

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Diana Hynek
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer
14th and Constitution Ave. NW.
Room 6625
Washington, DC 20230

05/24/2006

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken the following action on your request for the extension of approval of an information collection received on 03/30/2006.

TITLE: NOAA Community-based Restoration Program Progress Reports

AGENCY FORM NUMBER(S): None

ACTION : APPROVED WITHOUT CHANGE
OMB NO.: 0648-0472
EXPIRATION DATE: 05/31/2009

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS(\$,000)
Previous	225	1,125	3
New	800	8,240	3
Difference	575	7,115	0
Program Change		7,115	0
Adjustment		0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: None

NOTE: The agency is required to display the OMB control number and inform respondents of its legal significance (see 5 CFR 1320.5(b)).

OMB Authorizing Official	Title
Donald R. Arbuckle	Deputy Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Agency/Subagency originating request	2. OMB control number b. <input type="checkbox"/> None a. _____ - _____
3. Type of information collection (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> New Collection b. <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a currently approved collection c. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of a currently approved collection d. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired f. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing collection in use without an OMB control number For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions	4. Type of review requested (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Regular submission b. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency - Approval requested by _____ / _____ / _____ c. <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated
7. Title	5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
8. Agency form number(s) (<i>if applicable</i>)	6. Requested expiration date a. <input type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: _____ / _____
9. Keywords	10. Abstract
11. Affected public (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"</i>) a. ___ Individuals or households d. ___ Farms b. ___ Business or other for-profit e. ___ Federal Government c. ___ Not-for-profit institutions f. ___ State, Local or Tribal Government	12. Obligation to respond (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary b. <input type="checkbox"/> Required to obtain or retain benefits c. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory
13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden a. Number of respondents _____ b. Total annual responses _____ 1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically _____ % c. Total annual hours requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____	14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (<i>in thousands of dollars</i>) a. Total annualized capital/startup costs _____ b. Total annual costs (O&M) _____ c. Total annualized cost requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____
15. Purpose of information collection (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"</i>) a. ___ Application for benefits e. ___ Program planning or management b. ___ Program evaluation f. ___ Research c. ___ General purpose statistics g. ___ Regulatory or compliance d. ___ Audit	16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (<i>check all that apply</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Recordkeeping b. <input type="checkbox"/> Third party disclosure c. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting 1. <input type="checkbox"/> On occasion 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Annually 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Biennially 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____
17. Statistical methods Does this information collection employ statistical methods <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission) Name: _____ Phone: _____

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

- (a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;
- (b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;
- (c) It reduces burden on small entities;
- (d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;
- (e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;
- (f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;
- (g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):
 - (i) Why the information is being collected;
 - (ii) Use of information;
 - (iii) Burden estimate;
 - (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
 - (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
 - (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;
- (h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);
- (i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and
- (j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee

Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Line Office Chief Information Officer, head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or StaffOffice)

Signature

Date

Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer

Signature

Date

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
NOAA COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORTS
OMB CONTROL NO.: 0648-0472

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

This information collection is needed to assist in the administration and evaluation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Community-based Restoration Program (CRP), which began in 1996 with the goal of involving communities in local marine and estuarine habitat restoration. Each fiscal year, NOAA publishes Omnibus Federal Register Notice (FRN) (attached) that provides the general public with a single source of program and application information for NOAA's competitive grants programs. Interested parties are directed to full funding announcements at www.grants.gov, the federal "find and apply" web portal. The CRP announces a variety of competitive grants opportunities through the NOAA Omnibus FRN process that offer financial assistance for several categories of community-based activities including habitat restoration, marine debris removal, and dam and barrier removal endeavors. The full funding announcements contain a description of the eligible community-based activities, any program priorities, and the standard, NOAA-wide evaluation criteria against which applications are reviewed. Awards are made as grants or cooperative agreements under the authority of Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. 661 (attached), as amended by the Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1970 (attached). Applications for federal financial assistance are primarily submitted via the grants.gov website using the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)-approved federal application forms (required by OMB Circulars A-102 and A-110). Funding recommendations are determined through a competitive process involving technical merit review and ranking of the applications.

The CRP has evolved from funding a handful of projects, using end-of-the-year base funds transferred to regional offices for NOAA staff to conduct projects, to a full-fledged, nationally recognized competitive grants program with an appropriations line under the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Nearly 1200 projects have received NOAA funds since 1996. More awards are made annually, requests for individual project funding has increased, and projects have become more complex in scope and scale. It is more critical than ever to accurately track the status and success of funded projects to provide accountability for the CRP and NOAA on the expenditure of federal restoration funds. Collection of this information allows the CRP to respond quickly to inquiries from NOAA management, members of Congress and constituents, and more importantly, directly supports NOAA performance measure reporting under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) "acres restored" measure. It also allows NOAA, at present solely through information collected by the CRP, to contribute to the President's Wetlands Initiative tracking toward the 3 million acres of wetlands restored, enhanced and protected by 2010 goal.

Successful applicants are required by the NOAA Grants Management Division (GMD) to submit periodic performance reports and a final report for each award. This collection stipulates the information to be provided in these reports for projects supported through the CRP, and will

assist grantees in fulfilling their responsibilities to the GMD in meeting semi-annual and final progress report requirements. The GMD has determined that semiannual progress reports are needed to appropriately monitor projects and to ensure Federal monies are properly used. Successful applicants (grantees) must submit semiannual progress reports to NOAA describing the use of funds and progress of the project within 30 days after the end of each 6-month period of the award. This report must describe all tasks and expenditures scheduled and accomplished to date. Information contained in semiannual progress reports is used to monitor the progress of work on the grants and determine the appropriateness of continuing payments. A final report must be submitted to NOAA by grantees within 90 days after the completion of each project. Electronic reporting is not required, although over 75% of CRP grantees choose to submit progress reports via email. In 2006, NOAA is providing all active grantees access to its new back-end grants management system, Grants Online, that will further enable grantees to submit progress reports on line, with ease. The final report must comprehensively describe the project and include evaluation of the work performed in sufficient detail to enable NOAA to assess the completed project. Information in the final report is used to determine if project objectives were achieved.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used. If the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public, then explain how the collection complies with all applicable Information Quality Guidelines.

The information will be used by NOAA Restoration Center (RC) staff and contractors to populate a project tracking database on an ongoing basis. Results of staff queries to the database are currently used by upper level NOAA management to respond to congressional and constituent inquiries, provide an accurate accounting of 'acres restored' under the GPRA measure, and enable the RC to distinguish between acres of wetlands restored, enhanced and protected, which is required of contributions toward the President's goal of 3 million acres of wetland restoration, enhancement and protection by 2010. The database tracks sources and amounts of funding, volunteer numbers and volunteer hours contributed toward projects, provides a quality controlled subset of project data to the public through live links from the World Wide Web, and promotes planning through a web-based GIS mapping function.

The information collected is required only from those parties receiving NOAA CRP funds, and will focus on specific project sites where NOAA funds were used to implement habitat restoration activities. It is anticipated that the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support publicly disseminated information. As explained in the preceding paragraphs, the information gathered has utility. NOAA Fisheries will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy and electronic information. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. The information is subjected to quality control measures prior to project records being approved for the production mode of the database, and specific products produced from the data undergo a pre-dissemination review pursuant to Section 515 of Public Law 106-554.

Grantees are required to provide information in a two-part process consisting of a Progress Report Narrative that follows an outline provided by the NOAA Restoration Center and a Project Data Form for reporting project details (attached). Stakeholder feedback was collected from

CRP grantees in September 2005 on the overall effectiveness of the CRP, and suggestions for improvement were solicited. Feedback on progress reporting using the OMB approved information collection was overwhelmingly positive, and grantees understood the utility of the information they provided and felt that it helped improve their own program's internal operating procedures.

a. The information to be collected as a Progress Report Narrative includes:

- (1) Project Title.
- (2) Reporting Period. Semi-annual performance reports are required no later than 30 days following the end of each 6-month period from the start date of the award; comprehensive final reports are due 90 days after the expiration of the award.
- (3) Project Narrative. As this is largely covered in a grantee's initial application, this section is required only for the final comprehensive report to summarize the problems that the project addressed through the community-based activity, describe the short- and long-term objectives and goals and how they were met, and explain the relevance of the project to enhancing habitat and/or to benefiting living marine resources.
- (4) Methodology. This consists of a description of the specific methodology used to undertake on-the-ground activities during the reporting period to achieve the project goals and objectives, including specific techniques and materials used for the project.
- (5) Results/Progress to Date. This consists of a detailed description of the status of the project (planning/design, implementation, monitoring, completed) in terms of progress and results achieved during the reporting period. This information assists NOAA in determining if a project is on track and meeting the goals and objectives within the time frame outlined in the application, and provides information necessary for NOAA to accurately report on performance measures.
- (6) Monitoring and Maintenance Activities. This consists of a description of any monitoring and maintenance of a project that has taken place during the reporting period, and/or a description of the procedures that are being used for evaluating the relative success of a project. It also provides information on when NOAA can expect the results of monitoring efforts.
- (1) Community Involvement. This consists of a description of community support and public involvement in the project, including the roles of volunteers.
- (8) Outreach Activities. This consists of a description of outreach or educational activities such as training, production of brochures, videos, press releases or public events and similar activities related to the project that have occurred during the reporting period.
- (9) Supporting Materials. This consists of articles, news clippings, project photographs, project maps, related web sites, other evidence of NOAA support for the project and similar information to serve as an archival record of public perception of a project and credit for NOAA's involvement.
- (10) Funding Information. This consists of a budget table showing expenses incurred during the reporting period by object class for NOAA funds and matching contributions, and an accompanying budget narrative. The budget narrative briefly explains the expenditures appearing on the table, including an explanation of any differences between actual and scheduled expenditures that assists NOAA

in determining if a project is on track. The final report provides a comprehensive post-project budget breakdown showing actual expenditure of NOAA funds and matching contributions, the nature (cash or in-kind) and source of matching contributions, including documentation of volunteer hours and in-kind contributions, that is used to evaluate the leverage gained by NOAA investments.

- b. The information to be collected on the Project Data Form includes:
- (1) Contact Information - This section includes basic details necessary to identify and contact recipients of NOAA funds, such as primary contact name, address, affiliate organization, phone and fax numbers, email address, and organization website, if applicable;
 - (2) Project Information - This section includes basic project details, such as the project title, award number and reporting period, and details on the physical location of a project site, such as the city, county, state and congressional district(s) within which the project is located, a landmark that will help identify the project site, the zip code within which the project site is located and the longitude and latitude coordinates of the project site for producing GIS maps; the landownership status to determine if a project is occurring on public or private lands; the number of volunteers and volunteer hours dedicated to a project to determine socio-economic benefits of a project; a brief project description used for the purposes of congressional notification and/or press releases on funded projects; project implementation start and end dates to assist with the tracking and close-out of grants and cooperative agreements; a list of project partners and their contributions to the project; and a list of permits pending/acquired to implement the project, if applicable, to assist technical staff with ensuring NOAA is in compliance with federal environmental laws;
 - (3) Restoration and Monitoring Information - This consists of a table listing the habitat type(s) benefited by the project, including information on the actual number of acres and/or stream miles restored to date for a project, and the projected number of acres and/or stream miles to be restored with NOAA funds by the award end date, for the purposes of accurate reporting on NOAA performance measures and responding to inquiries from Congress; a brief description of indirect benefits that might have occurred as a result of the project; a list of common and/or scientific names of up to five organisms that benefit from the community-based activity, to evaluate a project's impact or potential benefit to NOAA trust resources; and a list of monitoring techniques used to complete the project and evaluate project success. This information is subjected to quality control via confirmation of responses by NOAA personnel through site visits, GIS mapping and/or conversations with the grantee, as applicable, prior to use of the data in production records of the project tracking database, as described above.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

The progress reports may be developed on a personal computer using Microsoft Word, which was selected as it is the most universally available word processing software. Grantees can save

the information in the first progress report and use the same file to produce subsequent reports, eliminating duplication, and allowing a simplified approach to producing a comprehensive final report. Electronic submission of the information collected is encouraged but not required, and currently more than 75% of grantees choose to respond via email, providing the information as an attachment. By the end of 2006, all active NOAA grantees will have access to NOAA Grants Online, and will be able to submit their report directly to this grants management system. The Progress Report Narrative format and Project Data Form are provided to recipients of NOAA CRP funds as a hard copy and are also available from the internet at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration>. For those grantees that have the technology available, to a limited extent the collection of project location information may involve the use of a hand-held Geographic Positioning System unit (GPS). This is not required however, since NOAA staff have a web-based GIS mapping function that can identify specific project sites if the information is not provided by the grantee. No other type of information technology is necessary to collect the majority of information that will be requested. A subset of the information that is collected is made available to the public over the internet once a database record is populated and approved for production, which ensures the data meets NOAA Section 515 Information Quality Guidelines.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

Based on discussions with staff from other federal programs that undertake similar types of granting activities related to habitat and fisheries and that collect project-specific data, no evidence of duplication of information collection could be found. This was further confirmed during a 2005 stakeholder workshop, where grantees were requested to provide feedback on this information collection. The information provided to NOAA by grantees is unique to each project and progress report, and is typically used by grantees to report on project status to interested parties outside NOAA.

5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.

Only successful applicants are required to submit semiannual and final progress reports. Specific instructions are provided to guide the preparation of semiannual and final reports to prevent submission of unnecessary information and to minimize the burden on grantees. The information to be collected is very basic in its nature and should not be a hardship or burden for small entities that receive NOAA community-based project funds to produce.

6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

If the information collection is discontinued, NOAA's ability to precisely account for the expenditure of federal funds for community-based activities, and provide accurate data to support GPRA 'acres restored' and other performance measures, will be compromised. NOAA will not be able to contribute to the President's wetlands initiative goals without otherwise tracking and distinguishing the component types of wetland restoration (restoration, enhancement and protection). Collections conducted less frequently will not meet the standards of the NOAA Grants Management Division for semi-annual reporting, and would make it more difficult to determine and correct poor grantee performance, since less frequent collection

provides insufficient information to monitor awards to ensure Federal monies are properly used. Altering collection frequency will also inhibit timely responses to Freedom of Information Act requests that may be submitted.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

The proposed collection of information will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with OMB guidelines.

8. Provide a copy of the PRA Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

A Federal Register Notice (attached) solicited public comment on this information collection renewal request. No comments were received. Consultations with interested and affected persons are an integral part of this information collection, and are accomplished by discussions with most current grantees to explain and clarify the information needed and solicit suggestions for improvement, typically on a one-on-one basis. The information collection was also recently discussed at a September 2005 stakeholder meeting specifically for CRP grantees. There was overwhelming support for the continued collection of this information; frequency of reporting and data elements were deemed appropriate, and data was readily available. Grantees recognized that this collection not only provides NOAA with data critical for the purposes discussed above, but that it will, over time, reveal status and trends within categories of projects to help grantees strengthen the technical aspects of similar project types proposed for funding consideration and improve NOAA decision making. Consultations will continue with current and future grantees as necessary to ensure they understand the information collection requirements and to solicit suggestions for improvements.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payments or gifts will be provided to respondents of this information collection other than remuneration of contractors or grantees implementing projects supported through the CRP.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

The information collection does not request any proprietary or confidential information. No confidentiality is provided.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

No information of a sensitive nature is collected.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.

Estimated burden hours and costs during one year for this renewed information collection will be 8240 hours and \$288,400 respectively, as shown below. Costs are based on an average of \$35 per hour for professional labor.

The Restoration Center currently provides 200 awards annually on average, with an award period of 24 months. Three semi-annual reports and one final report are required for each award over a 24-month period totaling 800 reports over the life of these projects. Each year 2 semi-annual reports from 200 new grantees and 1 semi-annual and 1 final report from the previous year's 200 grantees will be submitted.

(600 semi-annual reports X 9hr 48min each = 5880 hrs) +
(200 final reports X 11hr 48min each = 2360 hrs) = 800 reports per year and 8240 hours.

Interim report costs: 9hr 48min X \$35/hr = \$343

Final report costs: 11hr 48min X \$35/hr = \$413

600 semi-annual reports/year X \$343 = \$205,800

200 final reports/year X \$413 = \$82,600

TOTAL labor costs for reporting = \$288,400

Collection totals are 400 respondents, 800 responses, and 8,240 hours annually. This includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, and gathering and maintaining project information (photos, press releases, partner contributions, volunteer hours, tracking of multiple project sites, etc) needed to answer survey questions based on information that awardees should have readily available. Respondents are limited to those organizations that have received funding through the NOAA Community-based Restoration Program. The burden estimates were determined from a cross-section of recipients that have been using the existing approved information collection to report grants progress to the CRP and NOAA GMD.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in #12 above).

No capital or start-up costs are expected to result from this collection by the respondents. Any need for the purchase of a computer, software, or supplies required for project implementation, or for monitoring and data entry, are included as part of the grant request. Operations and maintenance costs are expected to be limited to copying documents for those respondents that choose to submit hard copies of progress reports and mailing costs of hard copies or electronic submissions on floppy disk or CD ROM. There is an average of 7 pages per progress report (5 pages of narrative and a 2 page form), with 3 copies required, for a total of 21 pages. The photocopy cost for a single report is \$1.05 (21 pages X .05 per copy) and the flat fee for express mail per package is \$13.65.

Photocopy cost:

$[(2 \text{ reports/year} \times 200 \text{ new respondents}) + (2 \text{ reports/year} \times 200 \text{ existing respondents})] \times \1.05
 $= \$840.00$

Mailing cost:

$[(2 \text{ reports/year} \times 200 \text{ new respondents}) + (2 \text{ reports/year} \times 200 \text{ existing respondents})] \times \13.65
 $= \$10,920$

Total annual cost burden to respondents = $\$11,760 \times 25\%$ (the percentage of respondents that do not submit electronically) = $\$2,940$

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

It is anticipated that twenty full-time employees (FTE) will devote no more than 5% of their time annually to input the information collected into a database, one FTE will devote no more than 5% of their time annually to supervise and task a contractor, and that one contractor will provide 10% of their time to maintain the database. With an annual average salary of \$75,000 per FTE at 5% time (20 FTEs \times \$3750 = \$75,000), and an annual salary for an ORACLE database contractor of \$100,000 at 10% time (\$10,000), the annualized cost to the Federal government to conduct this information collection is estimated to be \$85,000. No equipment, overhead, printing or other costs should be involved with the processing of this information collection.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB 83-I.

The annual recordkeeping and reporting burden is categorized as an adjustment, and has increased since the previously approved information collection for the following reasons: 1) an increase in program funding that has increased the number of recipients, and therefore, respondents; 2) an extension to the average award period of 6 months, which requires one additional report per respondent; and 3) an increase in the average award amount and complexity of the project, requiring more report completion time for a grantee.

The annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden, while not showing as a decrease on the 83-I, has decreased moderately since the previously approved information collection due to the fact that the majority of grantees choose to submit reports via email and no longer have copying and mailing costs charged to the grant.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

The results of this collection will not be published. A subset of the information is however made available to the public on the Restoration Center's home page at www.nmfs.gov/habitat/restoration, under the "Programs and Projects" link, where the public can view projects by location or habitat type, see the project location on a map, and review an abstract of the project including funding information, project partners, and a contact for more information.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

Not applicable.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of the OMB 83-I.

There are no exceptions.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not employ statistical methods.

NOAA Restoration Center

Community-based Restoration Program (CRP)

Progress Report Narrative Format

I. Project Title

II. Reporting Period (mm/01/yy - mm/dd/yy)

Semi-annual performance reports are required no later than 30 days following each 6-month period from the start date of the award; comprehensive final reports are due 90 days after the expiration of the award. Reporting periods start on the first day of a given month, and end on the last day of a given month.

III. Project Narrative (this section is required for the final comprehensive report only)

The project narrative should identify the *problems* that the project has addressed, describe short- and long-term *objectives and goals* and how they were met, and *explain the relevance* of the project to enhancing habitat and/or to benefiting living marine resources, including a description of any threatened or endangered species the project will benefit.

IV. Methodology

Describe the methodology used to undertake on-the-ground activities during this reporting period to achieve the project goals and objectives, including the specific techniques and materials used.

V. Results/Progress to Date

Describe in sufficient detail the status of the project (planning/design, implementation, monitoring, complete) in terms of progress and results achieved during the reporting period. This should include information such as the actual acreage that were restored/enhanced/protected or created to date (cumulative), and how this measurement was determined; projected acreage yet to be restored with CRP funds; miles of stream that were opened or will be opened for fish passage; lessons learned during this reporting period; challenges or potential roadblocks to future progress; and an updated timeline of remaining tasks needed to complete project.

VI. Monitoring and Maintenance Activities

Describe any monitoring and maintenance that has taken place during the reporting period and/or procedures that are being used to evaluate the relative success of the project in achieving its goals and objectives. When will monitoring results become available?

VII. Community Involvement

Describe community support and any public involvement in the project that has occurred during the reporting period, including the specific roles of volunteers in project activities.

VIII. Outreach Activities

Describe any outreach or educational activities (e.g. training, brochures, videos, press releases or public events) related to the project that has occurred during the reporting period.

IX. Supporting Materials

Please include any supporting materials relating to the project, such as articles/news clippings, project photographs (before, during, and after--high resolution images on CD ROM are appreciated), project maps, related web sites, and evidence of NOAA Community-based Restoration Program support (e.g. photographs of signs at project sites, funding credit on outreach materials, press releases with complete program name, etc.)

X. Funding Information (Cash and In-kind)

1. Itemized Budget table (similar to example below) showing expenses incurred during the reporting period, for both NOAA funds and matching contributions, as follows. Budget categories should correspond to those described in the approved proposal.

Budget Category (e.g. personnel, supplies, contractual, etc.)	NOAA Funds	Matching Contributions	Total Expense	Nature (cash or in-kind) and Source of Match
Willow trees	\$120		\$120	
Fish ladder	\$2500	\$2500	\$5000	Cash/Grantee
Contractor for dam removal	\$15,000		\$15,000	
Accountant	0	\$1200	\$1200	In-kind/Grantee

2. Budget Narrative: Briefly describe expenditures by category and explain any differences between actual and scheduled expenditures. Include documentation of volunteer hours and in-kind donations.

NOAA Restoration Center Community-based Restoration Program (CRP)

Project Data Form

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Name:

Contact Title:

Organization (Grantee):

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Organization website (if applicable):

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:

Project Award Number:

Project Reporting Period:

Project Location

City:

County:

State:

Zip Code:

Congressional District(s):

Landmark (e.g. road intersection, beach):

Land Ownership (check one):

Public:

Private:

Both:

Geographic Coordinates (in decimal degrees, if readily available)

Longitude (X-coord):

Are there multiple project

Yes

No

Latitude (Y-coord):

sites for this award?*

River Basin:

Geographic Identifier (e.g. Chesapeake Bay):

Project Start Date:

Project End Date:

Project Volunteers

Number of Volunteers:

Volunteer Hours:

* If multiple project sites are part of the same award, please duplicate this form and submit required information for each site

Brief Project Description (1-2 sentences) describing project and what it hopes to accomplish:

List of Project Partners and their contributions (e.g. cash, in-kind, goods and services, etc.)

If permits are required, please list the permits pending and those acquired to date:

RESTORATION INFORMATION- Please complete this section to the best of your ability. Information below will be confirmed via site visit or phone call by NOAA staff before the close-out of an award.

List the habitat type(s) and acres restored/enhanced/protected or created to date (cumulative) and remainder to be restored/enhanced/protected or created (projected) with CRP funds by the end date of the award. If the project restores fish passage, list the stream miles opened upstream and downstream for fish access. Actual and Projected columns should add up to the total(s) for acreage to be restored with CRP funds indicated in the approved proposal.

Habitat Type (e.g. tidal wetland, oyster reef, mangrove)	Actual Acres Restored (To date-cumulative)	Projected Acres (i.e. Remainder to be restored with CRP funds by award end date)	Actual Stream Miles Opened for Fish Access	Projected Stream Miles Opened for Fish Access (i.e. Remainder to be restored with CRP funds by award end date)

What indirect benefits resulted from this project? (e.g. improved water quality, increased awareness/stewardship):

List of species (fish, shellfish, invertebrates) benefiting from project (common name and/or genus and species):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

List of monitoring techniques used (e.g. salinity, fish counts, vegetation presence/absence):

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

Report Prepared By: _____
Signature Date

Please send semi-annual and final progress reports and supporting materials to:

NOAA Restoration Center F/HC3
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
ATTN: NOAA Community-based Restoration Program Progress Reports

The Progress Report Narrative Format and Project Data Form are available on the NOAA Restoration Center website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/community>. Electronic submissions are encouraged. Please submit electronic progress reports on PC compatible floppy disk or CD ROM in Microsoft Word, WordPerfect or PDF formats.

Be sure to save a copy of each report for your records; subsequent submissions of the Project Data Form need only add outstanding information, so that the form is completed in its entirety as part of the final comprehensive progress report.

Questions? Please call 301-713-0174 and ask to speak with NOAA Community-based Restoration Program staff

NOTICE

Responses to this collection are required of grant recipients to support the NOAA Community-based Restoration Program. The information provided will be used to evaluate the progress of the work proposed under the grant/cooperative agreement and determine whether the project conducted under the grant/cooperative agreement was successfully completed. Public reporting burden for completing the progress report narrative and project data form is estimated to average 9.8 hours for the interim report and 11.8 hours for the final report, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the information needed and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Responses to this information collection are required to retain funding provided by the NOAA Community-based Restoration Program. Confidentiality will not be maintained – the information will be available to the public. Send comments regarding this burden

estimate or any other aspects of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation, Restoration Division, F/HC3, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

The information collected will be reviewed for compliance with the NOAA Section 515 Guidelines established in response to the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, and certified before dissemination.

the webmaster below, or on CD-ROM, as comments submitted on diskettes are likely to be damaged by postal radiation treatment.

Comments received in electronic form will be made available to the public in Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the Import Administration Web site at the following address: <http://ia.ita.doc.gov/>.

Any questions concerning file formatting, document conversion, access on the Internet, or other electronic filing issues should be addressed to Andrew Lee Beller, Import Administration Webmaster, at (202) 482-0866, e-mail address: webmaster-support@ita.doc.gov.

Dated: June 24, 2005.

Joseph. A Spetrini,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

APPENDIX

The following questions are for consideration in commentary on the duty drawback adjustment in antidumping duty proceedings. In particular, the Department is interested in comments regarding the legal, policy and commercial rationale for the duty drawback adjustment and any proposed modifications to the Department's practice.

- (1) What should the requirements be for making a duty drawback adjustment in an antidumping proceeding? For example, should a party seeking such adjustment be required to demonstrate that it actually paid import duties that were not rebated on some portion of raw material inputs during the relevant period, *i.e.*, that exports did not account for all of the imported material in question? Please explain, in detail, any changes to the Department's current practice that would be required to implement such a modification.
- (2) How do you propose the amount of the adjustment should be determined, assuming that some domestically sourced and some imported material was used?
- (3) If duty drawback (or exemption) is claimed for some, but not all, exports incorporating the material input in question, how do you propose the amount of any duty drawback adjustment should be determined?
- (4) Please provide any additional views on any other matter pertaining to the Department's practice regarding duty drawback

adjustments.

[FR Doc. E5-3441 Filed 6-29-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-5

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 030602141-567-18; I.D. 061505A]

RIN 0648-ZB55

Availability of Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2006

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Omnibus notice announcing the availability of grant funds for fiscal year 2006.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announces the availability of grant funds for Fiscal Year 2006. The purpose of this notice is to provide the general public with a single source of program and application information related to the Agency's competitive grant offerings, and it contains the information about those programs required to be published in the **Federal Register**. This omnibus notice is designed to replace the multiple **Federal Register** notices that traditionally advertised the availability of NOAA's discretionary funds for its various programs. It should be noted that additional program initiatives unanticipated at the time of the publication of this notice may be announced through both subsequent **Federal Register** notices and the NOAA Web site. These announcements will also be available through [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

DATES: Proposals must be received by the date and time indicated under each program listing in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

ADDRESSES: Proposals must be submitted to the addresses listed in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for each program. The FR notices may be found on the NOAA Web site at <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/%7Egrants/funding.shtml>. The URL for [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) is <http://www.grants.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For a copy of the full funding opportunity announcement and/or application kit, please contact the person listed as the information contact under each program.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This omnibus notice describes funding

opportunities for the following NOAA discretionary grant programs:

NOAA Project Competitions

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service

1. Research in Satellite Oceanography
2. Research in Satellite Data Assimilation for Numerical and Climate Prediction Models.
3. Research in Primary Vicarious Calibration of Ocean Color Satellite Sensors.

National Marine Fisheries Service

1. Protected Species Conservation and Recovery with States.
2. John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program.
3. Community-based Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Project Grants.
4. Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans.
5. Community-based Habitat Restoration Project Grants.
6. Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education & Training (B-WET) Program.
7. FY06 Western Pacific Demonstration Projects.
8. MARFIN Fisheries Initiative Program (MARFIN) FY 2006.
9. Cooperative Research Program (CRP) FY 2006.
10. North Atlantic Right Whale Research Programs.
11. General Coral Reef Conservation.

National Ocean Service.

1. NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program—State and Territory Coral Reef Management.
2. NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program—State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring.
3. South Florida Program.
4. Northern Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Research Program (NGOMEX).
5. Ecological Forecasting.
6. NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program—International Coral Reef Conservation.
7. FY 2006 Bay Watershed Education & Training (B-WET) Program, Hawai'i.
8. Bay Watershed Education & Training (B-WET) Program, Monterey Bay Watershed.
9. National Estuarine Research Reserves System FY2006 Land Acquisition and Construction Competitive Program.
10. FY 2006 Coastal Services Center Environmental Characterization of a U.S. Coastal Region.
11. FY2006 Coastal Services Center Leadership Training for Coastal Managers and Scientists.
12. FY2006 Coastal Services Center Application of Spatial Technology for Coastal Management.

13. Coral Reef Ecosystem Studies (CRES) FY 2006.

14. FY2006 Coastal Services Center Performance Measurement Technical Assistance.

National Weather Service

1. AFWS—Automated Flood Warning Systems (AFWS) Program.
2. Hydrologic Research.

Oceans and Atmospheric Research

1. Ballast Water Technology Demonstration Program Competitive Funding Announcement (Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation Facility).
2. NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration Announcement of Opportunity, FY 2006.

3. Ballast Water Technology Demonstration Program Competitive Funding Announcement (Treatment Technology Demonstration Projects).

NOAA Fellowship, Scholarship and Internship Programs

National Ocean Service

1. Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program; Financial Assistance for Graduate Students.
2. National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRF).

Oceans and Atmospheric Research

1. GradFell 2006 C NMFS/Sea Grant Joint Graduate Fellowship Program in Marine Resource Economics.
2. Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship (Knauss Fellowship Program).
3. Sea Grant—Industry Fellowship Program.
4. GradFell 2006 NMFS/Sea Grant Joint Graduate Fellowship Program in Population Dynamics.

Electronic Access

The full funding announcement for each program is available via the Grants.gov Web site: <http://www.grants.gov>. These announcements will also be available at the NOAA Web site <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/%7Egrants/funding.shtml> or by contacting the program official identified below. You will be able to access, download and submit electronic grant applications for NOAA Programs in this announcement at <http://www.grants.gov>. The closing dates will be the same as for the paper submissions noted in this announcement. NOAA strongly recommends that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the application process through Grants.gov. Getting started with

Grants.gov is easy! Go to <http://www.Grants.gov>. There are two key features on the site: Find Grant Opportunities and Apply for Grants. Everything else on the site is designed to support these two features and your use of them. While you can begin searching for grant opportunities for which you would like to apply immediately, it is recommended that you complete the remaining Get Started steps sooner rather than later, so that when you find an opportunity for which you would like to apply, you are ready to go. Individuals who plan to submit a grant application using Grants.gov are required to *register with the Credential Provider* and *register with Grants.gov*. In order for you to apply as an individual, the grant application must be open to individuals and be published on the Grants.gov Web site.

Individuals do not need a DUNS number to register to submit applications. The system will generate a default value in that field.

Individuals who plan to submit a grant application using Grants.gov are required to *register with the Credential Provider* (Step 3 B and *register with Grants.gov* (Step 4 B).

Get Started Step 1 B Find Grant Opportunity for Which You Would Like To Apply

Start your search for Federal government-wide grant opportunities and register to receive automatic e-mail notifications of new grant opportunities or any modifications to grant opportunities as they are posted to the site by clicking the Find Grant Opportunities tab at the top of the page.

Get Started Step 2 B Organizations Must Register With Central Contractor Registry (CCR)

Your organization will also need to be registered with Central Contractor Registry. You can register with them online. This will take about 30 minutes. You should receive your CCR registration within 3 business days. Important: You must have a DUNS number from Dun & Bradstreet before you register with CCR. Many organizations already have a DUNS number. To determine if your organization already has a DUNS number or to obtain a DUNS number, contact Dun & Bradstreet at 1-866-705-5711. This will take about 10 minutes and is free of charge. Be sure to complete the Marketing Partner ID (MPIN) and Electronic Business Primary Point of Contact fields during the CCR registration process. These are mandatory fields that are required when

submitting grant applications through Grants.gov.

Get Started Step 3 B Register With the Credential Provider

You must register with a Credential Provider to receive a username and password. This will be required to securely submit your grant application.

Get Started Step 4 B Register With Grants.gov

The final step in the Get Started process is to register with Grants.gov. This will be required to submit grant applications on behalf of your organization. After you have completed the registration process, you will receive e-mail notification confirming that you are able to submit applications through Grants.gov.

Get Started Step 5 B Log on to Grants.gov

After you have registered with Grants.gov, you can log on to Grants.gov to verify if you have registered successfully, to check application status, and to update information in your applicant profile, such as your name, telephone number, e-mail address, and title. In the future, you will have the ability to determine if you are authorized to submit applications through Grants.gov on behalf of your organization.

Evaluation Criteria & Selection Procedures

NOAA standardized the evaluation and selection process for its competitive assistance programs. All proposals submitted in response to this notice shall be evaluated and selected in accordance with the following procedures. There are two sets of evaluation criteria and selection procedures, one for project proposals, and the other for fellowship, scholarship, and internship programs. These evaluation criteria and selection procedures apply to all of the programs included below.

Proposal Review and Selection Process for Projects

Some programs may include a pre-application process which provides an initial review and feedback to the applicants that have responded to a call for letters of intent or pre-proposals; however, not all programs will include such a process. If a pre-application process is used by a program, it shall be described in the Summary Description and the deadline shall be provided in the Application Deadline section. Upon receipt of a full application by NOAA, an initial administrative review is

conducted to determine compliance with requirements and completeness of the application. Merit review is conducted by mail reviewers and/or peer panel reviewers.

Each reviewer will individually evaluate and rank proposals using the evaluation criteria provided below. A minimum of three merit reviewers per proposal is required. The merit reviewer's ratings are used to produce a rank order of the proposals. The NOAA Program Officer may review the ranking of the proposals and make recommendations to the Selecting Official based on the mail and/or panel review(s) and selection factors listed below. The Selecting Official selects proposals after considering the mail and/or peer panel review(s) and recommendations of the Program Officer. In making the final selections, the Selecting Official will award in rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based upon one or more of the selection factors below. The Program Officer and/or Selecting Official may negotiate the funding level of the proposal. The Selecting Official makes final recommendations for award to the Grants Officer who is authorized to obligate the funds.

Evaluation Criteria for Projects

1. Importance and/or relevance and applicability of proposed project to the program goals: This ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, Federal, regional, State, or local activities.
2. Technical/scientific merit: This assesses whether the approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and objectives.
3. Overall qualifications of applicants: This ascertains whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project.
4. Project costs: The Budget is evaluated to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time-frame.
5. Outreach and education: NOAA assesses whether this project provides a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nation's natural resources.

Selection Factors for Projects

The merit review ratings shall provide a rank order to the Selecting Official for final funding recommendations. A

program officer may first make recommendations to the Selecting Official applying the selection factors below. The Selecting Official shall award in the rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based upon one or more of the following factors:

1. Availability of funding.
2. Balance/distribution of funds:
 - a. Geographically.
 - b. By type of institutions.
 - c. By type of partners.
 - d. By research areas.
 - e. By project types.
3. Whether this project duplicates other projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA or other Federal agencies.
4. Program priorities and policy factors.
5. Applicant's prior award performance.
6. Partnerships and/or Participation of targeted groups.
7. Adequacy of information necessary for NOAA staff to make a NEPA determination and draft necessary documentation before recommendations for funding are made to the Grants Officer.

Proposal Review and Selection Process for NOAA Fellowship, Scholarship and Internship Programs

Some programs may include a pre-application process which provides an initial review and feedback to the applicants that have responded to a call for letters of intent or pre-proposals; however not all programs will include such a process. If a pre-application process is used by a program, it shall be described in the Summary Description and the deadline shall be provided in the Application Deadline section. An initial administrative review of full applications is conducted to determine compliance with requirements and completeness of applications. A merit review is conducted to individually evaluate, score, and rank applications using the evaluation criteria. A second merit review may be conducted on the applicants that meet the program's threshold (based on scores from the first merit review) to make selections using the selection factors provided below. The Program Officer may conduct a review of the rank order and make recommendations to the Selecting Official based on the panel ratings and the selection factors listed below. The Selecting Official considers merit reviews and recommendations. The Selecting Official will award in rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based upon one or more of the selection factors

below. The Selecting Official makes final recommendations for award to the Grants Officer who is authorized to obligate the funds.

Evaluation Criteria for Fellowship/Scholarships/Internships

1. Academic record and statement of career goals and objectives of student.
2. Quality of project and applicability to program priorities.
3. Recommendations and/or endorsements of student.
4. Additional relevant experience related to diversity of education; extra-curricular activities; honors and awards; interpersonal, written, and oral communications skills.
5. Financial need of student.

Selection Factors for Fellowship/Scholarships/Internships

1. Balance/Distribution of funds:
 - a. Across academic disciplines.
 - b. By types of institutions.
 - c. Geographically.
2. Availability of funds.
3. Program-specific objectives.
4. Degree in scientific area and type of degree sought NOAA Project Competitions.

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service

1. Research in Satellite Oceanography

Summary Description: The National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS), Office of Research and Applications (ORA), announces the availability of Federal assistance in the area of satellite oceanography. This program responds to a need for research and activities that expand the use of satellite oceanographic data. Funded proposals will help build capabilities nationwide in the application of satellite oceanographic data for environmental monitoring, prediction, and coastal management. Program priorities include research in ocean color, sea ice, ocean vector winds, sea surface height, sea surface temperature, and sea surface roughness.

Funding Availability: The total amount available for proposals is anticipated to be approximately \$375,000 per year. Individual annual awards in the form of grants or cooperative agreements are expected to range from \$50,000 per year to a maximum of \$125,000 per year for no more than two years.

Statutory Authority: Statutory authority for this program is provided under 33 U.S.C. 883d, 33 U.S.C. 1442, and 49 U.S.C. 4472(b).

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.440,

Environmental Sciences, Applications, Data, and Education.

Application Deadline: Proposals must be received no later than 4 p.m. eastern daylight time, September 23, 2005.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Proposals must be submitted electronically via <http://www.grants.gov>, or as hard copy (by postal mail, commercial delivery service, or hand delivery) to the Office of Research and Applications of NESDIS. Hard copy proposals must be submitted to: ATTN: William Pichel, NOAA/NESDIS/ORA; WWB Room 601, 5200 Auth Road, Camp Springs, MD 20746. Tel: 301-763-8231 X166.

Information Contacts: Administrative questions: Kathy LeFevre, by phone at 301-763-8127 ext. 103, fax: 301-763-8108, or e-mail:

Kathy.LeFevre@noaa.gov. Technical questions: William Pichel (NOAA Program Officer), by phone at 301-763-8231 ext. 166, or fax to 301-763-8020, or via e-mail:

William.G.Pichel@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applications can be from U.S. institutions of higher education, other non-profits, commercial organizations, and State, local and Indian tribal governments. U.S. Federal agencies or institutions are eligible to receive Federal assistance under this Notice as sub-awardees only and are limited in the amount of assistance to be received to not more than 25% of the total budget (direct plus indirect costs) requested in the proposal.

Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

Intergovernmental Review:

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

2. Research in Satellite Data Assimilation for Numerical and Climate Prediction Models

Summary Description: The Joint Center for Satellite Data Assimilation (JCSDA) announces the availability of Federal assistance for research in the area of satellite data assimilation in numerical weather and climate prediction models. The goal of the JCSDA is to accelerate the use of observations from earth-orbiting satellites in operational numerical prediction models for the purpose of improving weather forecasts, improving seasonal to interannual climate forecasts, and increasing the physical accuracy of climate data sets. The advanced instruments of current and planned NOAA, NASA, DoD, and international agency satellite missions will provide large volumes of data on

atmospheric, oceanic, and land surface conditions with accuracies and spatial resolutions never before achieved. The JCSDA will ensure that the nation realizes the maximum benefit of its investment in space as part of an advanced global observing system. Funded proposals will help accelerate the use of satellite data from both operational and experimental spacecraft in operational and product driven weather and climate prediction environments, develop community radiative transfer models, develop improved surface emissivity models, and advance data assimilation science. This Federal Funding Opportunity is being managed by NOAA on behalf of the JCSDA. Applicants are encouraged to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) describing the proposed work and its relevance to targeted priority project areas. The purpose of the LOI process is to provide information to potential applicants on the relevance of their proposed project to JCSDA and the likelihood of it being funded in advance of preparing a full proposal.

Funding Availability: Total funding available is anticipated to be approximately \$1 million. Individual annual awards in the form of grants or cooperative agreements are expected to range from \$50,000 to \$150,000.

Statutory Authority: Statutory authorities for this program are provided under 15 U.S.C. 313, 49 U.S.C. 44720(b); 15 U.S.C. 2901 *et seq.*

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.440, Environmental Sciences, Applications, Data, and Education.

Preapplication/Application Deadline: Letters of Intent (LOIs) must be received by NOAA/NESDIS no later than 5 p.m. eastern daylight time, August 1, 2005, and full proposals must be received no later than 5 p.m. eastern daylight time, October 3, 2005.

Address for Submitting Letters of Intent and Proposals: LOIs must be mailed or e-mailed to James G. Yoe, Deputy Director, Joint Center for Satellite Data Assimilation, 5200 Auth Road, Room 701, Camp Springs, MD 20746-4304, e-mail to:

James.G.Yoe@noaa.gov. Full proposals should be submitted through <http://www.grants.gov/> unless the applicant does not have Internet access. In that case hard copies may be sent to the above address.

Information Contact(s): James G. Yoe, JCSDA, NOAA/NESDIS, 5200 Auth Road, Room 810; Camp Springs, Maryland 20746, or by phone at 301-763-8172 ext. 186, or fax to 301-763-8149, or via Internet at James.G.Yoe@noaa.gov or Kathy

LeFevre, NOAA/NESDIS; 5200 Auth Road, Room 701; Camp Springs, Maryland 20746, or by phone at 301-763-8127 ext. 107, or fax to 301-763-8108, or via Internet at Kathy.LeFevre@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, other nonprofits, commercial organizations, international organizations, and state, local and Indian tribal governments. Federal agencies or institutions are not eligible to receive Federal assistance under this notice.

Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

Intergovernmental Review:

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

3. Research in Primary Vicarious Calibration of Ocean Color Satellite Sensors

Summary Description: The Office of Research and Applications (ORA) announces the availability of Federal assistance in the research area of ocean color satellite sensor calibration and validation. ORA is committed to improving the vicarious calibration capabilities of a Marine Optical Buoy (MOBY) system located in Hawaii, with an ultimate goal of a continuous, climate-quality time-series of normalized water-leaving spectral radiances across multiple agency missions and ocean color satellite sensors. Research efforts are focused on the reduction of the total uncertainty budget in the determination of the normalized water-leaving radiances from MOBY measurements, improvements in the process used with the MOBY system for validation of ocean color satellite sensor retrievals of water-leaving spectral radiances, and the development of new MOBY system components which would increase measurement integrity. These advances in vicarious calibration capabilities would improve the quality and accuracy of ocean color satellite sensor bio-optical product retrievals.

Funding Availability: Funding is anticipated to range from a minimum of \$900,000 to a maximum of \$1,100,000 per year for no more than two years. Only one applicant will receive an award.

Statutory Authority: Statutory authority for this program is provided under 33 U.S.C. 883d and 33 U.S.C. 1442.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.440, Environmental Sciences, Applications, Data, and Education.

Application Deadline: Proposals must be received by 4 p.m. eastern daylight time on September 1, 2005. For proposals submitted through <http://www.grants.gov>, a date and time receipt indication is included and will be the basis of determining timeliness. Hard copy proposals will be date and time stamped when they are received in the program office.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Hard copy proposals should be sent to Marilyn Yuen-Murphy; DOC/NOAA/NESDIS/ORR; 5200 Auth Rd., Rm. 104; Camp Springs, MD 20746. Electronic applications should be submitted through Grants.gov.

Information Contact(s): Marilyn Yuen-Murphy by telephone (301-763-8102 x159), fax (301-763-8020), or e-mail (Marilyn.Yuen.Murphy@noaa.gov); or Kathy LeFevre by telephone (301-763-8127 x103), fax (301-763-8108), or e-mail (Kathy.Lefevre@noaa.gov).

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are U.S. institutions of higher education, other non-profits, commercial organizations, and state, local and Indian tribal governments.

Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

National Marine Fisheries Service

1. Protected Species Conservation and Recovery With States

Summary Description: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the availability of Federal assistance to support the conservation of threatened and endangered species, recently de-listed species, candidate species, and species of concern under the jurisdiction of the NMFS or under the joint jurisdiction of the NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (e.g., sea turtles). Any state that has entered into an agreement with the NMFS and maintains an adequate and active program for the conservation of endangered and threatened species pursuant to section 6(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) is eligible to apply. These financial assistance awards can be used to support management, research, monitoring, or outreach activities that provide direct conservation benefits to listed species, recently de-listed species, candidate species, or species of concern that reside within that state. Projects involving North Atlantic right whales will not be considered for funding under this grant program; such projects

may be funded under the North Atlantic Right Whale Research Program.

Funding Availability: Approximately \$1.0M in funding may be available for grants in FY 2006. Award periods may extend up to 3 years with annual funding contingent on the availability of Federal appropriations. There are no restrictions on maximum or minimum award amounts.

Statutory Authority: Under section 6 of the ESA, the NMFS is authorized to provide Federal assistance to eligible states for the purpose of conserving marine and anadromous species that reside within that state (16 U.S.C. 1535).

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.472, Unallied Science Programs.

Application Deadline: Proposals must be received by 5 p.m. eastern time on September 9, 2005.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals online through Grants.gov. If online submission is not possible, applications may also be submitted to NOAA/NMFS/Office of Protected Resources, Attn: Lisa Manning, 1315 East-West Highway, room 13633, Silver Spring, MD 20910; e-mail: lisa.manning@noaa.gov.

Information Contacts: Lisa Manning, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; e-mail: lisa.manning@noaa.gov; phone: 301-713-1401.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are states or their respective state agencies that have entered into an agreement with the NMFS pursuant to section 6(c) of the ESA. The term "State" means any of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The term "State agency" means any State agency, department, board, commission, or other governmental entity that is responsible for the management and conservation of fish, plant, or wildlife resources within a State.

Cost Sharing Requirements: In accordance with section 6(d) of the ESA, all proposals submitted must include a minimum non-Federal cost share of 25 percent of the total budget if the proposal involves a single state. If a proposal involves collaboration of two or more states, the minimum non-Federal cost share decreases to 10 percent of the total project budget.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

2. John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program

Summary Description: NMFS is inviting eligible marine mammal stranding network participants to submit proposals to fund the recovery or treatment (i.e., rescue and rehabilitation) of live stranded marine mammals, data collection from living or dead stranded marine mammals for scientific research regarding marine mammal health, and facility operations directly related to the recovery or treatment of stranded marine mammals and collection of data from living or dead stranded marine mammals. The Prescott Grant Program is administered through the NMFS Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program (MMHSRP). It is anticipated that awards funded through the Prescott Grant Program will facilitate achievement of MMHSRP goals and objectives by providing financial assistance to eligible stranding network participants. Proposals selected for funding through this solicitation will be implemented through either a grant or cooperative agreement.

Funding Availability: Funding of up to \$4,000,000 is expected to be available in FY 2006. The maximum Federal award for each grant cannot exceed \$100,000, as stated in the legislative language (16 U.S.C. 1421f-1). Applicants are hereby given notice that these funds have not yet been appropriated for this program and therefore exact dollar amounts cannot be given.

Statutory Authority: The Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Act of 2000 amended the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) to establish the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program (16 U.S.C. 1421f-1).

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.439 Marine Mammal Data Program.

Application Deadline: Applications for funding under the Prescott program must be received by or postmarked by 11:59 p.m. eastern daylight time on August 15, 2005.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applications should either be submitted online at <http://www.grants.gov> or sent to: NOAA/NMFS/Office of Protected Resources, Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program, Attn: Michelle Ordonez, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 12604, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283, phone 301-713-2322 ext 177.

Information Contact(s): Janet Whaley, Michelle Ordonez, or Sarah Wilkin at (301) 713-2322, by fax at (301) 713-

0376, or by e-mail at Janet.Whaley@noaa.gov, Michelle.Ordone@noaa.gov, or Sarah.Wilkin@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: There are 5 categories of eligible stranding network participants that may apply for funds under this Program: (1) Letter of Agreement (LOA) holders; (2) LOA designee organizations; (3) researchers; (4) official Northwest Region participants; and, (5) State, local, eligible Federal government employees or tribal employees or personnel. In order for these organizations and individuals to apply for award funds under the Prescott Grant Program, they must meet eligibility criteria specific to their category of participation.

Cost Sharing Requirements: All proposals submitted must provide a minimum non-Federal cost share of 25 percent of the total budget (i.e., .25 x total project costs = total non-Federal share).

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

3. Community-Based Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Project Grants

Summary Description: NMFS is inviting the public to submit proposals for funding available through the NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) to implement grass-roots projects to prevent or remove marine debris that will benefit living marine resource habitats and navigational waterways. Projects funded through the NOAA Community-based Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Project Grants competition will be expected to have strong on-the-ground marine debris prevention or removal components that provide educational and social benefits for people and their communities in addition to long-term ecological habitat improvements for NOAA trust resources. Proposals selected for funding through this solicitation will be implemented through cooperative agreements. Marine debris removal may include, but is not limited to:

- Detection and removal of derelict fishing gear;
- Removal of solid waste material in coastal habitats including marshes, bays, mangroves, and coral reefs;
- Shoreline clean-ups including a targeted outreach/education component;
- Removal of debris from marine, estuarine or beach environments resulting from hurricanes or other natural disasters;
- Detection and removal of derelict pilings, bulkheads and similar obsolete

materials that pose a hazard to navigation or diminish habitat quality.

Marine debris prevention may include, but is not limited to:

- Training for the safe removal of derelict fishing gear, ghost nets, and other debris adversely impacting coastal habitats;
- Monitoring cleaned areas to determine re-accumulation rates;
- Prevention activities related to reception facilities at marinas and fishing ports including recycling initiatives for monofilament fishing line and other types of fishing gear, or debris; and
- The development of debris reduction incentives for prevention, removal, and safe disposal of plastics and derelict fishing gear.

Funding Availability: Funding of up to \$2,000,000 is expected to be available for Community-based Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Projects in FY 2006. The NOAA Restoration Center anticipates that typical project awards will range from \$15,000 to \$100,000.

Statutory Authority: The Secretary of Commerce is authorized under the Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act, 33 U.S.C. 1901 *et seq.*, to award grants, enter into cooperative agreements with appropriate officials of other Federal agencies and agencies of States and political subdivisions of States and with public and private entities, and provide other financial assistance to eligible recipients to educate the public (including recreational boaters, fishermen, and other users of the marine environment) regarding the harmful effects of plastic pollution; the need to reduce such pollution; the need to recycle plastic materials.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.463 Habitat Conservation.

Application Deadline: Applications for project funding under the MDP must be submitted via grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. e.s.t. on October 12, 2005 or if mailed, postmarked by 11:59 p.m. e.s.t. on October 12, 2005.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applicants should apply through <http://www.grants.gov>. If Internet access is unavailable, paper applications should be sent to Christopher D. Doley, Director, NOAA Restoration Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway (F/HC3), Silver Spring, MD 20910; ATTN: MDP Project Applications.

Information Contact(s): For further information contact Elizabeth Fairey (Liz.Fairey@noaa.gov or 301-713-3459) or Robin Bruckner

(Robin.Bruckner@noaa.gov or 301-713-0174).

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, hospitals, other non-profits, commercial (for profit) organizations, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, international organizations, State, local and Indian tribal governments. Applications from Federal agencies or employees of Federal agencies will not be considered.

Cost Sharing Requirements: 1:1 non-Federal match is encouraged and will be considered in the review process, but applicants with less than 1:1 match will not be disqualified.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

4. Projects To Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans

Summary Description: The NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program is soliciting applications from the Regional Fishery Management Councils for projects to conserve and manage coral reef fishery resources. The objectives of this program are to reduce the adverse impacts of fishing and other extractive uses within coral reef ecosystems, and incorporate conservation and sustainable management measures into existing or new Federal fishery management plans (FMPs) for coral reef species. Projects must address one or more of the following 7 categories: (1) Identification, mapping and characterization of EFH, HAPC, or reef fish spawning aggregation sites; (2) monitoring reef fish stocks; (3) efforts to reduce overfishing of coral reef resources; (4) identification and reduction of adverse effects of fishing gear, including the elimination of destructive and habitat-damaging fishing practices; (5) assessment of the adequacy of current coral reef fishing regulations; (6) education and outreach efforts to recreational and commercial fishers; and (7) ecosystem-scale studies and inclusion of ecosystem approaches into coral reef FMPs. Priority will be given for coral reef activities in the Council's jurisdiction, although complementary activities of high conservation value within state waters that are fully coordinated with appropriate state, territory or commonwealth management authorities are also acceptable. This program is part of the Coral Reef Conservation Program under the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and is not intended to support normal Council activities or responsibilities. Proposals can include

the support for a maximum of one full-time equivalent working exclusively on Council coral reef conservation activities. Councils may submit an application of up to 25 pages that includes a cover sheet, project summary, narrative project description, narrative budget summary and Federal forms. Selected applicants may be asked to revise award objectives, work plans or budgets prior to submission of a final application.

Funding Availability: The total anticipated available funding is \$1,050,000 with a maximum of \$525,000 available for activities in the Western Pacific, and a maximum of \$525,000 available for activities in the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean. Funding will be subject to the availability of Federal appropriations.

Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 6403. *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:* 11.441 Regional Fishery Management Councils.

Application Deadlines: Applications must be received before midnight, eastern standard time, on November 15, 2005. Final revised applications must be received before midnight, eastern standard time on March 3, 2006.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applications should be submitted electronically to <http://www.grants.gov>, or by surface mail to David Kennedy, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, Office of Response and Restoration, N/ORR, Room 10102, NOAA National Ocean Service, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Information Contact(s): Andy Bruckner, Office of Habitat Conservation, F/HC1, Room 15836, NOAA Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, phone 301-713-3459 extension 190, e-mail at andy.bruckner@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Applicants are limited to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, and the Caribbean Fishery Management Council.

Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

Intergovernmental Review:

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

5. Community-based Habitat Restoration Project Grants

Summary Description: NMFS is inviting the public to submit proposals for available funding to implement grass-roots habitat restoration projects

that will benefit living marine resources, including anadromous fish, under the NOAA Community-based Restoration Program (CRP). Projects funded through the CRP will be expected to have strong on-the-ground habitat restoration components that provide long-term ecological habitat improvements for NOAA trust resources as well as educational and social benefits for people and their communities. Proposals selected for funding through this solicitation will be implemented through cooperative agreements.

Funding Availability: Funding of up to \$3,000,000 is expected to be available for Community-based Habitat Restoration Project Grants in FY 2006. The NOAA Restoration Center (RC) anticipates that typical project awards will range from \$50,000 to \$200,000.

Statutory Authority: The Secretary of Commerce is authorized under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. 661, as amended by the Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1970, to provide grants or cooperative agreements for fisheries habitat restoration.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.463 Habitat Conservation.

Application Deadline: Applications for project funding under the CRP must be submitted via [grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) by 11:59 PM EST, October 12, 2005 or if mailed, postmarked by 11:59 p.m. e.s.t., October 12, 2005.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applicants should apply through <http://www.grants.gov>. If internet access is unavailable, paper applications should be sent to Christopher D. Doley, Director, NOAA Restoration Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway (F/HC3), Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282; ATTN: CRP Project Applications.

Information Contact(s): Melanie Gange or Robin Bruckner at (301) 713-0174, or by fax at (301) 713-0184, or by e-mail at Melanie.Gange@noaa.gov or Robin.Bruckner@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, hospitals, other non-profits, commercial (for profit) organizations, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, international organizations, State, local and Indian tribal governments. Applications from Federal agencies or employees of Federal agencies will not be considered.

Cost Sharing Requirements: 1:1 non-Federal match is encouraged, but applicants with less than 1:1 match will not be disqualified. The nature of the contribution (cash versus in-kind) and

the amount/value will be considered in the review process.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

6. Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education & Training (B-WET) Program

Summary Description: The Chesapeake B-WET grant program is a competitively based program that supports existing environmental education programs, fosters the growth of new programs, and encourages the development of partnerships among environmental education programs throughout the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed. Funded projects assist in meeting the Stewardship and Community Engagement goals of the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement. Projects support organizations that provide students "meaningful" Chesapeake Bay or stream outdoor experiences and teachers professional development opportunities in the area of environmental education related to the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Funding Availability: This solicitation announces that approximately \$2.2M may be available in FY 2006 in award amounts to be determined by the proposals and available funds. Annual funding is anticipated to maintain partnerships for up to 3 years duration, but is dependant on funding made available by Congress. Applicants are hereby given notice that funds have not yet been appropriated for this program.

1. About \$1.0M will be for exemplar programs that successfully integrate teacher professional development in the Chesapeake Bay watershed with in-depth classroom study and outdoor experiences for their students.

2. About \$600K will be for proposals that provide opportunities for students (K through 12) to participate in "Meaningful" Watershed Educational Experiences related to Chesapeake Bay.

3. About \$600K will be for proposals that provide opportunities for Professional Development in the area of Chesapeake Bay watershed education for teachers.

The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office anticipates that typical awards for B-WET Exemplar Programs that successfully integrate teacher professional development with in-depth classroom student and outdoor experiences for their students will range from \$50,000 to \$200,000. Projects that represent either meaningful watershed educational experiences for students or teacher professional development in

watershed education will range from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 661; 15 U.S.C. 1540.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.457; Chesapeake Bay Studies, Education.

Application Deadline: Proposals must be received by 5 p.m. eastern time on October 24, 2005.

Address for Submitting Proposal: Electronic submission: <http://www.grants.gov/>. Search using the following Federal Funding Opportunity Number: [XXXXXX]. Hard copies may be submitted by postal mail, commercial delivery service, or hand-delivery. Proposals being submitted in hard copy must be sent to: NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office; Education Coordinator; 410 Severn Avenue, Suite 107A; Annapolis, Maryland 21403.

Information Contact(s): Shannon W. Sprague, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, 410 Severn Avenue, Suite 107A, Annapolis, MD 2140.

Shannon.Sprague@noaa.gov or 410-267-5664.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are K-through-12 public and independent schools and school systems, institutions of higher education, community-based and nonprofit organizations, State or local government agencies, interstate agencies, and Indian tribal governments in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Cost Sharing Requirements: No cost sharing is required under this program, however, the NCBO strongly encourages applicants applying for either area of interest to share as much of the costs of the award as possible. Funds from other Federal awards may not be considered matching funds. The nature of the contribution (cash versus in-kind) and the amount of matching funds will be taken into consideration in the review process. Priority selection will be given to proposals that propose cash rather than in-kind contributions.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

7. FY06 Western Pacific Demonstration Projects

Project Summary: NMFS is soliciting applications for financial assistance for Western Pacific Demonstration Projects. Eligible applicants are encouraged to submit projects intended to foster and promote use of traditional indigenous fishing practices and/or develop or enhance Western Pacific community-based fishing opportunities benefiting the island communities in American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, and the Northern

Mariana Islands. Projects may also request support for research and the acquisition of materials and equipment necessary to carry out such project proposals.

Funding Availability: Total funding available is anticipated to be approximately \$500,000. It is anticipated that 3 to 5 awards will be made for each fiscal year covered by this notice.

Statutory Authority: The Secretary is authorized to make direct grants to eligible western Pacific communities pursuant to Section 111(b) of Pub. L. 104-297, as amended, and published within 16 U.S.C. 1855 note.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.452, Unallied Industry Projects.

Application Deadline: Project proposals and completed grant applications must be postmarked or received by 5 p.m. Hawaii standard time on October 28, 2005. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply electronically at <http://www.grants.gov/>.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Project proposals and grant applications must be sent to: the Federal Program Officer for Western Pacific Demonstration Projects, Pacific Islands Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1601 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 1110, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814.

Information Contacts: Scott W.S. Bloom (NMFS) at 808-973-2937, or by e-mail at Scott.Bloom@noaa.gov; or Charles Ka'ai'ai (Council), 808-522-8220 or by e-mail at Charles.Kaai'ai@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are limited to communities in the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Area, as defined at section 305(i)(2)(D) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), 16 U.S.C. 1855(i)(2)(D); and meet the standards for determining eligibility set forth in section 305(i)(2)(B) of the Act, 16 U.S.C. 1855(i)(2)(B). The eligibility criteria developed by the Council and approved by the Secretary to participate in western Pacific community development programs was published in the **Federal Register** on April 16, 2002 (67 FR 18512, 18513).

Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs".

8. MARFIN Fisheries Initiative Program (MARFIN) FY 2006

Summary Description: The NMFS Southeast Regional Office is inviting the

public to submit research and development projects that will optimize the use of fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico and off the South Atlantic states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida involving the U.S. fishing industry (recreational and commercial), including fishery biology, resource assessment, socioeconomic assessment, management and conservation, selected harvesting methods, and fish handling and processing. Proposals may be selected for funding for up to three years through a cooperative agreement.

Funding Availability: Approximately \$2.5 million may be available in fiscal year (FY) 2006 for projects. This amount includes possible in-house projects. The NMFS Southeast Regional Office anticipates that typical project awards will range from \$35,000 to \$300,000. The average award is \$108,000.

Statutory Authority: 15 U.S.C. 713c-3(d).

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.433 Marine Fisheries Initiative.

Application Deadline: We must receive your application by close of business (5 p.m. eastern daylight time) on August 15, 2005. Applications received after that time will not be considered for funding.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applications should be submitted through <http://www.grants.gov/>. If an applicant does not have Internet access, hard copies should be sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service, State/Federal Liaison Branch, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

Information Contact: Scot Plank, State/Federal Liaison Branch at (727) 824-5324.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include Institutions of higher education, other nonprofits, commercial organizations, State, local and Indian tribal governments. Federal agencies or institutions are not eligible. Foreign governments, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, and international organizations are excluded for purposes of this solicitation since the objective of the MARFIN program is to optimize research and development benefits from U.S. marine fishery resources.

Cost Sharing Requirements: Cost-sharing is not required.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

9. Cooperative Research Program (CRP) FY 2006

Summary Description: The NMFS Southeast Regional Office is inviting the public to submit research and development projects that seek to increase and improve the working relationship between researchers from the NMFS, state fishery agencies, universities, and fishermen. The program is a means of involving commercial and recreational fishermen in the collection of fundamental fisheries information. Collection efforts support the development and evaluation of management and regulatory options. Projects accepted for funding will need to be completed within 24 months.

Funding Availability: Approximately \$2.0 million may be available in fiscal year 2006 for projects. The NMFS Southeast Regional Office anticipates that typical project awards will range from \$40,000 to \$475,000. The average award is \$190,000.

Statutory Authority: 15 U.S.C. 713c-3(d).

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.454 Unallied Management Projects.

Application Deadline: We must receive your application by 5 p.m. eastern daylight time on August 29, 2005. Applications received after that time will not be considered for funding.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applications should be submitted through <http://www.grants.gov>. If an applicant does not have Internet access, hard copies should be sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service, State/Federal Liaison Branch, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

Information Contact: Scot Plank, State/Federal Liaison Branch at (727) 824-5324.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include Institutions of higher education, other nonprofits, commercial organizations, state, local and Indian tribal governments and individuals. Federal agencies or institutions are not eligible. Foreign governments, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, and international organizations are excluded for purposes of this solicitation since the objective of the CRP is to optimize research and development benefits from U.S. marine fishery resources. Applicants who are not commercial or recreational fisherman must have commercial or recreational fishermen participating in their project. There must be a written agreement with a fisherman describing the involvement in the project activity. All applicants must include a written agreement with a person employed by

the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), who will act as a partner in the proposed research project. The NMFS partner will assist the applicant to develop a design (statistical or analytical) for the project to assure that the outcome will provide suitable, scientific data and results to support needed fisheries management information.

Cost Sharing Requirements: Cost-sharing is not required.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

10. North Atlantic Right Whale Research Programs

Summary Description: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is soliciting applications for Federal assistance under the North Atlantic Right Whale Grant Program (RWGP). Under the RWGP, NMFS provides financial assistance to eligible researchers working within waters inhabited by North Atlantic right whales and submitting applications pertaining only to this species. Applications must fall within at least one of the following 9 categories: (1) Detection and tracking of right whales; (2) Behavior of right whales in relation to ships; (3) Relationships between vessel speed, size or design with whale collisions; (4) Modeling of ship traffic along the Atlantic coast; (5) Population monitoring and assessment studies; (6) Reproduction, health and genetic studies; (7) Development of a Geographic Information System database or other system designed to investigate predictive modeling of right whale distribution in relation to environmental variables; (8) Habitat quality studies including food quality and pollutant levels; and (9) Any other work relevant to the recovery of North Atlantic right whales.

Funding Availability: This solicitation announces that a maximum of \$1.0M may be available for distribution under the FY 2006 RWRGP. Applicants are hereby given notice that funds have not yet been appropriated for this program. The exact amount of funds that may be awarded will be determined in pre-award negotiations between the applicant and NOAA representatives. Publication of this notice does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds. There is no set minimum or maximum amount for any award, and there is no limit on the number of applications that can be submitted by the same researcher during the 2006

competitive grant cycle. Note that in FY 2004, the last year in which there was a competition in this program, 15 awards were made, with a range of \$35,000 to \$200,000 per year. If an application for a financial assistance award is selected for funding, NOAA/NMFS has no obligation to provide any additional funding in connection with that award in subsequent years.

Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1380.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.472, Unallied Science Program.

Application Deadline: The application package must be postmarked by 5 p.m. EST August 1, 2005.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Proposals should be submitted through <http://www.grants.gov>. Search using the following funding opportunity # NMFS-NEFSC-2005-2000252. Applicants without Internet access can submit proposals to Kelly Taranto, NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543. Mark the proposal: "Attention-Right Whale Research Grant Program."

Information Contact(s): Dr. Richard Pace, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543, 508 495-2316, e-mail rightwhalegrants@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are individuals, institutions of higher education, other nonprofits, commercial organizations, international organizations, foreign governments, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, and state, local and Indian tribal governments. Federal agencies, or employees of Federal agencies are not eligible to apply.

Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

11. General Coral Reef Conservation

Summary Description: The NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program is soliciting proposals to support conservation projects for coral reef ecosystems of the United States and the Freely Associated States in the Pacific (Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia). This program is part of the Coral Reef Conservation Program under the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, which provides matching grants of financial assistance for coral reef conservation projects that: (1) Help preserve, sustain and restore the condition of coral reef ecosystems, (2) promote the wise

management and sustainable use of coral reef resources, (3) increase public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their conservation and (4) develop sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems and the threats to such ecosystems. Projects must address one of the following 7 categories: Coral reef monitoring and assessment; socio-economic assessments and resource valuation; marine protected areas and associated management activities; coral reef fisheries management and enforcement; coral reef restoration; public education and outreach; and local action strategy implementation. Research activities are eligible only if they directly relate to management or are listed as a project within a local action strategy. Interested applicants should submit an application of up to 25 pages that includes a cover sheet, project summary, narrative project description, narrative budget summary, CV, letter(s) of support and Federal forms.

Funding Availability: Total anticipated available funding is \$600,000, of which up to \$100,000 is for specific local action strategy projects with the remainder divided approximately equally among the other 6 categories. Individual awards in the form of grants can range from \$15,000 to a maximum of \$50,000. Applications for awards for more than \$50,000 will not be accepted. Funding will be subject to the availability of federal appropriations.

Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 6403. *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:* 11.463 Habitat Conservation.

Application Deadline: Applications are due to NOAA before midnight, eastern standard time, November 15, 2005. Final revised applications must be received no later than midnight, eastern standard time, March 3, 2006. Proposals received after these deadlines will not be accepted.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applications should be submitted electronically to <http://www.grants.gov>, or by surface mail to David Kennedy, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, Office of Response and Restoration, N/ORR, Room 10102, NOAA National Ocean Service, 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Information Contact(s): Andy Bruckner, Office of Habitat Conservation, F/HC1, Room 15836, NOAA Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, phone 301-713-3459 extension 190, e-mail at andy.bruckner@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, commercial organizations, Freely Associated State government agencies, and local and Indian tribal governments. U.S. Federal, State, Territory, and Commonwealth government agencies are not eligible under this program.

Cost Sharing Requirements: 1:1 non-federal match is required. The NOAA Administrator may waive all or part of the matching requirement if the Administrator determines that the project meets the following two requirements: (1) No reasonable means are available through which an applicant can meet the matching requirement, and (2) The probable benefit of such project outweighs the public interest in such matching requirement. In the case of a waiver request, the applicant must provide a detailed justification explaining the need for the waiver.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

National Ocean Service

1. NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program—State and Territory Coral Reef Management

Summary Description: This program is soliciting proposals to support comprehensive projects for the conservation and management of coral reefs and associated fisheries in the jurisdictions of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Florida, Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa. Funding will also support jurisdictional participation in national coral reef planning activities, such as U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meetings. This program is part of the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program under the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 which provides matching grants of financial assistance for coral reef conservation projects. NOS will accept pre-applications for peer review. Selected applicants may be asked to revise award objectives, work plans or budgets prior to submittal of a final application, including required Federal financial assistance forms, to NOS.

Funding Availability: Approximately \$4,000,000 may be available in FY 2006 to support awards under this program. Each eligible jurisdiction can apply for a maximum of \$685,000. A minimum of 40% of the final award amount must be dedicated to the implementation and support of the Local Action Strategy

initiative in each jurisdiction. Funding is subject to the availability of federal appropriations.

The amount of funding awarded to each jurisdiction will be subject to the eligibility and evaluation requirements described in this announcement.

Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 6403. *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance:* 11.419, Coastal Zone Management Program.

Application Deadline: Initial Application/Final Application Deadline: Pre-applications are due to NOAA by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on November 15, 2005. Final applications are due to NOAA by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on March 3, 2006.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Address for submitting pre-applications: David Kennedy, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, Office of Response and Restoration, NOAA National Ocean Service, N/ORR, Room 10102, 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 or coral.grants@noaa.gov. Submissions by e-mail are preferred.

Address for submitting final applications: <http://www.grants.gov>, the Federal grants portal. If Internet access is unavailable, hard copies can be submitted to David Kennedy, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, Office of Response and Restoration, N/ORR, Room 10102, NOAA National Ocean Service, 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Applicants are required to include one original and two copies of the signed, hard/paper of the Federal financial assistance forms for each final application package that is not submitted through <http://www.grants.gov>.

Information Contact(s): Dana Wusinich-Mendez, 1305 East West Highway, 11th Floor, N/ORM3, Silver Spring, MD 20910, phone 301-713-3155 extension 159, e-mail at dana.wusinich-mendez@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are the governor-appointed point of contact agencies for coral reef coordination in each of the jurisdictions of American Samoa, Florida, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands.

Cost Sharing Requirements: Any coral conservation project funded under this program requires a 1:1 match. Matching funds must be from non-Federal sources and can include in-kind contributions and other non-cash support. The NOAA Administrator may waive all or part of the matching requirement if the Administrator determines that the project meets the following two requirements: (1) No reasonable means

are available through which an applicant can meet the matching requirement, and (2) The probable benefit of such project outweighs the public interest in such matching requirement. The Program shall waive any requirement for local matching funds for any project under \$200,000 (including in-kind contribution) to the governments of Insular Areas, defined as the jurisdictions of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Intergovernmental Review:

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

2. NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program—State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring

Summary Description: This program is soliciting proposals to support implementation of a nationally coordinated, comprehensive, long-term monitoring program to assess the condition of U.S. coral reef ecosystems, and to evaluate the efficacy of coral ecosystem management. This program is part of the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program under the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 which provides matching grants of financial assistance for coral reef monitoring projects. NOS will accept pre-applications for peer review. Selected applicants may be asked to revise award objectives, work plans or budgets prior to submittal of a final application, including required Federal financial assistance forms, to NOS.

Funding Availability: Approximately \$1,100,000 may be available in FY 2006 to support awards under this program. Each eligible jurisdiction can apply for a maximum \$130,000, with the exception of the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands which can apply for a maximum of \$30,000. The amount of funding awarded to each jurisdiction will be subject to the eligibility and evaluation requirements described in this announcement. Funding is subject to the availability of Federal appropriations.

Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 6403.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.419, Coastal Zone Management Program.

Application Deadline: Initial Application/Final Application Deadline: Pre-applications are due to NOAA by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on November 15, 2005. Final applications are due to NOAA by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on March 3, 2006.

Address for Submitting Proposals:

Address for submitting pre-applications: David Kennedy, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, Office of Response and Restoration, NOAA National Ocean Service, N/ORR, Room 10102, 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 or coral.grants@noaa.gov. Submissions by e-mail are preferred.

Address for submitting final applications: <http://www.grants.gov>, the Federal grants portal. If Internet access is unavailable, hard copies can be submitted David Kennedy, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, Office of Response and Restoration, N/ORR, Room 10102, NOAA National Ocean Service, 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Applicants are required to include one original and two copies of the signed, hard/paper of the Federal financial assistance forms for each final application package that is not submitted through <http://www.grants.gov>.

Information Contact(s): John Christensen, 1305 East West Highway, 9th Floor, N/SC11, Silver Spring, MD 20910, phone 301-713-3028 extension 153, e-mail at john.christensen@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are the governor-appointed point of contact agencies for coral reef coordination in each of the jurisdictions of American Samoa, Florida, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia (including Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap, and Chuuk), the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands.

Cost Sharing Requirements: Any coral conservation project funded under this program requires a 1:1 match. Matching funds must be from non-Federal sources and can include in-kind contributions and other non-cash support. The NOAA Administrator may waive all or part of the matching requirement if the Administrator determines that the project meets the following two requirements: (1) No reasonable means are available through which an applicant can meet the matching requirement, and (2) The probable benefit of such project outweighs the public interest in such matching requirement. The Program shall waive any requirement for local matching funds for any project under \$200,000 (including in-kind contribution) to the governments of Insular Areas, defined as the jurisdictions of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Intergovernmental Review:

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

3. South Florida Program

Summary Description: NCCOS/CSCOR is soliciting 1-year and 2-year proposals to support coastal ecosystem studies in South Florida including Florida Bay, Florida Keys, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS), and adjacent coastal waters. It will provide support for the NOAA South Florida Program (SFP) and the FKNMS. The overall goal of this announcement is to fund high priority research and long term observational data collection needed to model and predict the impacts of Everglades restoration on the South Florida coastal ecosystem and to fulfill NOAA commitments to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration effort and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).

Funding Availability: Award amounts will be determined by the proposals and available funds, typically not to exceed \$400,000 per project per year with project durations from one to two years. It is anticipated that 4 to 10 total projects will be funded. Support in out years after FY 2006 is contingent upon the availability of funds. Applicants are hereby given notice that funds have not yet been appropriated for this program.

Statutory Authority: Statutory Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1442 C.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.478 Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research, Coastal Ocean Program CSCOR/COP).

Application Deadline: The deadline for receipt of proposals at the NCCOS/CSCOR office is 3 p.m., eastern time on September 29, 2005.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applications submitted in response to this announcement are strongly encouraged to be submitted through the Grants.gov Web site. Electronic Access to the full funding announcement for this program is available via the Grants.gov Web site: <http://www.grants.gov>. The announcement will also be available at the NOAA Web site <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/%7Egrants/funding.shtml> or by contacting the program official identified below. If Internet access is unavailable, paper applications (a signed original and two copies) should be submitted to the Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research, Coastal Ocean Program (CSCOR/COP), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, (NOAA), 1305 East

West Highway, Room 8243, SSMC Building 4, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Information Contacts: Technical Information. Larry Pugh, South Florida Program Manager, 301-713-3338 ext 160, Internet: Larry.Pugh@noaa.gov. Business Management Information. Laurie Golden, NCCOS/CSCOR Grants Administrator, 301-713-3338 ext 151, Internet: Laurie.Golden@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, other non-profits, State, local, Indian tribal governments, and Federal agencies that possess the statutory authority to receive financial assistance. NCCOS/CSCOR will not fund any Federal FTE salaries, but will fund travel, equipment, supplies, and contractual personnel costs associated with the proposed work. Furthermore, no expenses of any kind will be provided for NOS researchers.

(1) Researchers must be employees of an eligible institution listed above; and proposals must be submitted through that institution. Non-Federal researchers should comply with their institutional requirements for proposal submission.

(2) Non-NOAA Federal applicants will be required to submit certifications or documentation showing that they have specific legal authority to receive funds from the Department of Commerce (DOC) for this research.

(3) NCCOS/CSCOR will accept proposals that include foreign researchers as collaborators with a researcher, who has met the above stated eligibility requirements; and who also is an employee of an eligible institution listed above.

(4) Non-Federal researchers affiliated with NOAA-University Joint Institutes should comply with joint institutional requirements; they will be funded through grants either to their institutions or to joint institutes.

Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

Intergovernmental Review:

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

4. Northern Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Research Program (NGOMEX)

Summary Description: NCCOS/CSCOR is soliciting proposals to support 1 to 3 year studies of coastal ecosystem research related to hypoxia over the Louisiana continental shelf in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Through these multi year, interdisciplinary research projects, NCCOS/CSCOR seeks to develop a fundamental understanding of the northern Gulf of Mexico ecosystem in the region affected by Mississippi River inputs with a focus on

the causes and effects of the hypoxic zone over the Louisiana continental shelf and the prediction of its future extent and impacts to ecologically and commercially important aquatic species.

Funding Availability: Funding is contingent upon availability of Federal appropriations. It is anticipated that 4 to 8 total projects will be funded and that \$2,000,000 to \$4,000,000 per year will be available for projects. CSCOR anticipates that awards will not exceed \$500,000 per project per year with project durations from 1 to 3 years. Support in FY 2006 and future years is contingent upon the availability of funds. Applicants are hereby given notice that funds have not yet been appropriated for this program.

Statutory Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1442.

CFDA: 11.478 Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research, Coastal Ocean Program.

Application Deadline: The deadline for receipt of proposals at the CSCOR office is 3 p.m., eastern time, August 24, 2005.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applications submitted in response to this announcement are strongly encouraged to be submitted through the Grants.gov Web site. Electronic Access to the full funding announcement for this program is available via the Grants.gov Web site: <http://www.grants.gov>. The announcement will also be available at the NOAA Web site <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/%7Egrants/funding.shtml> or by contacting the program official identified below. If Internet access is unavailable, paper applications (a signed original and two copies) should be submitted to the Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research, Coastal Ocean Program (CSCOR/COP), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, (NOAA), 1305 East West Highway, Room 8243, SSMC Building 4, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Information Contacts: For overall information regarding Technical Information, Larry Pugh, NGOMEX 2006 Program Manager, NCCOS/CSCOR, 301-713-3338/ext 160, Internet: Larry.Pugh@noaa.gov. Business Management Information, Laurie Golden, NCCOS/CSCOR/COP Grants Administrator, 301-713-3338/ext 151, Internet: Laurie.Golden@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, other non-profits, State, local, Indian tribal governments, and Federal agencies that possess the statutory authority to receive financial assistance.

NCCOS/CSCOR will not fund any Federal FTE salaries, but will fund travel, equipment, supplies, and

contractual personnel costs associated with the proposed work. Furthermore, no expenses of any kind will be provided for NOS researchers.

(1) Researchers must be employees of an eligible institution listed above; and proposals must be submitted through that institution. Non-Federal researchers should comply with their institutional requirements for proposal submission.

(2) Non-NOAA Federal applicants will be required to submit certifications or documentation showing that they have specific legal authority to receive funds from the Department of Commerce (DOC) for this research.

(3) NCCOS/CSCOR will accept proposals that include foreign researchers as collaborators with a researcher, who has met the above stated eligibility requirements; and who also is an employee of an eligible institution listed above.

(4) Non-Federal researchers affiliated with NOAA-University Joint Institutes should comply with joint institutional requirements; they will be funded through grants either to their institutions or to joint institutes.

Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

Intergovernmental Review:

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

5. Ecological Forecasting

Summary Description: The NOAA/NOS/NCCOS/CSCOR is soliciting proposals for projects of 2 to 5 years in duration for the development of new ecological forecasting capabilities and the transition of existing ecological forecasts to operational status. These ecological forecasts are to support critical management decisions for the management of the Nation's Great Lake, estuarine, coastal and ocean ecosystems. The need for multidisciplinary coastal ecosystem studies to improve our understanding of the physical, biological, and chemical processes in these complex systems has only grown in recent years as management of coastal regions moves toward greater consideration of ecosystem principles, including connections with terrestrial and atmospheric systems. CSCOR and COP have been committed to producing data and information products such as technical reports, peer-reviewed publications, databases, and numerical and conceptual models so that they will be accessible to users of this information. However, the delivery of comprehensive information products and technologies to the appropriate management community for application to specific coastal management issues

remains a challenge; the EcoFore program, in part, is meant to address this challenge.

Funding Availability: Award amounts will be determined by the proposals and available funds, typically not to exceed \$500,000 per project per year with project durations from 2–5 years. It is anticipated that 3 to 6 total projects will be funded. Support in out years after FY 2006 is contingent upon the availability of funds. Applicants are hereby given notice that funds have not yet been appropriated for this program.

Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1456c.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.478 Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research, Coastal Ocean Program (CSCOR/COP).

Application Deadline: The deadline for receipt of proposals at the CSCOR office is 3 p.m., eastern time on October 25, 2005.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applications submitted in response to this announcement are strongly encouraged to be submitted through the Grants.gov Web site. Electronic Access to the full funding announcement for this program is available via the Grants.gov Web site: <http://www.grants.gov>. The announcement will also be available at the NOAA Web site <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/%7Egrants/funding.shtml> or by contacting the program official identified below. If Internet access is unavailable, paper applications (a signed original and two copies) should be submitted to the Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research, Coastal Ocean Program (CSCOR/COP), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, (NOAA), 1305 East West Highway, Room 8243, SSMC Building 4, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Information Contacts: For overall information regarding Technical Information, Elizabeth Turner, 603–862–4680, E-mail: elizabeth.turner@noaa.gov. Business Management Information, Laurie Golden, NCCOS/CSCOR/COP Grants Administrator, 301–713–3338/ext 151, Internet: Laurie.Golden@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, other non-profits, State, local, Indian tribal governments, and Federal agencies that possess the statutory authority to receive financial assistance.

NCCOS/CSCOR will not fund any Federal FTE salaries, but will fund travel, equipment, supplies, and contractual personnel costs associated with the proposed work. Furthermore, no expenses of any kind will be provided for NOS researchers.

(1) Researchers must be employees of an eligible institution listed above; and proposals must be submitted through that institution. Non-Federal researchers should comply with their institutional requirements for proposal submission.

(2) Non-NOAA Federal applicants will be required to submit certifications or documentation showing that they have specific legal authority to receive funds from the Department of Commerce (DOC) for this research.

(3) NCCOS/CSCOR will accept proposals that include foreign researchers as collaborators with a researcher, who has met the above stated eligibility requirements; and who also is an employee of an eligible institution listed above.

(4) Non-Federal researchers affiliated with NOAA-University Joint Institutes should comply with joint institutional requirements; they will be funded through grants either to their institutions or to joint institutes.

Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

Intergovernmental Review:

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

6. NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program—International Coral Reef Conservation

Summary Description: This Program solicits proposals under four funding categories: (1) Promote watershed management in the wider Caribbean, Brazil, and Bermuda; (2) regional enhancement of marine protected area management effectiveness; (3) encourage the development of national systems of marine protected areas in the wider Caribbean, Bermuda, Brazil, and Southeast Asia; and (4) promote regional socio-economic training and monitoring in coral reef management in the wider Caribbean, Brazil, Bermuda, East Africa, South Pacific, and Southeast Asia. Each funding category has specific applicant and project eligibility criteria.

This program is part of the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program under the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 which provides matching grants of financial assistance for coral reef conservation projects. NOS will accept pre-applications for peer review. Selected applicants may be asked to revise award objectives, work plans or budgets prior to submittal of a final application, including required Federal financial assistance forms, to NOS.

Funding Availability: Approximately \$400,000 may be available in FY 2006 to support awards under this program. Each eligible applicant can apply for the

following maximum amounts: Watershed Management \$40,000; Management Effectiveness: Regional Capacity Building Projects \$80,000; Marine Protected Area National Systems: \$50,000; Socio-economic Monitoring Regional Projects \$35,000. The amount of funding awarded to each applicant will be subject to the eligibility and evaluation requirements described in this announcement. Funding will be subject to the availability of Federal appropriations.

Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 6403.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 11.463—Habitat Conservation.

Pre-Application/Final Application Deadlines: Pre-applications are due to NOAA by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on November 15, 2005. Final applications by invitation only are due to NOAA by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on March 3, 2006.

Address for Submitting Applications: Address for submitting pre-applications: David Kennedy, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, Office of Response and Restoration, NOAA National Ocean Service, N/ORR, Room 10102, 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 or coral.grants@noaa.gov. Submissions by e-mail are preferred.

Address for submitting final applications: <http://www.grants.gov>, the Federal grants portal. If Internet access is unavailable, hard copies can be submitted David Kennedy, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, Office of Response and Restoration, N/ORR, Room 10102, NOAA National Ocean Service, 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Applicants are required to include one original and two copies of the signed, hard/paper of the Federal financial assistance forms for each final application package that is not submitted through <http://www.grants.gov>.

Information Contact: Arthur Paterson, 1315 East-West Highway, 5th Floor, N/IP, Room 5627, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Phone: 301–713–3078, extension 217; e-mail:

arthur.e.paterson@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include all international, governmental (except U.S. Federal agencies), and non-governmental organizations. For specific country eligibility per category, please refer to individual category descriptions in Section V of the full Federal Funding Opportunity. The proposed work must be conducted at a non-U.S. site. Eligible countries are defined as follows: The Wider Caribbean includes the 37 States and territories that border the marine environment of the Gulf of Mexico, the

Caribbean Sea, and the areas of the Atlantic Ocean adjacent thereto, and Brazil and Bermuda, but excluding areas under U.S. jurisdiction. The South Pacific Region includes South Pacific Regional Environment Program's 19 Pacific island countries and territories, including the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, but excluding U.S. territories and four developed country members. Southeast Asia Region includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. East Africa includes Comoros, France (La Reunion), Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, the United Republic of Tanzania and South Africa.

Cost Sharing Requirements: Any coral conservation project funded under this program requires a 1:1 match. Matching funds must be from non-Federal sources and can include in-kind contributions and other non-cash support. The NOAA Administrator may waive all or part of the matching requirement if the Administrator determines that the project meets the following two requirements: (1) No reasonable means are available through which an applicant can meet the matching requirement, and (2) The probable benefit of such project outweighs the public interest in such matching requirement. The Program shall waive any requirement for local matching funds for any project under \$200,000 (including in-kind contribution) to the governments of Insular Areas, defined as the jurisdictions of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

7. FY 2006 Bay Watershed Education & Training (B-WET) Program, Hawai'i

Summary Description: The B-WET grant program is a competitively based program that supports existing environmental education programs, fosters the growth of new programs, and encourages the development of partnerships among environmental education programs throughout Hawai'i. Funded projects provide "meaningful" outdoor experiences for students and professional development opportunities for teachers in the area of environmental education.

Funding Availability: This solicitation announces that approximately \$1,000,000 may be available in Fiscal

Year 2006 in award amounts to be determined by the proposals and available funds. It is anticipated that approximately 15-20 grants will be awarded with these funds. Proposals may request a duration of up to 3 years. However, funds will be made available for only a 12-month award period and any continuation of the award period will depend on submission of a successful proposal subject to technical and panel reviews, adequate progress on previous award(s), and available funding to continue the award. The Pacific Services Center may continue funding existing grants that were funded in the previous application process. Grants will be awarded to continue these projects under this announcement pending successful review of new application packages, and adequate progress reports and/or site visits.

Statutory Authority: 33 U.S.C. 883d, 15 U.S.C. 1540.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.473, Coastal Services Center.

Application Deadline: Proposals must be received by 5 p.m. Pacific daylight savings time on October 14, 2005.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply through <http://www.Grants.gov>. If an applicant cannot submit a proposal through <http://www.Grants.gov>, then the application must be submitted in hard copy to the NOAA Pacific Services Center, 737 Bishop Street, Suite 2250, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813. Facsimile transmissions and electronic mail submission of proposals will not be accepted.

Information Contact: Divina Corpuz, phone 808-522-7481, fax (808) 532-3224, electronic mail at Divina.Corpuz@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants for both areas of interest ("Meaningful Outdoor Experiences" and Professional Development in the Area of Environmental Education for Teachers) are K-through-12 public and independent schools and school systems, institutions of higher education, commercial and nonprofit organizations, state or local government agencies, and Indian tribal governments. Applicants that are not eligible are individuals and Federal agencies.

Cost Sharing Requirements: No cost sharing is required under this program, however, the Pacific Services Center strongly encourages applicants to share as much of the costs of the award as possible. Funds from other Federal awards may not be considered matching funds. The nature of the contribution (cash versus in-kind) and the amount of matching funds will be taken into

consideration in the review process with cash being the preferred method of contribution.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

8. Bay Watershed Education & Training (B-WET) Program, Monterey Bay Watershed

Summary Description: The B-WET grant program is a competitively based program that supports existing environmental education programs, fosters the growth of new programs, and encourages the development of partnerships among environmental education programs throughout the Monterey Bay watershed. Funded projects provide Meaningful outdoor experiences for students and professional development opportunities for teachers in the area of environmental education.

Funding Availability: This solicitation announces that approximately \$475,000 may be available in FY 2006 in award amounts to be determined by the proposals and available funds. It is anticipated that approximately 15 grants will be awarded with these funds. About \$250,000 will be for proposals that provide opportunities for students to participate in a Meaningful Outdoor Experience. About \$225,000 will be for proposals that provide opportunities for Professional Development in the area of Environmental Education for Teachers. Proposals may request a duration of up to 3 years. However, funds will be made available for only a 12-month award period and any continuation of the award period will depend on submission of a successful proposal subject to technical and panel reviews, adequate progress on previous award(s), and available funding to continue the award. The National Marine Sanctuary Program may continue funding existing grants that were funded in the previous application process. New grants will be awarded to continue these projects under this announcement pending successful review of a new application package, and adequate progress reports and/or site visits.

Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1440, 15 U.S.C. 1540.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.429, Marine Sanctuary Program.

Application Deadline: Proposals must be received by 5 p.m. Pacific time on October 15, 2005. Proposals will not be accepted before August 15, 2005. Any proposals received before this date will be returned to the applicant.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Seaberry Nachbar, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Office; 299 Foam Street, Monterey, CA 93940. Facsimile transmissions and electronic mail submission of proposals will not be accepted.

Information Contact: Seaberry Nachbar, phone 831-647-4204, fax 831-647-4250, Internet at seaberry.nachbar@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants for both areas of interest (Meaningful Outdoor Experiences and Professional Development in the Area of Environmental Education for Teachers) are K-through-12 public and independent schools and school systems, institutions of higher education, commercial and nonprofit organizations, state or local government agencies, and Indian tribal governments. Applicants that are not eligible are individuals and Federal agencies.

Cost Sharing Requirements: No cost sharing is required under this program however, the National Marine Sanctuary Program strongly encourages applicants to share as much of the costs of the award as possible. Funds from other Federal awards may not be considered matching funds. The nature of the contribution (cash versus in-kind) and the amount of matching funds will be taken into consideration in the review process with cash being the preferred method of contribution.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

9. National Estuarine Research Reserves System FY2006 Land Acquisition and Construction Competitive Program

Summary Description: The Estuarine Reserves Division (ERD) of NOAA is soliciting proposals from the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) for land acquisition and construction funding. The National Estuarine Research Reserve system consists of estuarine areas of the United States and its territories which are designated and managed for research and educational purposes. Each reserve within the system is chosen to represent different biogeographic regions and to include a variety of ecosystem types. Through the funding of designated reserve agencies and universities to undertake land acquisition and construction projects that support the NERRS purpose, NOAA will strengthen protection of key land and water areas; enhance long-term protection of the area for research and education, and provide for facility and exhibit construction.

Funding Availability: The ERD anticipates that approximately \$7.25 million, pending availability of funds, will be competitively awarded to qualified National Estuarine Research Reserves that meet the funding priorities and selection criteria. Approximately 5-15 awards will be made.

Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1461 (e)(1)(A)(i),(ii), and (iii)

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.420, Coastal Zone Management Estuarine Research Reserves

Application Deadline: Proposals must be received no later than 11 p.m. eastern standard time on February 1, 2006.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit proposals electronically through Grants.gov. Paper applications should be submitted to NOAA/NOS; 1305 East West Highway, Room 10509; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

Information Contact(s): Doris Grimm, NOAA/NOS; 1305 East-West Highway, Room 10509; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, or by phone at 301-713-3155 ext. 107, or fax to 301-713-4012, Internet at doris.grimm@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are coastal states in which the NERRs are located and are directed to the Reserves' lead state agencies or universities.

Cost Sharing Requirements: Matching requirements include 50 percent match of the total grant project for land acquisition and 30 percent match of the total grant project for construction.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

10. FY 2006 Coastal Services Center Environmental Characterization of a U.S. Coastal Region.

Summary Description: NOS is soliciting projects for the Coastal Services Center (CSC) Landscape Characterization and Restoration (LCR) and Outreach Programs, with an anticipated start date of March 1, 2006. The Center's LCR and Outreach programs seek proposals for a two-year cooperative agreement under which a cooperator and the Center will jointly develop an environmental characterization of a coastal region designed for use by coastal resource managers within multiple jurisdictions to address a single management issue related to coastal development, this issue to be selected by the cooperator.

Funding Availability: Total anticipated funding for a two year project is between \$250,000 and

\$350,000 and no more than one award is expected.

Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1456c and 33 U.S.C. 1442.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.473, Coastal Services Center.

Application Deadline: Proposals are due by 5 p.m. EDT, October 3, 2005.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applications should be submitted through Grants.gov. For applicants without Internet access, send applications to 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413.

Information Contact(s): For administrative issues, contact Violet Legette at 843-740-1222 (phone) or 843-740-1232 (fax) or e-mail her at Violet.Legette@noaa.gov. For technical questions, either contact Jeffery Adkins by telephone at 843-740-1244 or by e-mail at Jeffery.Adkins@noaa.gov or Ginger Hinchcliff by telephone at 843-740-1184 or by e-mail at Ginger.Hinchcliff@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, hospitals, other non-profits, commercial organizations, foreign governments, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, international organizations, and state, local and Indian tribal governments. Federal agencies or institutions are not eligible to receive Federal assistance under this announcement, but may be project partners.

Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program is subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

11. FY2006 Coastal Services Center Leadership Training for Coastal Managers and Scientists

Summary Description: NOS is soliciting projects for the Coastal Services Center (CSC) Coastal Learning Services (CLS) program with an anticipated start date of March 1, 2006. The CLS program seeks proposals for a two-year cooperative agreement on developing and implementing a leadership training program for coastal managers and scientists. The Center's goal is to aid coastal resource managers and scientists in developing their leadership skills and capabilities. Under the cooperative agreement, the Center will work in coordination with the cooperator to integrate the results of a leadership needs assessment that was recently conducted for the Center and develop a training program that addresses the needs and concerns of the

coastal community. The leadership training should be targeted to mid-level managers that will soon be stepping into leadership roles within their agency or organization. The training should be clear in the distinction between management and leadership by emphasizing the following leadership principles; building trust, articulating a vision, developing public relations skills, and collaborating to build effective communities. The training should focus on skill building using interactive, multi-media and other communication processes. All methods must be grounded in credible leadership theories.

Funding Availability: Total anticipated funding for cooperative agreements is up to \$150,000 and is subject to the availability of FY 2006 appropriations. One award is anticipated from this announcement. The nature of the cooperative agreement is such that the Center will provide substantial involvement in the project. General areas of responsibilities that the Center has had in past projects include: meeting planning and facilitation, instructional design, familiarity of coastal issues and access to potential customers of the training.

Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1456c.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.473, Coastal Services Center.

Application Deadline: Proposals are due by 5 p.m. EDT, October 3, 2005.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit applications through <http://www.Grants.gov>. Applications sent via U.S. Postal Service, express delivery, or hand-delivered may be sent to Coastal Services Center, 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413 to the attention of Lisa Holmes, room 119.

Information Contact(s): For administrative questions, contact Violet Legette, NOAA CSC; 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Room 218; Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413, or by phone at 843-740-1222, or by fax 843-740-1232, or via Internet at Violet.Legette@noaa.gov. For technical questions, contact Ginger Hinchcliff, NOAA CSC; 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Room 135; Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413, or by phone at 843-740-1184, or by fax 843-740-1313, or via Internet at Ginger.Hinchcliff@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are state, local, Indian tribal governments, private or nonprofit organizations, and institutions of higher education. Applicants must be familiar with the coastal community and the issues faced

by coastal managers and scientists. Federal agencies or institutions are not eligible to receive Federal assistance under this announcement, but may also be project partners. **Note:** Federal agencies or institutions who are project partners must demonstrate that they have legal authority to receive funds in excess of their appropriation.

Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

Intergovernmental Review:

Applications under this program is subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

12. FY2006 Coastal Services Center Application of Spatial Technology for Coastal Management

Summary Description: NOS is soliciting projects for the Coastal Services Center (CSC) Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Integration and Development (I&D) program, with an anticipated start date of April 1, 2006. The GIS I&D program seeks proposals for one to two-year cooperative agreements under which cooperators and the Center will jointly develop technical projects related to the goal of the GIS I&D program, which is to provide relevant, easily accessible spatial data, tools, and support services to the coastal resource management community. The GIS I&D program is especially interested in nationally networked organizations proposing geospatial solutions to issues related to coastal hazards.

Funding Availability: Total anticipated funding is estimated to be \$250,000, subject to appropriation. The GIS I&D program intends to fund one to two projects with awards ranging from about \$100,000 to \$125,000 each.

Statutory Authority: 33 U.S.C. 883a; 33 U.S.C. 883c; and 16 U.S.C. 1456c.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.473, Coastal Services Center.

Application Deadline: Proposals are due by 5 p.m. EDT, October 3, 2005.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applications should be submitted through <http://www.grants.gov> unless an applicant does not have Internet access. In that case, hard copy applications can be sent to Coastal Services Center, 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413 to the attention of Hamilton Smillie, room 237C.

Information Contact(s): For administrative questions, contact Violet Legette, NOAA CSC; 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Room 218; Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413, or by phone at 843-740-1222, or by fax 843-740-1232, or via Internet at

Violet.Legette@noaa.gov. For technical questions, contact Hamilton Smillie, NOAA CSC; 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Room 237C; Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413, or by phone at 843-740-1192, or via Internet at Hamilton.Smillie@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, hospitals, other non-profits, commercial organizations, foreign government, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, international organizations, and state, local and Indian tribal governments. Federal agencies or institutions are not eligible to receive Federal assistance under this announcement, but may be project partners.

Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

Intergovernmental Review:

Applications under this program is subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

13. Coral Reef Ecosystem Studies (CRES) 2006

Summary Description: CSCOR solicits proposals that address causes of regional declines in coral abundance and degradation of coral ecosystems. CSCOR's interest is to provide timely and high-quality scientific results that can be used to develop alternative management strategies to restore and protect coral reef ecosystems. CSCOR solicits proposals that seek a better understanding of the underlying processes that regulate coral reefs and associated ecosystems. Findings from this research will be used to directly support resource management decisions to protect healthy coral reef ecosystems and to reverse decline in degraded ones. This solicitation will focus on several geographic regions and two depth ranges: (1) typical, shallow water (0-50m) coral reef ecosystems in the locations prioritized below, and (2) deep water (50-100m) hermatypic, light-dependent coral reef ecosystems. CSCOR's interest is to provide timely and high-quality scientific results that can be used to develop alternative management strategies to restore and protect coral reef ecosystems.

Funding Availability: CSCOR anticipates selection of one proposal not to exceed \$1,000,000 per year with project duration from 3-5 years for the West Florida Shelf; one comprehensive project not to exceed \$1,000,000 per year with project duration from 3-5 years for the Pacific islands; and up to three separate projects not to exceed \$500,000 per project per year with project durations of 1-3 years for the deep hermatypic coral reef studies. It is

anticipated that 3–5 total projects will be funded. Support in out years after FY 2006 is contingent upon the availability of funds.

Applicants are hereby given notice that funds have not yet been appropriated for this program.

Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 6403.

Catalog of Federal Domestic

Assistance: 11.478 Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research, Coastal Ocean Program CSCOR/COP.

Application Deadline: Proposals must be received by CSCOR/COP no later than 3 p.m., eastern time, September 1, 2005.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applications submitted in response to this announcement are strongly encouraged to be submitted through Grants.gov. Electronic Access to the full funding announcement for this program is available via the Grants.gov Web site: <http://www.grants.gov>. The announcement will also be available at the NOAA Web site <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/%7Egrants/funding.shtml> or by contacting the program official identified below. If Internet access is unavailable, paper applications (a signed original and two copies) should be submitted to the Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research, Coastal Ocean Program (CSCOR/COP), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, (NOAA), 1305 East West Highway, Room 8243, SSMC Building 4, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Information Contacts: For overall information regarding the Deep-CRES program contact: Michael Dowgiallo, CSCOR, 301–703–3338, extension 161 or e-mail at Michael.Dowgiallo@noaa.gov. Business Management Information, Laurie Golden, CSCOR Grants Administrator, 301 713 3338/ext 155, Internet: Laurie.Golden@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, other non-profits, state, local, Indian tribal governments, and Federal agencies that possess the statutory authority to receive financial assistance. Minority Serving Institutions are encouraged to apply.

NCCOS/CSCOR will not fund any Federal FTE salaries, but will fund travel, equipment, supplies, and contractual personnel costs associated with the proposed work. Furthermore, no expenses of any kind will be provided for NOS researchers.

(1) Researchers must be employees of an eligible institution listed above; and proposals must be submitted through that institution. Non-Federal researchers

should comply with their institutional requirements for proposal submission.

(2) Non-NOAA Federal applicants will be required to submit certifications or documentation showing that they have specific legal authority to receive funds from the Department of Commerce (DOC) for this research.

(3) NCCOS/CSCOR will accept proposals that include foreign researchers as collaborators with a researcher, who has met the above stated eligibility requirements; and who also is an employee of an eligible institution listed above.

(4) Non-Federal researchers affiliated with NOAA University Joint Institutes should comply with joint institutional requirements; they will be funded through grants either to their institutions or to joint institutes.

Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

Intergovernmental Review:

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.”

14. FY2006 Coastal Services Center Performance Measurement Technical Assistance

Summary Description: NOS is soliciting projects for the Coastal Services Center (CSC) Coastal Learning Services (CLS) program with an anticipated start date of March 1, 2006. The Center’s CLS program seeks proposals for a two-year cooperative agreement under which the cooperator will collect and analyze physical, social, and environmental indicator data and the Center will provide technical assistance and training on performance measures. A number of institutions and agencies at local, state and regional levels are monitoring their progress in achieving programmatic goals using performance measures. For example, to fulfill the requirements under the National Coastal Management Performance Measurement System, National Coastal Management Programs and National Estuarine Research Reserves are collecting indicator data to measure effectiveness in achieving Coastal Zone Management Act goals at the national level. The performance measurement system will identify and assess the act’s national impact through various indicator categories. All proposals under this announcement must show relevance to state or local coastal resource management efforts.

Funding Availability: Total anticipated funding for these cooperative agreements is up to \$300,000 and is subject to the availability of FY 2006 appropriations. Two to four awards are anticipated from

this announcement. The nature of the cooperative agreement is such that the Center will provide substantial involvement in the project. General areas of responsibilities that the Center has had in past projects include training and one-to-one technical assistance to cooperator and their partners on project design and evaluation, logic model development, and performance metrics.

Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1456c.

CFDA: 11.473, Coastal Services Center.

Application Deadline: Proposals are due by 5 p.m. EDT, October 3, 2005.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Proposals should be submitted through <http://www.Grants.gov>. For applicants without Internet access, hard copies can be mailed to Coastal Services Center, 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina 29405–2413 to the attention of Lisa Holmes, room 119.

Information Contact(s): For administrative questions, contact Violet Legette, NOAA CSC; 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Room 218; Charleston, South Carolina 29405–2413, or by phone at 843–740–1222, or by fax 843–740–1232, or via Internet at Violet.Legette@noaa.gov. For technical questions, contact Jan Kucklick, NOAA CSC; 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Room 142; Charleston, South Carolina 29405–2413, or by phone at 843–740–1279, or by fax 843–740–1313, or via Internet at Jan.Kucklick@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are state, local, Indian tribal governments, private or nonprofit organizations, and institutions of higher education. Federal agencies or institutions are not eligible to receive Federal assistance under this announcement, but may be project partners. Note: Federal agencies or institutions who are project partners must demonstrate that they have legal authority to receive funds in excess of their appropriation.

Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

Intergovernmental Review:

Applications under this program is subject to Executive Order 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.”

National Weather Service

1. AFWS—Automated Flood Warning Systems (AFWS) Program

Summary Description: The National Weather Service (NWS) is soliciting applications provide capital funds for the creation, renovation, or enhancement of rain and stream gage networks that are locally operated and maintained with non-NOAA resources. The expected period of performance is for one year with an anticipated start

date of April 1, 2006. The NWS seeks to form a partnership with entities that can demonstrate a long-term ability to operate and maintain an AFWS and provide the data to the NWS.

Funding Availability: Approximately \$500,000 will be available through this announcement for fiscal year 2006. Proposals should be prepared assuming an annual budget of no more than \$100,000.

Statutory Authority: 15 U.S.C. 313 and 33 U.S.C. 883d.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.450, Automated Flood Warning System.

Application Deadline: Proposals must be received by the NWS no later than 5 p.m., EDT, October 27, 2005.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applications should be submitted through <http://www.grants.gov>. For applicants without Internet access, they should be sent to John Bradley, NOAA/NWS; 1325 East-West Highway, Room 13396; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3283.

Information Contact(s): John Bradley, NOAA/NWS; 1325 East-West Highway, Room 13396; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3283, or by phone at 301-713-0624 ext. 154, or fax to 301-713-1520, or via Internet at john.bradley@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are non-profit organizations, state, local and Indian tribal governments.

Cost Sharing Requirements: None. However, applicant resource commitment will be considered in the competitive selection process.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "An Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

2. Hydrologic Research

Summary Description: This program represents an NOAA/NWS effort to create a cost-effective continuum of basic and applied research through collaborative research between the Hydrology Laboratory of the NWS Office of Hydrologic Development and academic communities or other private or public agencies which have expertise in the hydrometeorologic, hydrologic, and hydraulic routing sciences. These activities will engage researchers and students in basic and applied research to improve the scientific understanding of river forecasting. Ultimately these efforts will improve the accuracy of forecasts and warnings of rivers and flash floods by applying scientific knowledge and information to NWS research methods and techniques, resulting in a benefit to the public.

NOAA's program is designed to complement other agency contributions to that national effort. This program announcement is for projects to be conducted by research investigators for a 1-year, 2-year, or 3-year period. June 1, 2006, should be used as the proposed start date on proposals.

Funding Availability: Because of funding uncertainty, the Office of Hydrologic Development requests that interested organizations prepare a two-page pre-proposal. Once funding availability is confirmed, the Office of Hydrologic Development will invite the authors of the best pre-proposals to submit full proposals. Proposals should be prepared assuming an annual budget of no more than \$125,000. It is expected that approximately four awards will be made, depending on availability of funds.

Statutory Authority: 15 U.S.C. 313.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.462, Hydrologic Research.

Application Deadline: Pre-proposals are due no later than 3 p.m. eastern standard time on November 18, 2005. Invitations for full-proposal submittal will be sent on December 30th, 2005. Full-proposals are due no later than 3 p.m. eastern standard time on January 31st, 2006.

Addresses for Submitting Pre-Proposals and Full Proposals: Pre-proposals should be submitted by e-mail to Pedro.Restrepo@noaa.gov. For applicants without Internet access, they should be sent to NOAA/NWS; 1325 East-West Highway, Room 8346; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3283. Full proposals should be submitted through <http://www.grants.gov>. For applicants without Internet access, they may be sent to NOAA/NWS; 1325 East-West Highway, Room 8346; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3283.

Information Contact(s): Dr. Pedro Restrepo by phone at 301-713-0640 ext. 210, or fax to 301-713-0963, or via Internet at Pedro.Restrepo@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are Federal agencies, institutions of higher education, other nonprofits, commercial organizations, foreign governments, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, and international organizations, state, local and Indian tribal governments.

Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

Oceans and Atmospheric Research

1. Ballast Water Technology Demonstration Program Competitive Funding Announcement (Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation Facility)

Summary Description: NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) solicit proposals to develop a Cooperative Agreement to establish a Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation (RDTE) facility in the Great Lakes that will support progress in the development of commercially viable ballast water treatment technologies. NOAA and FWS also solicit proposals to support planning activities which could lead to additional ballast water RDTE facilities in the future.

Funding Availability: Depending on FY 2006 appropriations, NOAA expects to make available up to \$950,000 in funds for one proposal that produces a multi-year cooperative agreement between Federal, State and private entities to create and operate a ballast water RDTE facility in the Great Lakes.

Depending on availability of funds and the number and quality of applications received, additional startup grants of up to \$50,000 each may be awarded to foster the future development of additional ballast water RDTE facilities. It is anticipated that eight or fewer startup grants may be awarded.

Statutory Authority: Statutory authority for this program is provided under 16 U.S.C. 4701 *et seq.*; 33 U.S.C. 1121-1131; 46 U.S.C. App 1211 (2000); 50 U.S.C. App 1744 (2000).

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.417, Sea Grant Support.

Application Deadline: Preliminary proposals must be received by the National Sea Grant Office by 4 p.m. EDT on Friday, September 23, 2005. Full proposals must be received by 4 p.m. EST on Friday, January 6, 2005.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Preliminary proposals must be submitted to the National Sea Grant Office, Attn: Mrs. Geraldine Taylor, SG-Ballast Water, 1315 East-West Highway, R/SG, Rm. 11732, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Telephone number for express mail applications is 301-713-2445. Full proposals should be submitted through [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). For those applicants without Internet access, hard copy proposals may be sent to the above address.

Information Contact(s): For information on the competitive funding announcement, contact Dorn Carlson, NOAA National Sea Grant Office, 301-713-2435; via Internet at Dorn.Carlson@noaa.gov; or Pamela Thibodeaux, U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service, 703-358-2493; via Internet at Pamela_Thibodeaux@fws.gov. Further background information can be obtained from the above information contacts, or on the Ballast Water Program Web site, <http://www.nsgo.seagrant.org/research/nonindigenous/ballast>.

Eligibility: Individuals, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, commercial organizations, Federal, State, local and Indian tribal governments, foreign governments, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, and international organizations are eligible. Only those who submit preliminary proposals by the deadline are eligible to submit full proposals.

Cost Sharing Requirements: Applications for RDTE facility cooperative agreements must include additional matching funds equal to at least 20% of the NOAA funds requested. Other federal funds and in-kind services are eligible to satisfy the match requirement. Applications for startup grants have no cost sharing requirement.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

2. NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration Announcement of Opportunity, FY 2006

Summary Description: The NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration (OE) is seeking pre-proposals and full proposals to support its mission to search, investigate, and document unknown and poorly known areas of the ocean and Great Lakes through interdisciplinary exploration, and to advance and disseminate knowledge of the ocean environment and its physical, chemical, biological, and historical resources. Successful OE proposals will be relatively high-risk, innovative and broad-based in terms of their approach and objectives. OE is soliciting proposals whose objectives fall within one of the following categories: General Exploration, Marine Archaeology, and Education.

Funding Availability: NOAA OE anticipates that approximately \$14,000,000, including ship and submersible costs, will be available through this announcement. Submissions focusing solely on technology development will not be accepted. Total funding estimates are: General Exploration \$13,000,000; Archaeology \$600,000; and Education \$400,000. Subsequent to this announcement, OE plans to publish another Announcement of Opportunity for a reduced amount of FY06 funds to enable the office to timely and

effectively respond to unforeseen opportunities or events occurring after the submission deadline below.

Statutory Authority: 33 U.S.C. 883d.
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 11.460, Special Oceanic and Atmospheric Projects.

Application Deadline: Pre-proposals are required for all categories and must be received by August 5, 2005. Full proposals are also required for all categories and must be received by October 3, 2005. No e-mail or facsimile pre-proposal or proposal submissions will be accepted.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Pre-proposals are required for all categories and must be submitted as a paper application to: ATTN: Proposal Manager, NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration, 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC3, 10th Floor, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301-713-9444. For full proposals, applicants should apply online (<http://www.grants.gov/>) but paper submissions to the address above are acceptable if there is no Internet access available. No e-mail or facsimile pre-proposals will be accepted.

Information Contact(s): For further information contact the NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration at 301-713-9444 or submit inquiries via e-mail to the Frequently Asked Questions address: oar.oefaq@noaa.gov. E-mail inquiries should include the Principal Investigator's name in the subject heading.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, other nonprofits, commercial organizations, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, international organizations, state, local and Indian tribal governments. Applications from Federal agencies will be considered. Please Note: Before non-NOAA federal applicants may be funded, they must demonstrate that they have legal authority to receive funds from another federal agency in excess of their appropriation. Because this announcement is not proposing to procure goods or services from applicants, the Economy Act (31 U.S.C. 1535) is not an appropriate legal basis.

Cost Sharing Requirements: Though cost-sharing is not required, it is encouraged.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." Applicants must contact their State's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to find out about and comply with the State's process under EO 12372. The names and addresses of the SPOCs are listed in the Office of

Management and Budget's Web site: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html>.

3. Ballast Water Technology Demonstration Program Competitive Funding Announcement (Treatment Technology Demonstration Projects)

Summary Description: NOAA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Maritime Administration expect to entertain proposals to conduct ballast water treatment technology testing and demonstration projects. The Ballast Water Technology Demonstration Program supports projects to develop, test, and demonstrate technologies that treat ships' ballast water in order to reduce the threat of introduction of aquatic invasive species to U.S. waters through the discharge of ballast water.

Funding Availability: Depending on FY 2006 appropriations, NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) expect to make available up to about \$2 million, and the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) expects to make available several vessels for use as test platforms, to support ballast water treatment technology demonstration projects. The maximum amount of award will vary with the scale of the proposed project. Depending on the funding available and the number and quality of proposals received, approximately 8 grants with a median value of about \$200,000 are anticipated to be awarded.

Statutory Authority: Statutory Authority for this program is provided under 16 U.S.C. 4701 *et seq.*; 33 U.S.C. 1121-1131; 46 U.S.C. App 1211 (2000); 50 U.S.C. App 1744 (2000).

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 11.417, Sea Grant Support; 15.FFA Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance.

Application Deadline: Pre-proposals must be received by the National Sea Grant Office by 4 p.m. EDT on Friday, August 26, 2005. Full proposals must be received 4 p.m. EST on Friday, December 2, 2005.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Pre-proposals must be submitted to the National Sea Grant Office, Attn: Mrs. Geraldine Taylor, SG-Ballast Water, 1315 East-West Highway, R/SG, Rm 11732, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Telephone number for express mail applications is 301-713-2445. Full proposals should be submitted through Grants.gov. For those applicants without Internet access, hard copy proposals may be sent to the above address.

Information Contact(s): Dorn Carlson, NOAA National Sea Grant Office, 301-713-2435; via Internet at Dorn.Carlson@noaa.gov; or Pamela

Thibodeaux, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 703-358-2493; via Internet at Pamela_Thibodeaux@fws.gov; or Carolyn Junemann, U.S. Maritime Administration, 202-366-1920; via Internet at

Carolyn.Junemann@marad.dot.gov. Further background information can be obtained from the above information contacts, or on the Ballast Water Program Web site, <http://www.nsgo.seagrant.org/research/nonindigenous/ballast>.

Eligibility: Individuals, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, commercial organizations, Federal, State, local and Indian tribal governments, foreign governments, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, and international organizations are eligible. Only those who submit pre-proposals by the deadline are eligible to submit full proposals.

Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

Intergovernmental Review:

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." NOAA Fellowship, Scholarship and Internship Programs.

National Ocean Service

1. Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program; Financial Assistance for Graduate Students

Summary Description: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is announcing Funding Availability for graduate students pursuing masters or doctoral level degrees in oceanography, marine biology, or maritime archaeology through the Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program and is inviting applications for such scholarships. Approximately \$160,000 will be available through this announcement for fiscal year 2006. It is expected that approximately five awards will be made, depending on the availability of funds. The intent of this program is to recognize outstanding scholarship and encourage independent graduate level research in the above mentioned fields.

Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1445c-1.

CFDA: 11.429 National Marine Sanctuary Program.

Application Deadline: Applications must be received between February 13, 2006 and April 18, 2006 no later than 5 p.m. eastern daylight time. Applications received before February 13 or after April 18 will be returned.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applications should be submitted via grants.gov. Applicants who do not have

access to the Internet should send paper applications, or any part thereof, to the Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program, Attention: Office of the Assistant Administrator, 13th Floor, National Ocean Service, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Information Contact(s): Send your request for information to the Program Manager at the address shown above, by telephone (301) 713-3074, or by Internet to <http://fosterscholars.noaa.gov>.

Eligibility: Only individuals who are United States citizens currently pursuing or accepted to pursue a masters or doctoral level degree in oceanography, marine biology, or maritime archaeology, including the curation, preservation, and display of maritime artifacts, are eligible for an award under this scholarship program. Universities or other organizations may not apply on behalf of an individual. Prospective scholars do not need to be enrolled, but must be admitted to a graduate level program in order to apply for this scholarship. Recipients of scholarship awards may be employed at the time of the award if it is a requirement of their degree program or directly related to their research effort. Other forms of employment will not be allowed and scholars will be required to submit a letter certifying that they are in compliance with this requirement. Eligibility must be maintained for each succeeding year of support and annual reporting requirements, to be specified at a later date, will apply.

Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

Intergovernmental Review:

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs".

2. National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRF)

Summary Description: The Estuarine Reserves Division of NOAA is soliciting applications for graduate fellowship funding within the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. The Estuarine Reserves Division anticipates that 26 Graduate Research Fellowships will be competitively awarded to qualified graduate students whose research occurs within the boundaries of at least one reserve. The National Estuarine Research Reserve Graduate Research Fellowship program is designed to fund high quality research focused on enhancing coastal zone management while providing students with an opportunity to contribute to the research or monitoring program at a particular reserve site. Students are required to work with the research coordinator or

reserve manager to develop a plan to participate in the research or monitoring program for up to 15 hours per week. These management-related research projects will enhance scientific understanding of the Reserve ecosystem, provide information needed by Reserve management and coastal management decision-makers, and improve public awareness and understanding of estuarine ecosystems and estuarine management issues. Research projects must address one of the following scientific areas of support: non-point source pollution, biodiversity, invasive species, habitat restoration, sustaining resources in estuarine ecosystems, and socioeconomic research applicable to estuarine ecosystem management.

Funding Availability: The amount of the fellowship is anticipated to be \$20,000; at least 30% of total project cost match is required by the applicant (*i.e.*, \$8,572 match for \$20,000 in federal funds for a total project cost of \$28,572). Applicants may apply for one to three years of funding.

Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1461(e)(1)(B).

CFDA: 11.420 Coastal Zone Management.

Application Deadline: Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit all materials through <http://www.Grants.gov> no later than 11 p.m. (EST) on November 1, 2005. Proposals will be blocked from submission through this online system after 11 p.m. (EST) on November 1, 2005. If Internet access is unavailable, paper applications should be postmarked or received by NOAA no later than 11 (EST) on November 1, 2005. Paper applications should be sent to: Susan White, Program Coordinator at NOAA/Estuarine Reserves Division, 1305 East-West Highway, N/ORM5, SSMC4, Station 10500, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Information Contact: Susan White, NOAA's Estuarine Reserves Division; 1305 East-West Highway; SSMC4, Station 10500, N/ORM5; Silver Spring, MD 20912, or by phone at 301-713-3155 extension 224, or fax to 301-713-4363, e-mail at susan.white@noaa.gov or <http://www.nerrs.noaa.gov/fellowship>. If Dr. White is unavailable, please contact Erica Seiden at 301-713-3155 ext. 172 or via e-mail at erica.seiden@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Institutions eligible to receive awards include institutions of higher education, other non-profits, commercial organizations, state, and local governments. Minority students are encouraged to apply to eligible institutions.

Cost Sharing Requirements: Requested federal funds must be matched by at least 30 percent of the

total cost of the project, not a portion of only the federal share, (e.g. \$8,572 match for \$20,000 in federal funds for a total project cost of \$28,572).

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

Oceans and Atmospheric Research

1. GradFell 2006 NMFS/Sea Grant Joint Graduate Fellowship Program in Marine Resource Economics

Summary Description: The National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) within OAR is seeking applications for one of its fellowship programs to fulfill its broad educational responsibilities and to strengthen the collaboration between Sea Grant and NMFS. Fellows will work on thesis problems of public interest and relevance to NMFS under the guidance of NMFS mentors.

Funding Availability: The NMFS/Sea Grant Joint Graduate Fellowship Program in Marine Resource Economics expects to support at least two new Fellows for 2 years beginning in FY 2006. The award for each fellowship will be a cooperative agreement of \$38,000 per year, with an anticipated start date of June 1, 2006.

Statutory Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1127(a).

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 11.417, Sea Grant Support.

Application Deadline: Applications must be received by 4 p.m. (local time) on February 10, 2006, by a state Sea Grant Program [or by the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) if the application is from an institution of higher education in a non-Sea Grant state]. Applications received by a state Sea Grant program are to be forwarded, unchanged, to the NSGO and received no later than 4 p.m. EST on February 17, 2006. For applications submitted through Grants.gov, a date and time receipt indication is included and will be the basis of determining timeliness. Hard copy proposals will be date and time stamped when they are received in the program office. Hard copy applications arriving after the closing dates given above will be accepted for review only if the applicant can document that the application was provided to a delivery service that guaranteed delivery prior to the specified closing date and time; in any event, hard copy applications received by the NSGO later than two business days following the closing date will not be accepted.

Address for Submitting Applications: Applications from Sea Grant programs should be submitted through <http://www.Grants.gov>, unless an applicant does not have Internet access. In that case, paper applications may be submitted to the NSGO at the following address: National Sea Grant Office, R/SG, Attn: Fellowship Program Manager, Room 11718, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (Telephone number for express mail applications is 301-713-2431). Facsimile transmissions and electronic mail submission of applications will not be accepted.

Information Contact: National Sea Grant College Program, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; tel: (301) 713-2431; any state Sea Grant Program; or any participating NMFS facility.

Eligibility: Prospective Fellows must be United States citizens. At the time of application, prospective Marine Resource Economics Fellows must be in the process of completing at least two years of course work in a PhD. degree program in marine resource economics, natural resource economics, or environmental economics at an institution of higher education in the United States or its territories. Applications must be submitted by the institution of higher education, which may be any such institution in the United States or its territories.

Cost Sharing Requirements: Required 50 percent match of the NSGO funds by the academic institution (i.e., \$6,333).

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

2. Dean John A. Knauss, Marine Policy Fellowship (Knauss Fellowship Program)

Summary Description: The Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship matches graduate students who have an interest in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions affecting these resources with hosts in the legislative and executive branches of government for a one year paid fellowship.

Funding Availability: Not less than 30 applicants will be selected, of which the selected applicants assigned to the Congress will be limited to 10. The overall cooperative agreement is \$41,500 per student.

Statutory Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1127(b).

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 11.417, Sea Grant Support.

Application Deadline: Eligible graduate students must submit applications to state Sea Grant college programs, whose deadlines vary (contact individual states for due dates). Selected applications from the sponsoring Sea Grant program are to be received in the National Sea Grant Office no later than 5 p.m. eastern time on April 6, 2006. Hard copy applications that arrive after the closing date will be accepted for review only if the applicant can document that the application was provided to a delivery service that guaranteed delivery prior to the specified closing date and time; in any event, hard copy applications received by the NSGO later than two business days following the closing date will not be accepted.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applications from Sea Grant programs should be submitted through <http://www.Grants.gov>, unless an applicant does not have Internet access. In that case, hard copy may be submitted to the NSGO and should be addressed to: National Sea Grant Office, R/SG, Attn: Knauss Program Manager, Room 11718, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (telephone number for express mail applications is 301-713-2431). Facsimile transmissions and electronic mail submission of applications will not be accepted.

Information Contact: National Sea Grant College Program, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; tel: (301) 713-2431 ext. 124; or any state Sea Grant Program.

Eligibility: Any student, regardless of citizenship, who, on April 6, 2006, is in a graduate or professional program in a marine or aquatic-related field at a United States accredited institution of higher education in the United States may apply.

Cost Sharing Requirements: There will be the one-third required cost share for those applicants selected as legislative fellows.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

3. Sea Grant—Industry Fellowship Program

Summary Description: The Sea Grant—Industry Fellowship is available to graduate students enrolled in either MS or PhD degree programs in institutions of higher education in the United States and its territories, with required matching funds from private industrial sponsors. Industry Fellows will work on research and development projects on topics of interest to a

particular industry/company. In a true partnership, the student, the faculty advisor, the Sea Grant College or institute, and the industry representative will work together, sharing research facilities and the cost of the activity.

Funding Availability: Sea Grant anticipates supporting up to five new Industry Fellows. The award is in the form of a grant of up to \$30,000 per year with an anticipated start date of June 1, 2006.

Statutory Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1127(a).

Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 11.417, Sea Grant Support.

Application Deadline: Applications must be received by 4 p.m. (local time) on February 10, 2006, by a state Sea Grant Program [or by the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) in the case of an institution of higher education in a non-Sea Grant state]. Applications are to be forwarded, unchanged, to the NSGO by the state Sea Grant Programs and received by midnight (EDT) on February 17, 2006. For applications submitted through Grants.gov, a date and time receipt indication is included and will be the basis of determining timeliness. Hard copy proposals will be date and time stamped when they are received in the program office. Hard copy applications arriving after the closing dates given above will be accepted for review only if the applicant can document that the application was provided to a delivery service that guaranteed delivery prior to the specified closing date and time; in any event, hard copy applications received by the NSGO later than two business days following the closing date will not be accepted.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applications from Sea Grant programs should be submitted through <http://www.Grants.gov>, unless an applicant does not have Internet access. In that case, a paper application may be submitted to the NSGO at the following address: National Sea Grant Office, R/SG, Attn: Dr. Nikola Garber, Knauss Program Manager, Room 11718, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (telephone number for express mail applications is 301-713-2431). Facsimile transmissions and electronic mail submission of applications will not be accepted.

Information Contact: Dr. Nikola Garber, National Sea Grant College Program, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; tel: (301) 713-2431 ext. 124; e-mail: nikola.garber@noaa.gov; or any state Sea Grant Program.

Eligibility: At the time of application, any prospective student, regardless of citizenship, must be admitted to a MS or PhD degree program at an institution of higher education in the United States or its territories, or submit a signed letter from the institution indicating provisional acceptance to a MS or PhD degree program conditional on obtaining financial support such as this fellowship. Applications must be submitted by the institution of higher education.

Cost Sharing Requirements: Required 50 percent match of the Federal funds by the industrial partner.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

4. GradFell 2006 NMFS/Sea Grant Joint Graduate Fellowship Program in Population Dynamics

Summary Description: The National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) within OAR is seeking applications for one of its fellowship programs to fulfill its broad educational responsibilities and to strengthen the collaboration between Sea Grant and NMFS. Fellows will work on thesis problems of public interest and relevance to NMFS under the guidance of NMFS mentors.

Funding Availability: The NMFS—Sea Grant Joint Graduate Fellowship Program in Population Dynamics expects to support at least two new Fellows for 3 years beginning in FY 2006. The award for each fellowship will be a cooperative agreement of \$38,000 per year, with an anticipated start date of June 1, 2006.

Statutory Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1127(a).

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 11.417, Sea Grant Support.

Application Deadline: Applications must be received by 4 p.m. (local time) on February 10, 2006, by a state Sea Grant Program [or by the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) in the case of an institution of higher education in a non-Sea Grant state]. Applications received by the state Sea Grant Programs are to be forwarded, unchanged, to the NSGO and received by 4 p.m. eastern time on February 17, 2006. For applications submitted through Grants.gov, a date and time receipt indication is included and will be the basis of determining timeliness. Hard copy proposals will be date and time stamped when they are received in the program office. Hard copy applications arriving after the closing dates given above will be accepted for review only if the applicant

can document that the application was provided to a delivery service that guaranteed delivery prior to the specified closing date and time; in any event, hard copy applications received by the NSGO later than two business days following the closing date will not be accepted.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applications from Sea Grant programs should be submitted through <http://www.Grants.gov>, unless an applicant does not have Internet access. In that case, hard copy may be submitted to the NSGO and should be addressed to: National Sea Grant Office, R/SG, Attn: Fellowship Program Manager, Room 11718, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (telephone number for express mail applications is 301-713-2431). Facsimile transmissions and electronic mail submission of applications will not be accepted.

Information Contact: National Sea Grant College Program, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; tel: (301) 713-2431; any state Sea Grant Program; or any participating NMFS facility.

Eligibility: Prospective Fellows must be United States citizens. At the time of application, prospective Population Dynamics Fellows must be admitted to a PhD degree program in population dynamics or a related field such as applied mathematics, statistics, or quantitative ecology at an institution of higher education in the United States or its territories, or submit a signed letter from the institution indicating provisional acceptance to a PhD degree program conditional on obtaining financial support such as this fellowship. Applications must be submitted by the institution of higher education, which may be any such institution in the United States or its territories.

Cost Sharing Requirements: Required 50 percent match of the NSGO funds by the academic institution (*i.e.*, \$6,333).

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

Limitation of Liability

Funding for programs listed in this notice is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2005 appropriations. Applicants are hereby given notice that funds have not yet been appropriated for the programs listed in this notice. In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if these programs fail to receive funding or are cancelled because of

other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

Universal Identifier

Applicants should be aware that, they are required to provide a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number during the application process. See the October 30, 2002 **Federal Register**, Vol. 67, No. 210, pp. 66177B66178 for additional information. Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711 or via the Internet (<http://www.dunandbradstreet.com>).

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for applicant projects or proposals which are seeking NOAA federal funding opportunities. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA Web site: <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/>, including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA, <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216-6-TOC.pdf>, and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/toc_ceq.htm. Consequently, as part of an applicant's package, and under their description of their program activities, applicants are required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non-indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to coral reef systems). In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting of an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. The failure to do so shall be grounds for not selecting an application. In some cases if additional information is required after an application is selected, funds can be withheld by the Grants Officer under a

special award condition requiring the recipient to submit additional environmental compliance information sufficient to enable NOAA to make an assessment on any impacts that a project may have on the environment.

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** notice of December 30, 2004 (69 FR 78389), are applicable to this solicitation.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This document contains collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). The use of Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, SF-LLL, and CD-346 has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the respective control numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040, 0348-0046, and 0605-0001. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the PRA unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Executive Order 12866

This notice has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

Executive Order 13132 (Federalism)

It has been determined that this notice does not contain policies with federalism implications as that term is defined in Executive Order 13132.

Administrative Procedure Act/Regulatory Flexibility Act

Prior notice and an opportunity for public comment are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act or any other law for rules concerning public property, loans, grants, benefits, and contracts (5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2)). Because notice and opportunity for comment are not required pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553 or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) are inapplicable. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis has not been prepared.

Dated: June 27, 2005.

Helen Hurcombe,

*Director Acquisition and Grants Office,
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 05-12927 Filed 6-29-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-12-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 062405A]

NOAA Recreational Fisheries Action Team Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: NMFS is hosting a public meeting in July 2005, in Santa Ana, California. The purpose of the meeting is to identify programs and projects to be implemented as part of the NOAA Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan 2005-2010, and to gather input from the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 13, and Thursday, July 14, 2005. Wednesday's meeting is scheduled to start at 10 a.m. and end at 6 p.m. Pacific standard time (P.s.t.). Thursday's meeting is scheduled to start at 8:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. P.s.t.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Orange County Airport, 2726 South Grand Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705; phone: (714) 481-6300.

Copies of the NOAA Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan are available on the Internet at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocs/recfish/getinvolved.htm>, or can be obtained by contacting Marty Golden (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

Directions: The reference point for these directions is the John Wayne (Orange County) Airport. Exit the airport to Macarthur Blvd., North bound - go about 1½ miles.

Take Costa Mesa Fwy. (Hwy 55) North - go about ¾ of a mile.

Take first exit, Dyer Road - go West (Left), under the Fwy.

Take first right on South Grand Ave. and travel half a block to the hotel.

The reference point for these directions is the San Diego Fwy. (I- 405). Exit to the Costa Mesa Fwy. (Hwy 55) North - go about 1½ miles. Exit to Dyer Road - go West (Left), under the Fwy.

Take first right on South Grand Ave. and travel half a block to the hotel.

The reference point for these directions is the Costa Mesa Fwy. (Hwy 55) South bound.

Exit at South Grand Ave (Exit 8B).

Take a left at the end of the exit ramp onto South Grand Ave. and travel half a block to the hotel.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marty Golden, Pacific Recreational

Digest of Federal Resource Laws of Interest to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-667e; the Act of March 10, 1934; Ch. 55; 48 Stat. 401), as amended by the Act of June 24, 1936, Ch. 764, 49 Stat. 913; the Act of August 14, 1946, Ch. 965, 60 Stat. 1080; the Act of August 5, 1947, Ch. 489, 61 Stat. 770; the Act of May 19, 1948, Ch. 310, 62 Stat. 240; P.L. 325, October 6, 1949, 63 Stat. 708; P.L. 85-624, August 12, 1958, 72 Stat. 563; and P.L. 89-72, 79 Stat. 216, July 9, 1965.

The Act of March 10, 1934, authorizes the Secretaries of Agriculture and Commerce to provide assistance to and cooperate with Federal and State agencies to protect, rear, stock, and increase the supply of game and fur-bearing animals, as well as to study the effects of domestic sewage, trade wastes, and other polluting substances on wildlife.

The Act also directs the Bureau of Fisheries to use impounded waters for fish-culture stations and migratory-bird resting and nesting areas and requires consultation with the Bureau of Fisheries prior to the construction of any new dams to provide for fish migration. In addition, this Act authorizes the preparation of plans to protect wildlife resources, the completion of wildlife surveys on public lands, and the acceptance by the Federal agencies of funds or lands for related purposes provided that land donations received the consent of the State in which they are located.

The amendments enacted in 1946 require consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the fish and wildlife agencies of States where the "waters of any stream or other body of water are proposed or authorized, permitted or licensed to be impounded, diverted . . . or otherwise controlled or modified" by any agency under a Federal permit or license. Consultation is to be undertaken for the purpose of "preventing loss of and damage to wildlife resources."

The amendments authorize the transfer of funds to the Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct related investigations. Land made available to the Secretary of Interior for wildlife protection purposes is to be managed directly by or under cooperative agreements with the Secretary of Interior. General plans may also include the transfer of project lands to a State for management. The amendments authorized appropriations for related purposes and specifically exempted the Tennessee Valley Authority from its provisions.

Miscellaneous amendments in 1936, 1947, 1948, and 1949 authorized the following provisions respectively: 1) purchase of lands in Idaho for use as a game management supply depot and laboratory, 2) transfer of lands in connection with the Crab Orchard Creek Project to the Secretary of Interior, 3) use of surplus Federal property for wildlife conservation purposes, and 4) exchange of lands within the Skagit National Wildlife Refuge.

The 1958 amendments added provisions to recognize the vital contribution of wildlife resources to the Nation and to require equal consideration and coordination of wildlife conservation with other water resources development programs, and authorized the Secretary of Interior to provide public fishing areas and accept donations of lands and funds.

The amendments also titled the law as the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and expanded the instances in which diversions or modifications to water bodies would require consultation with the Fish and Wildlife

Service. These amendments permitted lands valuable to the Migratory Bird Management Program to be made available to the State agency exercising control over wildlife resources.

[Return to List of Resource Laws](#)

Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1970

Eff. Oct. 3, 1970, 35 F.R. 15627, 84 Stat. 2090, as amended Pub. L. 94-461, § 4(c)(1), Oct. 8, 1976, 90 Stat. 1969; Pub. L. 95-219, § 3(a)(1), Dec. 28, 1977, 91 Stat. 1613; Pub. L. 98-498, Title III, § 320 (c)(3), Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2309; Pub. L. 99-659, Title IV, § 407(d), Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3739.

Prepared by the President and transmitted to the Senate and the House of Representatives in Congress assembled, July 9, 1970, pursuant to the provisions of chapter 9 of title 5 of the United States Code.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 1. Transfers to Secretary of Commerce. The following are hereby transferred to the Secretary of Commerce:

(a) All functions vested by law in the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries of the Department of the Interior or in its head, together with all functions vested by law in the Secretary of the Interior or the Department of the Interior which are administered through that Bureau or are primarily related to the Bureau, exclusive of functions with respect to (1) Great Lakes fishery research and activities related to the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission, (2) Missouri River Reservoir research, (3) the Gulf Breeze Biological Laboratory of the said Bureau at Gulf Breeze, Florida, and (4) Trans-Alaska pipeline investigations.

(b) The functions vested in the Secretary of the Interior by the Act of September 22, 1959 (Public Law 86-359, 73 Stat. 642, 16 U.S.C. 760e-760g; relating to migratory marine species of game fish).

(c) The functions vested by law in the Secretary of the Interior, or in the Department of the Interior or in any officer or instrumentality of that Department, which are administered through the Marine Minerals Technology Center of the Bureau of Mines.

(d) All functions vested in the National Science Foundation by the National Sea Grant College and Program Act of 1966 (80 Stat. 998), as amended (33 U.S.C. 1121 et seq.).

(e) Those functions vested in the Secretary of Defense or in any officer, employee, or organizational entity of the Department of Defense by the provision of Public Law 91-144, 83 Stat. 326, under the heading "Operation and maintenance, general" with respect to "surveys and charting of northern and northwestern lakes and connecting waters," or by other law, which come under the mission assigned as of July 1, 1969, to the United States Army Engineer District, Lake Survey, Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army and relate to (1) the conduct of hydrographic surveys of the Great Lakes and their outflow rivers, Lake Champlain, New York State Barge Canals, and the Minnesota-Ontario border lakes, and the compilation and publication of navigation charts, including recreational aspects, and the Great Lakes Pilot for the benefit and use of the public, (2) the conception, planning, and conduct of basic research and development in the fields of water motion, water characteristics, water quantity, and ice and snow, and (3) the publication of data and the results of research projects in forms useful to the Corps of Engineers and the public, and the operation of a Regional Data Center for the collection, coordination, analysis, and the furnishing to interested agencies of data relating to water resources of the Great Lakes.

(f) So much of the functions of the transferor officers and agencies referred to in or affected by the foregoing provisions of this section as is incidental to or necessary for the performance by or under the Secretary of Commerce of the functions transferred by those provisions or relates primarily to those functions. The transfers to the Secretary of Commerce made by this section shall be deemed to include the transfer of authority, provided by law, to prescribe regulations relating primarily to the transferred functions.

SEC. 2. Establishment of Administration. (a) There is hereby established in the Department of Commerce an agency which shall be known as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, hereinafter referred to as the "Administration."

(b) There shall be at the head of the Administration the Administrator of the National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration, hereinafter referred to as the "Administrator." The Administrator shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall be compensated at the rate now or hereafter provided for Level III of the Executive Schedule Pay Rates (5 U.S.C. 5314).

(c) There shall be in the Administration a Deputy Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall be compensated at the rate now or hereafter provided for Level IV of the Executive Schedule Pay Rates (5 U.S.C. 5315). The Deputy Administrator shall perform such functions as the Administrator shall from time to time assign or delegate, and shall act as Administrator during the absence or disability of the Administrator or in the event of a vacancy in the office of Administrator.

(d) There shall be in the Administration a Chief Scientist of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall be compensated at the rate now or hereafter provided for Level V of the Executive Schedule Pay Rates (5 U.S.C. 5316). The Chief Scientist shall be the principal scientific adviser to the Administrator, and shall perform such other duties as the Administrator may direct. The Chief Scientist shall be an individual who is, by reason of scientific education and experience, knowledgeable in the principles of oceanic, atmospheric, or other scientific disciplines important to the work of the Administration.

(e)(1) There shall be in the Administration a General Counsel and five Assistant Administrators, one of whom shall be the Assistant Administrator for Coastal Zone Management and one of whom shall be the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries. The General Counsel and each Assistant Administrator shall be appointed by the Secretary, subject to approval of the President, and shall be compensated at a rate now or hereafter provided for Level V of the Executive Schedule Pay Rates (5 U.S.C. 5316).

(2) The General Counsel shall serve as the chief legal officer for all legal matters which may arise in connection with the conduct of the functions of the Administration.

(3) The Assistant Administrator for Coastal Zone Management shall be an individual who is, by reason of background and experience, especially qualified to direct the implementation and administration of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.).

(4) The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall be responsible for all matters related to living marine resources which may arise in connection with the conduct of the functions of the Administration.

(f) The President may appoint in the Administration, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, two commissioned officers to serve at any one time as the designated heads of two principal constituent organizational entities of the Administration, or the President may designate one such officer as the head of such an organizational entity and the other as the head of the commissioned corps of the Administration. Any such designation shall create a vacancy on the active list and the officer while serving under this subsection shall have the rank, pay, and allowances of a rear admiral (upper half).

(g) Any commissioned officer of the Administration who has served under (d) or (f) and is retired while so serving or is retired after the completion of such service while serving in a lower rank or grade, shall be retired with the rank, pay, and allowances authorized by law for the highest grade and rank held by him; but any such officer, upon termination of his appointment in a rank above that of captain, shall, unless appointed or assigned to some other position for which a higher rank or grade is provided, revert to the grade and number he would have occupied had he not served in a rank above that of captain and such officer shall be an extra number in that grade.

Sec. 3. Performance of transferred functions. The provisions of sections 2 and 4 of Reorganization Plan No. 5 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1263) shall be applicable to the functions transferred hereunder to the Secretary of Commerce.

SEC. 4 Incidental transfers. (a) So much of the personnel, property, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds employed, used, held, available, or to be made available in connection with the functions transferred to the Secretary of Commerce by this reorganization plan as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall determine shall be transferred to the Department of Commerce at such time or times as the Director shall direct.

(b) Such further measures and dispositions as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall deem to be necessary in order to effectuate the transfers referred to in subsection (a) of this section shall

be carried out in such manner as he shall direct and by such agencies as he shall designate.

(c) The personnel, property, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds of the Environmental Science Services Administration shall become personnel, property, records, and unexpended balances of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or of such other organizational entity or entities of the Department of Commerce as the Secretary of Commerce shall determine.

(d) The Commissioned Officer Corps of the Environmental Science Services Administration shall become the Commissioned Officer Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Members of the Corps, including those appointed hereafter, shall be entitled to all rights, privileges, and benefits heretofore available under any law to commissioned officers of the Environmental Science Services Administration, including those rights, privileges, and benefits heretofore accorded by law to commissioned officers of the former Coast and Geodetic Survey.

(e) Any personnel, property, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries not otherwise transferred shall become personnel, property, records, and unexpended balances of such organizational entity or entities of the Department of the Interior as the Secretary of the Interior shall determine.

SEC. 5. Interim officers. (a) The President may authorize any person who immediately prior to the effective date of this reorganization plan held a position in the executive branch of the Government to act as Administrator until the office of Administrator is for the first time filled pursuant to provisions of this reorganization plan or by recess appointment, as the case may be.

(b) The President may similarly authorize any such person to act as Deputy Administrator and authorize any such person to act as Associate Administrator.

(c) The President may similarly authorize a member of the former Commissioned Officer Corps of the Environmental Science Services Administration to act as the head of one principal constituent organizational entity of the Administration.

(d) The President may authorize any person who serves in an acting capacity under the foregoing provisions of this section to receive the compensation attached to the office in respect of which he so serves. Such compensation, if authorized, shall be in lieu of, but not in addition to, other compensation from the United States to which such person may be entitled.

SEC. 6. Abolitions. (a) Subject to the provisions of this reorganization plan, the following, exclusive of any functions, are hereby abolished:

(1) The Environmental Science Services Administration in the Department of Commerce (established by Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1965, 79 Stat.1318), including the offices of Administrator of the Environmental Science Services Administration and Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Science Services Administration.

(2) The Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in the Department of the Interior (16 U.S.C. 742b), including the office of Director of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries.

(b) Such provisions as may be necessary with respect to terminating any outstanding affairs shall be made by the Secretary of Commerce in the case of the Environmental Science Services Administration and by the Secretary of the Interior in the case of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1970, prepared in accordance with chapter 9 of title 5 of the United States Code. The plan would transfer to the Secretary of Commerce various functions relating to the oceans and atmosphere, including commercial fishery functions, and would establish a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the Department of Commerce. My reasons for transmitting this plan are stated in a more extended accompanying message.

After investigation, I have found and hereby declare that each reorganization included in

Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1970 is necessary to accomplish one or more of the purposes set forth in section 901(a) of title 5 of the United States Code. In particular, the plan is responsive to section 901 (a) (1), " to promote the better execution of the laws, the more effective management of the executive branch and of its agencies and functions, and the expeditious administration of the public business;" and section 901 (a) (3), "to increase the efficiency of the operations of the Government to the fullest extent practicable."

The reorganizations provided for in the plan make necessary the appointment and compensation of new officers as specified in section 2 of the plan. The rates of compensation fixed for these officers are comparable to those fixed for other officers in the executive branch who have similar responsibilities

The reorganization plan should result in the more efficient operation of the Government. It is not practical, however, to itemize or aggregate the exact expenditure reductions which will result from this action.

RICHARD NIXON

THE WHITE HOUSE,

July 9, 1970.

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or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: November 30, 2005.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E5-6851 Filed 12-5-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program Progress Reports

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 6, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Robin Bruckner, 301-713-0174 or via the Internet at Robin.Bruckner@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The NOAA Community-based Restoration Program (CRP) provides financial assistance on a competitive basis to implement grass-roots, community-based habitat restoration, debris prevention and removal, and barrier removal activities through individual projects or restoration partnerships. The NOAA Restoration Center (RC) within the NOAA Fisheries

Service Office of Habitat Conservation, intends to continue requiring specific information on projects funded under various grants initiatives managed by the RC as part of routine progress reporting. Recipients of NOAA funds under these initiatives will be required to submit information including project location, restoration techniques used, species benefitted, acres restored, stream miles opened to access for diadromous fish, volunteer participation, and other parameters. This information collection is necessary to track and report on the large number of community-based projects being implemented with RC support around the country. This information will be used to continue populating a database of NOAA-funded habitat restoration, debris prevention and removal, and barrier removal projects. The database, with its robust querying capabilities, is instrumental to accurate and timely responses to NOAA, Department of Commerce, Congressional and Constituent inquiries. It also ensures accountability for federal funds expended for community-based activities, reported by NOAA through the Government Performance and Reporting Act acres restored performance measure. Grant recipients are required by the NOAA Grants Management Division to submit periodic performance reports and a final report for each award; this collection will stipulate the information to be provided in these reports.

II. Method of Collection

The reporting form and format outline will be provided to funding recipients and will also be available on the Restoration Center's home page. Electronic submission of forms and progress report narratives will be encouraged but not required.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0472.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Not-for profit institutions; State, Local and Tribal Governments, business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 200.

Estimated Time Per Response: Interim reports, 9 hours and 45 minutes; and final reports, 11 hours and 45 minutes. Three semi-annual reports and one final report over a 24-month period are required for each award; however, information collected and submitted for any single report need not be collected again for subsequent reports.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 8,240.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$2,940.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: November 30, 2005.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Information Requirements for the Marine Animal Health and Stranding Response Program

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 6, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW.,