



NOAA'S CORAL REEF CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM

under the
Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 USCS § 6401)

NOAA'S PROGRAM AUTHORITY UNDER THE ACT

The Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 authorizes the following:

- Under section 6403 the Secretary of Commerce is authorized, through the NOAA Administrator, to issue grants for broad-based coral reef conservation activities, consistent with the purposes of the Act.
- Up to \$8,000,000 to be awarded in grants per year for FY 2001 - 2004.

NOAA'S PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The NOAA *Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program Implementation Guidelines and Fiscal Year 2002 Funding Guidance* (67 FR 19396) were published in the Federal Register on April 19, 2002. Electronic copies of these notices can be found at <http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov>. The following is a brief summary of the information found in these two publications:

FISCAL YEAR 2002 FUNDING

- NOAA allocated approximately \$5,500,000 to the Program in FY 2002.
- U.S. Pacific and Caribbean/Gulf/Atlantic regions are each to receive forty percent of available funds. Twenty percent of funds are intended to address other priorities, including international, as identified by the NOAA Administrator.
- Applicants must provide 1:1 non-Federal matching funds, which may include in-kind resources. The match requirement may be waived in certain cases at NOAA's discretion.

ELIGIBILITY APPLICANTS

- Eligible applicants include state, territorial, and local governments, academic institutions, Federal agencies (although must involve a strong local partnership), and non-governmental organizations with demonstrated expertise in and/or jurisdictional authority over coral reef resources.
- Federal agencies are discouraged from applying, unless there is a significant local partnership. NOAA offices are not eligible under this Program, except for certain research grants.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- In FY 2002, eligible coral reef conservation activities are grouped into six major categories: State and Territorial Coral Reef Management; State and Territorial Coral Reef Monitoring; International Coral Reef Conservation; General Coral Reef Conservation; State and Territorial Research to Support Coral Reef Monitoring; and Improvements to Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans.
- Funding under these six categories will be awarded using the existing authorities and funding mechanisms of the following NOAA Offices: the National Ocean Service Offices of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, International Programs, and National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science, and the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Habitat Conservation.

FISCAL YEAR 2002 APPLICATIONS

- NOAA received 96 proposals requesting nearly \$8.5 million during the fiscal year 2002 solicitation period, which ended on May 24, 2002.
- By June 28, 2002, NOAA will conduct a thorough internal and external proposal review process and return notices of intent to fund and proposal comments to preliminarily selected applicants for use in the development of final application packages.
- Final funding decisions will be issued to all applicants prior to October 1, 2002.

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