comment period will be reviewed by the RFA and may inform future Framework refinement.

i IMPORTANT NOTE
The RFA will not provide individual responses to comments submitted during the comment period.

5 TRANSPARENCY & PUBLICATION



To promote transparency, good-faith comments may be published and shared.

ANONYMITY OPTION
Submitters may request anonymity.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Submission of a comment does not create any right to receive an individual response, participate in future proceedings, or require modification, adoption, or rejection of any aspect of the Framework.

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