

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Diana Hynek 03/08/2005
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer
14th and Constitution Ave. NW.
Room 6625
Washington, DC 20230

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 10/29/2004.

TITLE: Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program (S-K Program)
Applications and Reports

AGENCY FORM NUMBER(S): 88-204,88-205

ACTION : APPROVED WITHOUT CHANGE

OMB NO.: 0648-0135

EXPIRATION DATE: 03/31/2008

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS(\$,000)
Previous	310	985	3
New	310	985	3
Difference	0	0	0
Program Change		0	0
Adjustment		0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE:

The agency is instructed to document participation in grants.gov in future ICR submissions covering grant programs.

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
SALTONSTALL-KENNEDY GRANT PROGRAM (S-K PROGRAM)
APPLICATION AND REPORTS
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0135**

JUSTIFICATION

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

This information collection is needed to administer the Saltonstall-Kennedy (S-K) Grant Program authorized by the S-K Act, as amended, (15 U.S.C. 713c-3). That Act makes available to the Secretary of the Department of Commerce (Secretary) an amount equal to 30 percent of the gross receipts collected under the customs laws of the United States from duties on fish and fish products. The Secretary is authorized to use a portion of these funds to carry out a grant program for fisheries research and development.

Once each fiscal year, if funding is available, NOAA publishes in the Federal Register a notice of availability of financial assistance (a solicitation for applications) to persons who are interested in obtaining grants to carry out research and development projects which address aspects of U.S. fisheries involving the U.S. fishing industry (commercial and recreational) including, but not limited to harvesting, processing, and associated infrastructures. The solicitation contains a description of the S-K Program, along with the funding priorities. Funding recommendations are determined through a competitive process involving technical review and constituency panel ranking of applications, which are used by NOAA in making funding recommendations to the Department.

Information is a requirement for submitting an application, and is necessary for evaluating individual grant applications and making funding decisions. Those interested in obtaining a grant must submit an application. Successful applicants, after award of grants, are required to submit semiannual performance reports and a final report for each project.

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 purpose of each information collection is discussed separately below. The National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, technical reviewers, and constituency panels to evaluate the technical aspects of projects, to determine whether they meet the published funding priorities, and to determine appropriateness for funding, will use information in the application. If information were not provided, there would be no basis for evaluation. Information contained in semiannual performance reports is used to monitor progress of work on the grants and to determine appropriateness of continuing payments. Information in the final report is used to determine if project objectives were achieved and what was learned.

- a. Application for Federal Assistance.** Project applications must consist of: SF-424 (Rev 4-88), Application for Federal Assistance Form and SF-424B (Rev 4-88), Assurances - Non- Construction Programs (Required by OMB Circular A-102). (SF-424A Budget Information for Non- Construction Program will not be used; see page 5, Project Budget).

-
- Project Summary (NOAA Form 88-204) (Required by NOAA)
-
- Project Narrative Description (Required by OMB Circular A-102)
-
- Project Budget (NOAA Form 88-205) (Information on form is required by OMB)
-
- S-K Program Application Receipt Acknowledgment (an optional form)

(1) SF-424 - Application for Federal Assistance (cover Sheet) and SF-424B - Assurances - Non-Construction Programs. Applicants must use these forms for each project within an application. (Required by OMB Circular A-102).

(2) Project Summary. Applicants must complete NOAA Form 88-204, Project Summary, for each project (see attached). (NOAA requires information on the form). The summary is detached from the full proposal and used by the agency and reviewers as a quick reference when such is needed to respond to information requests about applications, etc. The summary sheet provides the following information:

- (a) Project title.
- (b) Project status (new or continuing).
- (c) Project period (stated in months).
- (d) Name, address, and telephone number of applicant.
- (e) Name of the Principal Investigator(s) and a brief statement of qualifications.
- (f) Project objective.
- (g) Specific priority (ies) in the solicitation to which project responds.
- (h) Summary of work to be performed. For continuing projects, the applicant will briefly describe progress to date in addition to work proposed with additional funds.
- (i) Project funding. Total project funding including Federal and non-Federal Share must be shown.

(3) Project Narrative Description: (Required by OMB Circular A-102, Section 6.c(5)). The following requirements for a narrative description have been tailored to meet the unique needs of this grant program. Each project must be completely and accurately described within an application. This description may contain up to 15 pages. Project descriptions must include the following:

- (a) Identification of Problem(s). For new projects, identify and completely describe the problem(s) the project addresses. This description should include: (1) the fisheries involved; (2) the specific

problem(s) that the fishing industry has encountered; (3) the sectors of the fishing industry that are affected; (4) the specific priority (ies) mentioned in the Federal Register notice to which the project responds, and (5) how the problem(s) prevent the fishing industry from developing a fishery or using existing fishery resources. If the application is for continuation of an existing S-K funded project, applicants must describe progress to date and explain why continued funding is necessary.

(b) Project Goals and Objectives. State what the proposed project will accomplish and describe how this will eliminate or reduce the problem(s) described. Indicate the time frame in which tasks would be conducted.

(c) Need for Government Financial Assistance. Explain why members of the fishing industry cannot fund all of the proposed work. List all other sources of funding, which are or have been sought for the project. If program income is expected, describe the nature and source of the income.

(d) Participation by Persons or Groups Other than the Applicant. Describe (1) the level of participation by NOAA or other Government and non-Government entities, particularly members of fishing communities, required in the project; and (2) the nature of such participation. In addition, list names and addresses of the members of the fishing industry consulted during preparation of the project description.

(e) Federal, State, and Local Government Activities. List any existing Federal, state, or local government programs or activities, including State Coastal Zone Management Plans, this project would affect and describe the relationship between the project and these plans or activities. List names and addresses of persons providing this information.

(f) Project Statement of Work. This section requires the applicant to prepare a detailed narrative fully describing the work to be performed, which will achieve the previously articulated goals and objectives. Milestones chart which outlines major goals, supporting work activities, time frames, and individuals responsible for various work activities must be included. The narrative should include information, which responds to the following questions:

- (i) How will the project be structured?
- (ii) What major products, (e.g., research, services, or reports) will result and what is their specific nature?
- (iii) What supporting activities (be as specific as possible) will be undertaken to produce major projects?
- (iv) Who will be responsible for carrying out various activities? (Highlight work, which will be subcontracted, and provisions for competitive subcontracting).
- (v) What methodology will be used to evaluate final projects or services, and how will it be integrated into the project?

The milestone chart should graphically illustrate:

- (i) Steps to accomplish the major products, research, services, and/or activities;
- (ii) Supporting activities and associated timelier, e.g., month one, month two, etc.; and,
- (iii) The individual(s) responsible for the various activities.

Because this information is critical to understanding and reviewing the application, NMFS encourages applicants to provide as much detail as possible. Applications lacking sufficient detail may be eliminated from further consideration.

(g) Project Management. Describe how the project will be organized and managed. List all persons directly employed by the applicant who will be involved in the project, their qualifications, experience, and level of involvement in the project. If any portion of the project will be conducted through subcontracts, applications must follow procurement guidance in 15 CFR Part 24, "Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments," and OMB Circular A-110 for Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals and Other Non-profit Organizations. If a consultant and/or subcontractor are selected prior to application submission, include the name and qualifications of the consultant and/or subcontractor and the process used for the selection.

(h) Project Impacts. Describe the anticipated impact of the project in terms of measurable factors, such as landings, production, sales, and improvement in product quality or safety. Describe how the results of the project will be made available to the fishing industry.

(i) Evaluation of Project. The procedures for evaluating the relative success or failure of a project in achieving its goals and objectives should be clearly delineated within each application.

(j) Supporting Documentation. This section should include any required documents and any additional information necessary or useful to the description of the project. The amount of information given in this section will depend on the type of project proposed. The application should present any information, which would emphasize the value of the project in terms of the significance of the problem addressed. Without such information, the merits of the project may not be fully understood, or the value of the project may be underestimated. The absence of adequate supporting documentation may cause reviewers to question assertions made in describing the project and may result in a lower ranking of the project.

(4) Project Budget: NOAA Form 88-205. Applicants must submit cost estimates showing total project costs. The requirement for cost sharing varies from year to year; for FY 2002, a minimum 10 percent cost share was required. Applicant cost share cannot exceed 50 percent, by statute. Both the Federal and non-Federal shares must be shown. Non-Federal cost estimates are to be itemized by cash and in-kind contributions. The basis for estimating the value of in-kind contributions must be described. NOAA Form 88-205 will be used instead of Standard Form 424-A (Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs). This form has been developed and tailored specifically to provide space for required information without the applicant having to attach supplemental sheets. This form creates less of a burden on the applicant and expedites review of applications. Detailed, printed instructions are also provided with this form. NOAA Form 88-205, Project Budget, requests the following information:

- (a) Budget period.

- (b) Personnel. Include information regarding each employee, such as position title, salary (rate per hour) for each task, cost of fringe benefits, etc.
- (c) Consultants. Identify consultants, specific tasks and work to be performed if not included in the proposal; include budget for associated costs, such as travel, per diem, and other related costs.
- (d) Contracts. All contracts must meet the requirements established by OMB circulars.
- (e) Supplies.
- (f) Other Costs.
- (g) Total direct costs.
- (h) Indirect costs. This entry should be based on the applicant's indirect cost rate established with the Federal Government. Estimated indirect cost rate may be submitted pending approval of a negotiated Federal indirect cost rate.
- (i) Totals. This entry should show separate totals for Federal and non-Federal shares.
- (j) Total. Federal and Non-Federal shares combined.
- (k) Program Income. Enter the estimated amount of income, if any is expected to be generated from this project. Do not add or subtract this amount from the total project amount. The nature of the source of income should be shown under "Narrative Description." The estimated amount of program income may be considered by the Federal grantor agency in determining the total amount of the grant.

b. Semiannual Progress Reports. (The S-K Act, as amended, requires grantees to submit to the agency periodic project status reports). The agency 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 six-month period of the award. This report must describe all tasks and expenditures scheduled and accomplished to date. The format for the semiannual progress report is attached.

c. Final Report. (Required by OMB Circular A-102). An original and two copies of a final report must be submitted to the NOAA Program Officer by grantees within 90 days after completion of each project. The final report must describe the project and include an evaluation of the work performed in sufficient detail to enable NOAA to assess the completed project. The format for the final report is attached. Approved final reports are required to be submitted electronically, in accordance with the special award conditions, for publication on the S-K Home Page. This makes final reports easily accessible in a timely manner to any member of the public interested in the research, and enables potential applicants to see what type of projects

have been funded in the past. However, requests for exemption from this requirement for electronic submission may be considered by NMFS on a case-by-case basis.

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.

This information collection may be developed on a personal computer. The application package is available from the Internet at www.nmfs.gov/ocs/skhome.html. Electronic submission is used to achieve the timely distribution of final reports (see 2c).

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

There are no other collections which gather similar information. The information requested is unique to each application and project report. No duplication of effort exists with other Federal Government information collection efforts.

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

Small businesses may voluntarily respond to the initial collection, e.g., the application, which contains the minimum information required to permit the agency to evaluate the applications and to make funding decisions. Thereafter, only successful applicants (grantees) are required to submit progress and final reports. Specific instructions are provided to guide the preparation of applications, progress and final reports to prevent submission of unnecessary information and to minimize the burden on all applicants.

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

Application information is submitted on a one-time basis. No less frequent collection is feasible. Progress reports were previously required and submitted quarterly. However, it was determined that semiannual progress reports are sufficient for monitoring purposes, and the reporting format was modified to reflect the reduced reporting period. Final reports are submitted on a one-time basis 90 days after conclusion of projects.

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

Special circumstances require this collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines regarding the number of copies submitted. One signed original grant application and nine signed copies are required. This requirement allows NMFS to streamline the review process, eliminate delays, provide a quicker response to the applicant, and ensures that everyone has the same information for the technical review. No additional burden is estimated. Once the respondent makes the original copy, the increase in the number of copies is a minimal time burden.

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 record keeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

A. Federal Register Notice Vol. 69, No. 121 (copy attached) solicited public comment on this renewal. One comment was received which objected to S-K funding because “the U.S. commercial fishing industry is hurting the U.S. oceans through overfishing.

(a) The Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) requires us to undertake efforts to prevent overfishing, rebuild overfished fisheries, insure conservation, protect essential fish habitat, and realize the full potential of U.S. fishery resources. The NOAA Strategic Plan states NOAA’s mission: To understand and predict changes in the Earth’s environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our Nation’s economic, social, and environmental needs. S-K Program funding is available only under funding priorities established by the agency. These funding priorities are developed to assure compliance with MSA and the NOAA Strategic Plan. Funding proposals MUST address one of the priorities listed in an announcement of availability of funds. Therefore, S-K funding is not being made available for projects that could support or increase overfishing. In fact, recent funding priorities have included conservation engineering and fishing capacity reduction.

b. Consultations and interactions with interested and affected persons are an integral part of these information collections. Pre-award consultations are held with potential applicants to explain the S-K Program and clarify information needed. Consultations are held on an irregular basis as necessary. Consultations are held with grantees regarding progress reports and final reports to ensure they understand these information requirements. No major problems have been encountered.

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

No gifts or payments are made to anyone who submits an application to participate in this program.

10. Describe any assurance or 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 collection will be 985 hours and \$51,100, respectively, as shown below. However, the cost for the semiannual and final reports are included as part of

the Federal share of grants. Burden costs are based on an average of \$30 per hour for professional labor; \$10 per hour for clerical labor, and 100 percent overhead, which includes printing, supplies, etc.

a. Application. The agency expects to receive 210 applications per year. Preparation time for the NOAA requirements that vary from the standard application process is estimated to be 2 hours (one hour each for the project budget and summary forms); Labor-\$55; Overhead - \$55, for a total cost of \$110 per application; $\$110 \times 210 = \$23,100$. The total burden will be 420 hours per year and excludes the time needed to complete the standard forms that are required.

$$210 \text{ applications} \times 2 \text{ hrs/application} = 420 \text{ hours}$$

b. Semiannual Progress Reports. The agency expects that 35 of the 210 grant applications will be funded. Two semiannual reports should be submitted for each grant, totaling 70 reports. Preparation time for each report is estimated to be 2.5 hours; Labor - \$50; Overhead - \$50 for a total cost of \$100 per report. $\$100 \times 70 = \$7,000$. Total burden will be 175 hours per year.

$$35 \text{ respondents} \times 2 \text{ reports} \times 2.5 \text{ hrs/response} = 175 \text{ hours}$$

c. Final Report. Submitted once at the conclusion of each grant project. The agency estimates that of the 35 grants approved, an average of five may request "no cost extensions." Therefore, the agency may receive approximately 30 final reports per year. Preparation time for each report is estimated to be 13 hours; Labor - \$350; Overhead - \$350, for a total cost of \$700 per report; $\$700 \times 30 = \$21,000$. Total burden will be 390 hours per year. Approved final reports are required to be submitted electronically, in accordance with the special award conditions, for publication on the S-K Home Page.

$$30 \text{ respondents} \times 1 \text{ response} \times 13 \text{ hrs/response} = 390 \text{ hours}$$

Collection totals are 210 respondents, 310 responses, and 985 hours

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection.

No capital costs are expected to result from this collection. Mailing and other costs are as follow. There are an average of 52 pages per application, and each application package contains nine signed copies. The photocopy cost for an application is \$14.04 and the flat fee for express mail per package is \$12.79.

Photocopy cost: $210 \text{ respondents} \times \$2.08 = \$436.80$
Mailing cost: $210 \text{ respondents} \times \$12.79 = \$2,685.90$
Total: \$3,122.70

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

The estimated annual cost to the Federal Government to administer the S-K Program is approximately \$0.5 million. This cost includes development and publication of the annual solicitation notice, application review and evaluation, grant monitoring and evaluation by program staff, preparation and printing of reports to Congress, updating of the Annotated Bibliography, salary and travel of program staff nationwide, and other

responsibilities associated with program administration. NOAA Fisheries offices in five regions and headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland carry out the work.

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

None

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

The results of this collection will not be published. However, the information is used in the following documents published by the S-K Program Office: The Saltonstall-Kennedy Program: Research and Development Report and The Saltonstall-Kennedy Program: Research and Development - Annotated Bibliography.

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.

Attachments

- Federal Register solicitation notice
- S-K Application package for Federal assistance
- Semiannual Progress Report Format
- Final Report Format
- 15 U.S.C. 713c-3
- Federal Register notice soliciting comment on PRA submission

PROJECT BUDGET

(See Instructions)

Budget Period: _____ Months

Federal Share

Non-Federal Share

Category	Cash	In-Kind
1) Personnel: a. Salaries: b. Fringe Benefits:		
2) Consultants:		
3) Contracts:		

AUTHORIZED FOR LOCAL REPRODUCTION

PROJECT BUDGET
(See Instructions)

Federal Share

Non-Federal Share

Category	Federal Share		Non-Federal Share		
		Cash	In-Kind		
4) Travel:					
5) Equipment and Furniture:					
6) Supplies:					
7) Other Costs:					
Total Direct Costs:					
8) Indirect Costs:					
Totals:					

Totals: (Federal and Non-Federal): _____

9) Program Income:			
--------------------	--	--	--

NOTICE

Responses to this collection are required in order to obtain a grant under some NOAA Programs. Completion of this form is required for the grant application to be considered in fair and open competition with other applications. The information provided will be used as a quick reference to information on the project proposal, including applicant, priority addressed, finding requested, etc. Information on this form may be made available to the public. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average one hour per response including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspects of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Management and Budget, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

NOAA may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Title:

Project Status/Duration:

New _____

Con't _____

Project Period: _____ Months

Name, Address, and Telephone Number of Applicant:

Principal Investigator(s) and Brief Statement of Qualifications:

Project Objective:

Specific Priority(ies) in Solicitation to Which Project Responds:

Summary of Work: (For continuing projects, include progress to date)

% of Total

PROJECT FUNDING: Federal \$ _____ %

Non-Federal \$ _____ %

Total \$ _____ 100%

AUTHORIZED FOR LOCAL REPRODUCTION

NOTICE

Responses to this collection are required in order to obtain a grant under some NOAA Programs. Completion of this form is required for the grant application to be considered in fair and open competition with other applications. The information provided will be used as a quick reference to information on the project proposal, including applicant, priority addressed, finding requested, etc. Information on this form may be made available to the public. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average one hour per response including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspects of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Management and Budget, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

NOAA may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION**

PROGRAMMATIC SPECIAL AWARD CONDITIONS

1. For convenience and consistency of reporting of financial assistance provided under the Saltonstall-Kennedy (S-K) Grant Program, a format for the progress reports and the final report is included. Recipient must use this format for reporting purposes.

2. Grantees who propose to distribute their own final reports shall work with the Federal Program Officer to develop a distribution plan to ensure that adequate information on the availability of the report is provided to potentially interested parties, including persons or organizations outside the grantee's membership and/or geographic boundaries. A reasonable charge may be assessed for the final reports. Records should be kept by the grantee to document such distribution of notice of availability and requests for the final reports.

Also, Grantees shall submit a hard copy of the final report to the Federal Program Officer for review. Upon Program Officer approval, grantees shall submit the final report in either WordPerfect (version 6.1 or lower) or Microsoft Word (97 version or earlier) format. The final report may be submitted on a diskette mailed to the Program Officer, or via the Internet to the Program Officer's electronic mail address (see transmittal letter or NOAA Administrative Special Award Conditions). Costs associated with preparing and transmitting final reports in an electronic format are appropriately funded from the grant award. Requests for exemption from the requirement for electronic submission, or for use of a different format than those specified above, must be submitted for consideration and approval by NMFS no later than 120 days prior to the due date of the final report.

Only used if a Technical Monitor requested

3. (NAME) will serve as the Technical Monitor to the Program Officer identified on page two of the NOAA Administrative Special Award Conditions of this award. The technical monitor is responsible for preparing technical revisions of proposals and reports, monitoring project activities, providing technical assistance, and coordinating all programmatic issues or changes with the Program Officer.

Address if provided:

**Format for
Semi-Annual Progress Report**

A. Grant Number:

B. Amount of Grant: Federal _____ Match _____ Total _____

C. Project Title:

D. Grantee:

E. Award Period: From _____ To _____

F. Period Covered by this Report: From _____ To _____

G. Summary of Progress and Expenditures to Date:

1. Work Accomplishments:

- a. Describe tasks scheduled for this period (from proposal and amendments, if appropriate).
- b. Describe tasks accomplished this period.
- c. Explain special problems, differences between scheduled and accomplished work, etc.

2. Expenditures:

- a. Describe expenditures scheduled for this period.
- b. Describe actual expenditures this period.
- c. Explain special problems, differences between scheduled and actual expenditures, etc.

Prepared By: _____

Signature of Principal Investigator Date

NOTICE

Responses to this collection are required of grant recipients under the Saltonstall-Kennedy Program (15 U.S.C. 713c-3(c)). The information provided will be used to evaluate the progress of the work proposed under the grant. Confidentiality will not be maintained--the information will be available to the public. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2.5 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspects of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, F/SF2, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

NOAA may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Format for Project Final Report

I. Report Title, Author, Organization, Grant Number, Date

II. Abstract

A brief (one paragraph) description of the Final Report (for use in the S-K Annotated Bibliography).

III. Executive Summary

A brief and succinct summary of Final Report.

IV. Purpose

A. Detailed description of problem or impediment of fishing industry that was addressed.

B. Objectives of the project.

V. Approach

A. Detailed description of the work that was performed.

B. Project management: List individuals and/or organizations actually performing the work and how it was done.

VI. Findings

A. Actual accomplishments and findings.

B. If significant problems developed which resulted in less than satisfactory or negative results, they should be discussed.

C. Description of need, if any, for additional work.

VII. Evaluation

A. Describe the extent to which the project goals and objectives were attained. This description should address the following:

1. Were the goals and objectives attained? How? If not, why?

2. Were modifications made to the goals and objectives? If so, explain.

B. Dissemination of Project results:

Explain, in detail, how the project results have been, and will be, disseminated.

NOTICE

Responses to this collection are required of grant recipients under the Saltonstall-Kennedy Program (15 U.S.C. 713c-3(c)). The information provided will be used to evaluate whether the project conducted under the grant was successfully completed. Confidentiality will not be maintained--the information will be available to the public. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 13 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspects of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, F/SF2 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

NOAA may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

S-K Program FY 2004 FF0

Overview Information

Federal Agency Names: Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Financial Services Division

Funding Opportunity Title: Fisheries Development and Utilization Research and Development Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program (also known as the Saltonstall-Kennedy (S-K) Grant Program)

Announcement Type: Initial

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.427

Dates: Applications must be received by the local close of business at one of the addresses listed to receive applications, on August 29, 2003.

Executive Summary

NMFS (hereinafter “we” or “us”) issues this document to describe how to apply for funding under the Saltonstall-Kennedy (S-K) Grant Program and how we will determine whether to fund a proposal. Under the S-K Program, we provide financial assistance for research and development projects that address various aspects of U.S. fisheries (commercial or recreational), including, but not limited to, harvesting, processing, aquaculture, marketing, and associated infrastructures.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

The Saltonstall-Kennedy (S-K) Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 713c-3), established a fund (the S-K fund) that the Secretary of Commerce uses to provide grants or cooperative agreements for fisheries research and development projects addressed to any aspect of U.S. fisheries, including, but not limited to, harvesting, processing, aquaculture, marketing, and associated infrastructures. U.S. fisheries¹ include any fishery, commercial or recreational, that

¹ For purposes of this document, a fishery is defined as one or more stocks of fish, including tuna, and shellfish that are identified as a unit based on geographic, scientific, technical, recreational and economic characteristics, and any and all phases of fishing for such stocks. Examples of a fishery are Alaskan groundfish, Pacific whiting, New England whiting, and eastern oysters.

is, or may be, engaged in by citizens or nationals of the United States, or citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

For the FY 2004 S-K Grant Program announced in this document, successful applications will be those aimed at helping fishing communities² to prevent overfishing, rebuild fisheries, and ensure conservation, while realizing the full potential of fishery resources.

The scope of the S-K Grant Program for FY 2004 includes species under Federal jurisdiction (whether under Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) or not), as well as state managed fisheries.

In order to be funded under the program, applications must propose activities that: address one of the funding priorities listed below; are expected to produce a direct benefit (e.g., tool, information, service, or technology) to the fishing community; and can be accomplished within 2 years. Acceptable research and development activities include applied research, demonstration projects, pilot or field testing, or business plan development. However, we will not fund projects that primarily involve infrastructure construction, port and harbor development, or start-up or operational costs for private business ventures. Furthermore, if your proposed project primarily involves data collection, we will only consider it if it is directed to a specific problem or need and has a fixed duration. We will not consider data collection programs of a continuing nature.

Your proposal must address one of the five priorities listed here. Under the S-K Program, a proposal can compete in only one priority area. Therefore, we ask that you select the one priority that most closely reflects the objectives of your proposal. If you list more than one priority, we reserve the right to assign a single priority to your application.

If we do not receive proposals that adequately respond to the priorities listed, we may use S-K funds to carry out a national program of research and development addressed to aspects of U.S. fisheries pursuant to section 713c-3(d) of the S-K Act, as amended.

The priorities are not listed in any particular order and each is of equal importance.

A. Fishing Capacity Reduction under the Magnuson-Stevens Act Sections 312(b)-(e)

Promote the reduction of excess harvesting capacity in appropriate fisheries by analyses and evaluations that prepare the proponents of buybacks financed by NMFS loans under Title XI of the Merchant Marine Act to consider, plan for, organize, justify, support, and effect financed buybacks. (See 50 CFR 600.1000, et seq. for framework rules governing buybacks; available electronically at: www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_01/50cfr600_01.html.) Acceptable activities include, but are not limited to:

1. Analyzing cost/benefit to determine a fishery's potential for financed buyback, including:
 - a. Establishing the type of financed buyback (i.e., permit only or permit and vessel buyback) that reduces the maximum capacity at the least cost in the least amount of time;
 - b. Knowledgeably estimating various capacity ranges in a fishery that could be bought back at various cost ranges;
 - c. Evaluating harvesters' pre-buyback cost-income, how various buyback capacity/cost ranges could change post-buyback cost-income, the prospective ability of post-buyback

²Fishing community is used in this document as defined in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended (Pub. Law 94-265), i.e., a community which is substantially dependent on or substantially engaged in the harvest or processing of fishery resources to meet social and economic needs, and includes fishing vessel owners, operators, and crew and United States fish processors that are based in such community.

harvesters to pay the estimated fees to service the buyback loan, and the benefits to them of doing so; and

d. Assuming the fishery's FMP already prohibits new entrants to the fishery, establishing the scope and possible content of appropriate FMP amendments that might first be required to effectively and permanently resolve latent capacity in that fishery prior to buyback, and to prevent post-buyback vessel upgrading or other circumstances from replacing the capacity that a buyback removes.

2. Evaluating detailed means and methods for industry buyback proponents in the fishery to efficiently and effectively:

a. Survey potential referendum voters (each permit holder in the buyback fishery) to establish the prospective degree of interest in, and support for, a financed buyback in that fishery, and

b. Prepare a successful financed buyback application and business plan (see 50 CFR 600.1003).

In addition to the above, responsible proponents of financed buybacks in individual fisheries may also submit proposals to prepare actual financed buyback applications and business plans for that fishery.

Note, depending on the type of activity you propose, we may be required to obtain approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) for surveys, etc., related to this priority. You should consider this when preparing your application and estimated time lines.

B. Conservation Engineering

Reduce or eliminate adverse interactions between fishing operations and nontargeted, protected, or prohibited species, including the inadvertent take, capture, or destruction of such species. These include juvenile or sublegal-sized fish and shellfish, females of certain crabs, fish listed under the ESA, marine turtles, seabirds, or marine mammals.

Improve the survivability of fish discarded or intentionally released and of protected species released in fishing operations.

Reduce or eliminate impacts of fishing activity on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) that adversely affect the sustainability of the fishery.

C. Optimum Utilization of Harvested Resources under Federal or State Management

Reduce or eliminate factors such as diseases, human health hazards, and quality problems that limit the utilization of fish and their products in the United States and abroad.

Increase public knowledge of the safe handling and use of fish and their products.

Develop usable products from economic discards (defined in the Magnuson-Stevens Act as "fish which are the target of a fishery, but which are not retained because they are of an undesirable size, sex, or quality, or for other economic reasons"), underutilized species, and byproducts of processing.

Facilitate industry cooperation and outreach to promote and enhance marketability of regional U.S. fishery products.

Collect data on population dynamics, life histories, etc., of fish not currently under Federal FMPs, for the Councils to determine the feasibility of a new federally managed fishery that could provide additional fishing opportunity.

D. Marine Aquaculture

Advance the implementation of marine aquaculture by addressing technical aspects such as systems engineering, environmental compatibility, and culture technology.

Reduce or eliminate legal and social barriers to aquaculture development, e.g., legal constraints, use conflicts, exclusionary mapping, and appropriate institutional roles. However, we will not fund such costs as legal assistance with applying for operational permits.

Address environmental issues for marine aquaculture, e.g., measure and reduce the adverse impacts on water quality and benthic community impacts; evaluate and reduce negative interactions between aquaculture and wild stocks, protected resources, and EFH; develop best management practices with scientific analysis and assessment of risk.

Develop effective enhancement strategies for marine and anadromous species to help in the recovery of wild stocks.

E. Fisheries Socioeconomics

Improve the understanding of the socioeconomic aspects of fisheries to increase the knowledge base for making decisions that affect commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishing. Examples could include, but are not limited to, ethnographic baseline data on specific fishing communities; cost-income data; analyses of the socioeconomic impacts of specific management measures in certain fisheries; analyses of factors influencing demand for recreational fishing trips by anglers; and, market analyses to determine factors that influence demand and supply of specific seafood products, including imports.

Such initiatives must be discrete projects that can be carried out within an 2-year maximum project period. Studies must not duplicate or overlap any other ongoing socioeconomic data collection and analyses programs. We encourage projects that are industry-sponsored but involve the academic community or management agencies.

II. Award Information

This solicitation covers Fiscal Year (FY) 2004. We expect to make awards early in FY 2004, which begins on October 1, 2003.

We are not conducting the competitive S-K Program for FY 2003 due to lack of funding. Although the S-K allocation for FY 2003 was \$10,223,800, the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (Pub. Law 108-7) directed \$10 million to the Alaska Fisheries Marketing Board. In accordance with the Conference Report that accompanied the appropriations, we are making \$223,800 available to the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation for consumer education efforts related to Vibrio vulnificus.

We do not yet have an allocation for FY 2004, although we estimate that the President's budget request will provide a total of about \$4 million for awards under this program. We do not specify a minimum or maximum dollar amount for individual awards.

We will award grants or cooperative agreements for a maximum period of 2 years. We award cooperative agreements in those situations where we anticipate having substantial involvement in the project. "Substantial involvement" means we will collaborate regarding the performance of the project. Specific terms of "substantial involvement" will be contained in Special Award Conditions.

We do not fund multi-year projects (beyond the 2-year maximum). If we select your application for funding and you wish to continue work on the project beyond the funding period, you must submit another proposal to the competitive process for consideration, and you will not receive preferential treatment.

We are hereby notifying you that funding has not yet been allocated for this FY 2004 program. Furthermore, we cannot guarantee that sufficient funds will be available to make awards for all qualified projects. Publication of this notice does not oblige us to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds. If you incur any costs prior to receiving an award agreement signed by an authorized NOAA official, you do so solely at your own risk of these costs not being included under the award. Notwithstanding any verbal or written assurance that you may have received, pre-award costs are not allowed under the award unless the Grants Officer approves them in accordance with 15 CFR 14.28.

III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants

You are eligible to apply for a grant or a cooperative agreement under the S-K Grant Program if:

1. You are a citizen or national of the United States;
2. You are a citizen of the NMI, being an individual who qualifies as such under section 8 of the Schedule on Transitional Matters attached to the constitution of the NMI;
3. You are a citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, or the Federated States of Micronesia; or
4. You represent an entity that is an institution of higher education, other nonprofit, commercial organization, state, local or Indian tribal government, if such entity is a citizen of the United States or NMI, within the meaning of section 2 of the Shipping Act, 1916, as amended (46 U.S.C. app. 802).

We support cultural and gender diversity in our programs and encourage women and minority individuals and groups to submit applications.

Furthermore, we recognize the interests of the Secretaries of Commerce and Interior in defining appropriate fisheries policies and programs that meet the needs of the U.S. insular areas, so we especially encourage applications from individuals, government entities, and businesses in U.S. insular areas, including the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

We are strongly committed to broadening the participation of Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), which include Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities, in all of our programs, including S-K. Therefore, we encourage all applicants to include meaningful participation of MSIs. A list of institutions considered to be MSIs is available at: www.ed.gov/offices/OCR/minorityinst.html.

We encourage applications from members of the fishing community, and applications that involve fishing community cooperation and participation. The selecting official will consider the extent of fishing community collaboration when evaluating the potential benefit of funding a proposal.

You are not eligible to submit an application under this program if you are an employee of any Federal agency, a Fishery Management Council (Council), or an employee of a Council. However, Council members who are not Federal employees can submit an application to the S-K Program.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

You must provide a minimum cost share of 10 percent of total (Federal and non-Federal combined) project costs, but your cost share must not exceed 50 percent of total costs. It is important that you correctly calculate cost share in preparing your application. If your application does not provide at least 10 percent, or provides in excess of 50 percent, of the total (Federal and non-Federal combined) costs as cost share, we must return it to you without further consideration. We will not accept your application if you have rounded up the cost share amount to meet the minimum (e.g., 9.5 percent does not meet the legal requirement to provide at least 10 percent).

You may find this formula useful:

1. Total Project Cost (Federal and non-Federal cost share combined) x .9 = Maximum Federal Share.

2. Total Cost - Federal share = Applicant Share.

For example, if the proposed total budget for your project is \$100,000, the maximum Federal funding you can apply for is \$90,000 (\$100,000 x .9). Your cost share in this case would be \$10,000 (\$100,000 - \$90,000).

For a total project cost of \$100,000, you must contribute at least \$10,000, but no more than \$50,000 (10 to 50 percent of total project cost). Accordingly, the Federal share you apply for would range from \$50,000 to \$90,000.

The funds you provide as cost sharing may include funds from private sources or from state or local governments, or the value of in-kind contributions. You may not use Federal funds to meet the cost sharing requirement except as provided by Federal statute. In-kind contributions are non-cash contributions provided to you by non-Federal third parties. In-kind contributions may include, but are not limited to, personal services volunteered to perform tasks in the project, and permission to use, at no cost, real or personal property owned by others.

We will determine the appropriateness of all cost sharing proposals, including the valuation of in-kind contributions, on the basis of guidance provided in 15 CFR parts 14 and 24. In general, the value of in-kind services or property you use to fulfill your cost share will be the fair market value of the services or property. Thus, the value is equivalent to the cost for you to obtain such services or property if they had not been donated. You must document the in-kind services or property you will use to fulfill your cost share.

If we decide to fund your application, we will require you to account for the total amount of cost share included in the award document (see 66 FR 49918, October 1, 2001, for additional information on cost sharing).

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application Package

You can get an application package from any of the NMFS Regional or Headquarters offices listed:

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930; (978) 281-9267.

Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive, North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432, (727) 570-5324.

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213, (562) 980-4033.

Pacific Islands Region, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4700, (808) 973-2937.

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way, N.E., BIN C15700, Building 1, Seattle, WA 98115, (206) 526-6115.

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802 or Federal Building, 709 West 9th Street, 4th Floor, Juneau, AK 99801-1668, (907) 586-7224.

Financial Services Division, NMFS F/CS2, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301) 713-2358.

You may also get the application package from the NMFS S-K Home Page at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfweb/skhome.html>.

2. Content and Format of Application Submission

You must follow the instructions in this document in order to apply for a grant or cooperative agreement under the S-K Program. Your application must be complete and must follow the format described here. Your application should not be bound in any manner and must be printed on one side only. You must submit one signed original and nine signed copies of your application (including supporting information).

Our employees (whether full-time, part-time, or intermittent) are not allowed to help you prepare your application, except that S-K Program staff may provide you with information on program goals, funding priorities, application procedures, and completion of application forms. Since this is a competitive program, NMFS and NOAA employees will not help with conceptualizing, developing, or structuring proposals, or write letters of support for a proposal.

You must submit the following:

A. Cover Sheet

You must use Office of Management and Budget (OMB) SF 424 and 424B (4-92) as the cover sheet for each project.

B. Project Summary

You must complete NOAA Form 88-204 (10-04), Project Summary, for each project. You must list on the Project Summary form the specific priority to which the application responds (from section I. of this document).

C. Project Budget

You must submit a budget for each project, using NOAA Form 88-205 (10-04), Project Budget, and associated instructions. You must provide detailed cost estimates showing total project costs. Indicate the breakdown of costs between Federal and non-Federal shares, divided into cash and in-kind contributions. To support the budget, describe briefly the basis for estimating the value of the cost sharing derived from in-kind contributions. Specify estimates of the direct costs in the categories listed on the Project Budget form.

You may also include in the budget an amount for indirect costs if you have an established indirect cost rate with the Federal government. However, the total dollar amount of the indirect costs you propose in your application must not exceed the indirect cost rate negotiated and approved by a cognizant Federal agency prior to the proposed effective date of the award, or 100 percent of the total proposed direct costs dollar amount in the application, whichever is less. Furthermore, the Federal share of the indirect costs you propose must not exceed 25 percent of the total proposed direct costs.

If you have an approved indirect cost rate above 25 percent of the total proposed direct cost, you may use the amount above the 25-percent level up to the 100-percent level as part of the non-Federal share. You must include a copy of the current, approved, negotiated indirect cost agreement with the Federal government with your application.

D. Narrative Project Description

You must provide a narrative description of your project that may be up to 15 pages long. The narrative should demonstrate your knowledge of the need for the project, and show how your proposal builds upon any past and current work in the subject area, as well as relevant work in related fields. You should not assume that we already know the relative merits of the project you describe. You must describe your project as follows:

1. Project goals and objectives. Identify the specific priority listed in section I. to which the proposed project responds. Identify the problem/opportunity you intend to address and describe its significance to the fishing community. List the project objectives.

If you are applying to continue a project we previously funded under the S-K Program, describe in detail your progress to date and explain why you need additional funding. We will consider this information in evaluating your current application.

2. Project impacts. Describe the anticipated impacts of the project on the fishing community in terms of reduced bycatch, increased product yield, or other measurable benefits.

3. Evaluation of project. Specify the criteria and procedures that you will use to evaluate the relative success or failure of a project in achieving its objectives.

4. Education and outreach. Describe how the project will provide a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nation's natural resources. Describe how you will make the results of the project available to the public.

5. Need for government financial assistance. Explain why you need government financial assistance for the proposed work. List all other sources of funding you have or are seeking for the project. If you have a pending grant application with another funding source that is similar or identical to this application and it is approved for funding after you submit this application to us, we request that you notify us immediately.

6. Federal, state, and local government activities and permits. List any existing Federal, state, or local government programs or activities that this project would affect, including activities requiring: certification under state Coastal Zone Management Plans; section 404 or section 10 permits issued by the Corps of Engineers; experimental fishing or other permits under FMPs; environmental impact statements to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); scientific permits under the Endangered Species Act and/or the Marine Mammal Protection Act; or Magnuson-Stevens Act EFH consultation if the project may adversely affect areas identified as EFH. Describe the relationship between the project and these FMPs or activities, and list names and addresses of persons providing this information. You can get information on these activities from the NMFS Regions (see section IV.1.). If we select your project for funding, you are responsible for complying with all applicable requirements.

For projects that would require permits and consultations, list all necessary permits required to complete the project, the appropriate contact information for each permitting agency, and documentation of all permits already secured for the project. Your narrative should provide assurance that all necessary environmental permits and consultations will be secured prior to the use of Federal funds. Your application should provide enough detail for us to make a NEPA determination; funds will not be released to successful applicants until we complete necessary NEPA documentation. We encourage you to consult with us as early as possible to obtain guidance about the level and scope of information we need to comply with NEPA; a phased approach may be recommended. The type of detailed information described above is critical to evaluating the significance of a project and its readiness to use available funding.

7. Project statement of work. The statement of work is an action plan of activities you will conduct during the period of the project. You must prepare a detailed narrative, fully describing the work you will perform to achieve the project goals and objectives. The narrative should respond to the following questions:

(a) What is the project design? What specific work, activities, procedures, statistical design, or analytical methods will you undertake?

(b) Who will be responsible for carrying out the various activities? (Highlight work that will be subcontracted and provisions for competitive subcontracting.)

(c) What are the major products and how will project results be disseminated? Describe products of the project, such as a manual, video, technique, or piece of equipment. Indicate how project results will be disseminated to potential users.

(d) What are the project milestones? List milestones, describing the specific activities and associated time lines to conduct the scope of work. Describe the time lines in increments (e.g., month 1, month 2), rather than by specific dates. Identify the individual(s) responsible for the various specific activities.

This information is critical for us to conduct a thorough review of your application, so we encourage you to provide sufficient detail.

8. Participation by persons or groups other than the applicant. Describe how government and non-government entities, particularly members of fishing communities, will participate in the project, and the nature of their participation. We will consider the degree of participation by members of the fishing community in determining which applications to fund.

9. Project management. Describe how the project will be organized and managed. Identify the principal investigator and other participants in the project. If you do not identify the principal investigator, we will return your application without further consideration. Include copies of any agreements between you and the participants describing the specific tasks to be performed. Provide a statement no more than two pages long of the qualifications and experience (e.g., resume or curriculum vitae) of the principal investigator(s) and any consultants and/or subcontractors, and indicate their level of involvement in the project. If any portion of the project will be conducted through consultants and/or subcontracts, you must follow procurement guidance in 15 CFR part 24, "Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments," and 15 CFR part 14, "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, Other Non-Profit, and Commercial Organizations." If you select a consultant and/or a subcontractor prior to submitting an application, indicate the process that you used for selection.

E. Supporting Documentation

You should include any relevant documents and additional information (i.e., maps, background documents) that will help us to understand the project and the problem/opportunity you seek to address.

3. Submission Dates and Times

Applications must be received by the local close of business at one of the addresses listed under item 6, on August 29, 2003.. All applications will be stamped with the date of receipt by the receiving office.

4. Intergovernmental Review

This funding opportunity is subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." Therefore, you must complete Item 16 on SF424 (4-92) regarding clearance by the State Point Of Contact (SPOC). The Executive Order requires applicants under this program to file a copy of their application with the SPOCs of all states relevant to the project. You must provide a copy of your completed application to the appropriate SPOC on or before the application due date. You are encouraged to contact the SPOC well before the due date. You can get the list of SPOCs from any of the NMFS offices listed in this document, or from the S-K Home Page, at:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfweb/skhome.html>. It is also included in the CFDA, which can be accessed electronically at: <http://www.cfda.gov/>. Note, not all states have the SPOC.

5. Funding Restrictions

We will not fund projects that primarily involve infrastructure construction, port and harbor development, or start-up or operational costs for private business ventures. Furthermore, if your proposed project primarily involves data collection, we will only consider it if it is directed to a specific problem or need and has a fixed duration. We will not consider data collection programs of a continuing nature.

The total dollar amount of the indirect costs you propose in your application must not exceed the indirect cost rate negotiated and approved by a cognizant Federal agency prior to the proposed effective date of the award, or 100 percent of the total proposed direct costs dollar amount in the application, whichever is less. Furthermore, the Federal share of the indirect

costs you propose must not exceed 25 percent of the total proposed direct costs. If your application requests more than 25 percent of the total costs as Federal funds to cover indirect costs, the application will be returned to you and will not be considered for funding.

We will not consider fees or profits as allowable costs in your application.

The total costs of a project consist of all allowable costs you incur, including the value of in-kind contributions, in accomplishing project objectives during the life of the project. A project begins on the effective date of an award agreement between you and an authorized representative of the U.S. Government and ends on the date specified in the award. Accordingly, we cannot reimburse you for time that you expend or costs that you incur in developing a project or preparing the application, or in any discussions or negotiations you may have with us prior to the award. We will not accept such expenditures as part of your cost share.

6. Other Submission Requirements

You must submit applications to one of the following NMFS Regional Administrator or Headquarters offices:

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930; (978) 281-9267.

Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive, North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432, (727) 570-5324.

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213, (562) 980-4033.

Pacific Islands Region, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4700, (808) 973-2937.

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way, N.E., BIN C15700, Building 1, Seattle, WA 98115, (206) 526-6115.

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802 or Federal Building, 709 West 9th Street, 4th Floor, Juneau, AK 99801-1668, (907) 586-7224.

Financial Services Division, NMFS F/CS2, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301) 713-2358.

We will not accept facsimile applications or applications submitted electronically.

V. Application Review Information

1. Criteria

Applications will be reviewed for merit using the following criteria, with weights shown in parentheses:

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. For this competition, this includes: Is there intrinsic value in the proposed work? What is the likelihood of project results in the specified time frame? Will project results and/or products benefit fishing community members? (25 percent)

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. For this competition, this includes: Is there sufficient information to evaluate the project? Are there clear project goals and objectives? Are the project design and conceptual approach technically sound? Are the methods appropriate? How innovative is the approach?

How effective are the methods proposed to evaluate the success or failure of the project in meeting its original objectives? (35 percent)

3. Overall qualifications of applicants: This ascertains whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project. For this competition, this includes: Do the principal investigator(s) and other project personnel possess the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the research? If the application includes consultants and contractors, is the involvement of the primary applicant necessary to the conduct of the project and the accomplishment of its objectives? (20 percent)

4. Project costs: The budget is evaluated to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time-frame. For this competition, this includes: Is the proposed budget realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time-frame? (15 percent)

5. Outreach and education: This assesses whether this project provides a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nation's natural resources. For this competition, this includes: How will project results be transferred to end users? How will this project provide a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nations natural resources? (5 percent)

2. Review and Selection Process

A. Initial Screening of Applications

When we receive applications, we will first screen them to ensure that they were received by the deadline date; include OMB form 424 signed and dated by an authorized representative; were submitted by an eligible applicant; provide for at least a 10-percent cost share but not more than 50 percent; involve an eligible activity; address one of the funding priorities for species under Federal or State jurisdiction; include a budget and a statement of work including milestones; and identify the principal investigator. Note, if we find, at any point in the process, that your application does not fully conform to these requirements and the deadline for submission has passed, we will return it to you without further consideration.

We do not have to screen applications before the submission deadline, nor do we have to give you an opportunity to correct any deficiencies that cause your application to be rejected.

B. Merit Review of Proposed Projects

After the initial screening, we will solicit individual reviews of each accepted application from three or more appropriate private and public sector experts, as well as industry representatives. No consensus recommendations will be made. Reviewers will be required to certify that they do not have a conflict of interest concerning the application(s) they are reviewing. They will assign scores ranging from a minimum of 60 (poor) to a maximum of 100 (excellent) to applications based on the criteria listed in section V.1.

Following the merit review, we will determine the weighted score for each individual review, and average the individual scores for each application. Then, we will rank applications in descending order by their average scores, and determine a "cutoff" minimum score for merit that considers the funds available for grants. The cutoff may be set at a level that exceeds the total amount of funds available. We will eliminate from further consideration those applications that scored below the cutoff.

C. Selection Procedures and Project Funding

We will provide the ranked list of applications above the cutoff to the NMFS Regional Administrators (RAs) and Office Directors (ODs) for review based on their consideration of the significance of individual projects to fishing community members. RAs/ODs will prepare written justifications for any recommendations for funding of projects that fall below the available

funding cutoff, or for any cost adjustments. We will use this input to develop recommendations for project funding.

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries (AA) will review the funding recommendations and comments of the RAs/ODs and determine the projects to be funded. In making the final selections, the AA may consider the following selection factors:

1. Availability of funding
2. Balance/distribution of funds:
 - a. Geographically
 - b. By type of institutions
 - c. Among partners
 - d. Research areas or project types
3. Duplication of other projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA/federal agencies
4. Program priorities and policy factors, i.e., significance/potential benefit to fishing community members (see Section I., paragraph 2)
5. Applicant's prior award performance
6. Partnerships and/or participation of targeted groups

VI. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices

Following the AA's decision, we will notify you in writing whether your application is selected or not. Furthermore, if your application is not selected, we will return it to you. Successful applications will be incorporated into the award document.

The exact amount of funds, the scope of work, and terms and conditions of a successful award will be determined in pre-award negotiations between you and NOAA/NMFS representatives. The funding instrument (grant or cooperative agreement) will be determined by NOAA Grants.

You should not initiate your project in expectation of Federal funding based on notification that your application is selected. Rather, you should wait until you receive a grant award document signed by an authorized NOAA official.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements published in the Federal Register October 1, 2001 (66 FR 49917), as amended by the Federal Register notice of October 30, 2002 (67 FR 66109), are applicable to this funding opportunity. Therefore, this document does not include a discussion of the individual requirements. A copy of the requirements notice is available on the S-K Home Page.

In addition, as an applicant, you must meet all application requirements and provide all information necessary for the evaluation of the proposal(s) and be available to respond to questions during the review and evaluation of the proposal(s).

If you are awarded a grant or cooperative agreement for a project, you must manage the day-to-day operations of the project; be responsible for the performance of all activities for which funds are granted; be responsible for the satisfaction of all administrative and managerial conditions imposed by the award; keep records sufficient to document any costs incurred under the award; and submit reports in accordance with the next section.

3. Reporting

You must submit financial status reports (SF 269) to NOAA's Grants Management Division in accordance with the award conditions.

You must submit semiannual project status reports on the use of funds and progress of the project to us within 30 days after the end of each 6-month period. You will submit these reports to the individual identified as the NMFS Program Officer in the funding agreement.

You must submit a final report within 90 days after completion of each project to the NMFS Program Officer. The final report must describe the project and include an evaluation of the work you performed and the results and benefits in sufficient detail to enable us to assess the success of the completed project.

We are committed to using available technology to achieve the timely and wide distribution of final reports to those who would benefit from this information. Therefore, you are required to submit final reports in electronic format, in accordance with the award terms and conditions, for publication on the S-K Home Page. You may charge the costs associated with preparing and transmitting your final reports in electronic format to the grant award. We will consider requests for exemption from the electronic submission requirement on a case-by-case basis.

We will provide you with OMB-approved formats for the semiannual and final reports.

In addition to the final report, we request that you submit any publications printed with grant funds (such as manuals, surveys, etc.) to the NMFS Program Officer for dissemination to the public. Submit either three hard copies or an electronic version of any such publications.

We reserve the right to conduct a post-closeout evaluation of project results in terms of demonstrated benefit to fishing communities, as indicated by awareness of the work conducted, state of knowledge advanced, adoption of techniques or methods developed, implementation of plans prepared, etc. Evaluation may be conducted by appropriate individuals within or outside NOAA. If this process requires any additional information from you, we will first obtain the proper clearances under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA).

VII. Agency Contacts

For further information, you may contact: Alicia L. Jarboe, S-K Program Manager at (301) 713-2358, or by email at: alicia.jarboe@noaa.gov. You may also contact the NMFS Regional Federal Program Officers, at the addresses and telephone numbers listed in section IV.1.

You may also visit the NMFS S-K Home Page at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfweb/skhome.html>.

VIII. Other Information

Prior notice and an opportunity for public comments are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2)) or any other law for this notice concerning grants, benefits, and contracts.

Furthermore, because a notice is not a regulation, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) or any other law, and none has been prepared.

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

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.

This document contains collection-of-information requirements subject to the PRA. The use of SF 424 and SF424B have been approved by the OMB under the respective control numbers 0348-0043 and 0348-0040. NOAA-specific requirements, including forms 88-204, Project Summary, and 88-205, Project Budget, have been approved under OMB control number 0648-0135. These requirements and their estimated response times are 1 hour for a project summary, 1 hour for a budget form, 2.5 hours for a semiannual report, and 13 hours for a final report. These estimates include the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding these burden estimates or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Alicia Jarboe, F/CS2, Room 13112, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282.

ALWTRT meetings included a "Northeast Inshore Lobster Trap/Pot" subgroup that met on May 19, 2003, in Portsmouth, NH; an "Offshore Trap/Pot" subgroup that met on June 17, 2003, in Gloucester, MA, and a "Southeast/Mid-Atlantic" subgroup that is expected to meet on June 23, 2003, in Philadelphia, PA. All ALWTRT meetings, including subgroup meetings, are open to the public. Recommendations and/or proposals from the full ALWTRT and subsequent subgroup meetings will be used to draft a management options document that will be distributed at scoping meetings.

Management Options

This notice provides an opportunity for public involvement in identifying the scope of the issues to be addressed in the EIS. NMFS requests comments on management options, including those provided by the ALWTRT, for this action. Additionally, NMFS is seeking information on the range of impacts that should be considered for the various options. Background documents provided to the ALWTRT and general public in advance of the April 2003 meeting are available for review (see Electronic Access). A summary of options from the ALWTRT meetings will be made available prior to the scoping meetings (see Electronic Access). Comments received on this action will assist NMFS in determining the alternatives for rulemaking to reduce interactions of right, humpback, and fin whales with commercial fisheries.

The ALWTRP (50 CFR 229.32) is a multi-faceted plan that includes area closures, gear modification requirements in areas open to fixed gear fishing, Dynamic Area Management (DAM) and SAM programs, gear research to develop new modifications to current practices and/or fishing techniques, a right whale Sighting Advisory System, and a disentanglement program to free whales incidentally caught in fishing gear. Proposals to amend the ALWTRP that were discussed by the ALWTRT included, but were not limited to, eliminating or modifying the DAM program; expanding the SAM program by increasing the areas in time and space; modifying the current gear modifications in SAM and DAM areas by allowing for two buoy lines and polypropylene line on the bottom third of the buoy line; eliminating the DAM and SAM programs and implementing a phase-in period for broad-based gear modifications, including a requirement for sinking/ neutrally buoyant line in groundlines or reducing the line profile of groundlines; increased gear research

to reduce risk associated with buoy lines; consideration of regional and seasonal differences in fishing practices in the waters regulated under the ALWTRP; regulating other trap/pot fisheries (e.g. hagfish, Jonah crab, red crab, black sea bass, scup, tautog, shrimp, conch/whelk) under the ALWTRP; exempting waters both by area and depth based on lack of whale sightings in these areas, or unlikelihood that whales dive to deep depths; consideration of "special areas" where additional time is needed to phase-in sinking/ neutrally buoyant line in groundlines or reducing the line profile of groundlines due to rocky bottom areas; clarifications to the ALWTRP regulatory language; revised gear marking scheme; increased gear research to reduce risk associated with buoy lines; and expanded ALWTRP outreach.

Within the comment period established by this notice (see DATES), NMFS will hold six public scoping meetings to gather public comment on the development and implementation of new management measures for the ALWTRP.

Schedule of Public Scoping Meetings

The dates, times, and locations of the meetings are scheduled as follows:

1. *Monday, July 7, 2003 - Fairhaven, MA, 6-9 p.m.*

Holiday Inn, 110 Middle Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

2. *Wednesday, July 9, 2003 - Cape May Court House, NJ, 6-9 p.m.*

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cape May County, 355 Court House/ South Dennis Road (Route 657), Cape May Court House, NJ

3. *Thursday, July 10, 2003 - Washington, NC, 6-9 p.m.*

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, Pamlico District Office, 943 Washington Square Mall, Washington, NC 27889

4. *Monday, July 14, 2003 - Portland, ME, 6-9 p.m.*

Holiday Inn - Portland by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland, ME 04101

5. *Tuesday, July 15, 2003 - Ellsworth, ME, 6-9 p.m.*

Holiday Inn, 215 High Street, Ellsworth, ME 04505

6. *Thursday, July 17, 2003 - Ft. Pierce, FL, 6-9 p.m.*

Holiday Inn, Okeechobee Road, Ft. Pierce, FL 34950

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Request for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Diane Borggaard 978 - 281-9328.

Dated: June 24, 2003.

Laurie K. Allen,

Acting Director of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 03-16430 Filed 6-27-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 030602141-3141-01; I.D. 061703A]

RIN 0648-ZB55

Availability of Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2004

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

ACTION: Omnibus Notice Announcing the Availability of Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2004.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announces the availability of grant funds for Fiscal Year 2004. 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: <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/~amd/SOLINDEX.HTML>.

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.

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 or access it via NOAA's web site: <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/~amd/SOLINDEX.HTML>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

The full funding announcement for each program is available via web site: <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/~amd/SOLINDEX.HTML> or by contacting the program official identified below. These announcements will also be available through FedGrants at <http://www.fedgrants.gov>.

Evaluation Criteria & Selection Procedures

NOAA standardized the evaluation and selection process for all of its competitive and non-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. Once a full application has been received 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 reviewers' 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.

NOAA Project Competitions

This omnibus notice describes funding opportunities for the following NOAA discretionary grant programs:

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS)

1. 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 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, although greater amounts may be awarded.

Statutory Authority: Statutory authority for this program is provided under 49 U.S.C. 4472(b); 33 U.S.C. 833d; 15 U.S.C. 5631, 15 U.S.C. 2904.

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

Preapplication/Application Deadline: If an applicant opts to submit a Letter of Intent, the Letter of Intent must be received by the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS), no later than 5:00 p.m., local time on August 1, 2003, and full proposals must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., local time on October 1, 2003.

Address for Submitting Letters of Intent and Proposals: Joint Center for Satellite Data Assimilation, 5200 Auth Road, Room 701, Camp Springs, MD 20746-4304.

Information Contact(s): Fuzhong Weng, JCSDA, 5200 Auth Road, Room 810; Camp Springs, Maryland 20746, or by phone at 301-763-8251, or fax to 301-763-8580, or via internet at Fuzhong.Weng@noaa.gov or Christine.L.Brown@noaa.gov; 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 Christine.L.Brown@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are Federal agencies, institutions of higher education, other non-profits, commercial 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."

2. Research in Satellite Oceanography

Summary Description: The 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.

Funding Availability: The total amount available is currently expected to be approximately \$375,000. It is anticipated that 3 or 4 awards will be made from this budget. This program

announcement is for projects to be conducted for a 1-year, or 2-year period. Individual awards are expected to range from a minimum of \$50,000 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. 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: 4:00 p.m., EDT, on August 23, 2003.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Proposals must be submitted to the Office of Research and Applications, NOAA/NESDIS, 5200 Auth Road, Room 701, Camp Springs, MD 20746-4304. Proposals should be sent to the attention of William Pichel.

Information Contacts: Administrative questions: Christine Brown, telephone (301) 763-8127 ext. 107, fax: 301-763-8108, or e-mail:

Christine.L.Brown@noaa.gov. Technical questions: William Pichel, telephone: (301) 763-8231 ext. 166, fax: 301-763-8020, e-mail: William.G.Pichel@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: 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 (NMFS)

1. Community-based Habitat Restoration National and Regional Partnerships

Summary Description: NMFS is inviting the public to submit multi-year proposals for establishing innovative habitat restoration partnerships at the national or regional level for up to 3 years to further community-based habitat restoration that will benefit living marine resources, including anadromous fish, under the NOAA Community-based Restoration Program (CRP). Proposals for partnerships funded through the CRP will involve joint selection and co-funding of multiple community-based habitat restoration projects as sub-awards made through the partner organization. Proposals selected for funding through this solicitation will be implemented through either a cooperative agreement or interagency transfer.

Funding Availability: Funding of up to \$7,000,000 is expected to be available

for establishing multi-year partnerships in FY 2004; annual funding is anticipated to maintain successful partnerships for up to 3 years duration. The NOAA Restoration Center (RC) anticipates that typical partnership awards will range from \$200,000 to \$600,000 per year, funded annually.

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.

CFDA: 11.463 Habitat Conservation.

Application Deadline: Applications for partnership funding under the CRP must be received by or postmarked by December 5, 2003.

Address for submitting Proposals: Send applications 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 Partnership Applications.

Information Contact(s): Robin Bruckner, Alison Ward or Melanie Severin at (301)713-0174, or by fax at (301) 713-0184, or by e-mail at Robin.Bruckner@noaa.gov, Alison.Ward@noaa.gov or Melanie.Severin@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 will be considered. 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.

Cost Sharing Requirements: 1:1 non-Federal match is encouraged, 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."

2. Community-based Habitat Restoration Projects

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 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 either a project grant, cooperative agreement, or interagency transfer.

Funding Availability: Funding of up to \$3,000,000 is expected to be available for community-based habitat restoration projects in FY 2004. 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.

CFDA: 11.463 Habitat Conservation.

Application Deadline: Applications for project funding under the CRP must be received by or postmarked by September 12, 2003.

Address for submitting Proposals: Send applications 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): Robin Bruckner, Alison Ward or Melanie Severin at (301) 713-0174, or by fax at (301) 713-0184, or by e-mail at Robin.Bruckner@noaa.gov, Alison.Ward@noaa.gov or Melanie.Severin@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 will be considered. 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.

Cost Sharing Requirements: 1:1 non-Federal match is encouraged, 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."

3. Fisheries Development and Utilization Research and Development Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program (also know as the Saltonstall-Kennedy (S-K) Grant Program)

Summary Description: The Saltonstall-Kennedy Act established a fund to provide grants or cooperative agreements for fisheries research and development projects addressed to any aspect of U.S. fisheries, including, but not limited to, harvesting, processing, aquaculture, marketing, and associated infrastructures. The Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program supports projects aimed at helping fishing communities to prevent overfishing, rebuild fisheries and ensure conservation, while realizing the full potential of fishery resources.

Funding Availability: Funding is subject to the availability of an allocation. The Program does not yet have funding for FY 2004, although it estimates that approximately \$4 million will be available. The Program does not specify a minimum or maximum dollar amount for individual awards.

Statutory Authority: 15 U.S.C. 713c-(3)(1).

CFDA: 11.427, Fisheries Development and Utilization Research and Development Grants and Cooperative Agreements.

Application Deadline: Applications must be received by local close of business at one of the addresses listed below on August 29, 2003.

Address for Submitting Proposals: You must submit applications to one of the following NMFS Regional Administrator or Headquarters offices: Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930; (978) 281-9267.

Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive, North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432, (727) 570-5324.

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213, (562) 980-4033.

Pacific Islands Region, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4700, (808) 973-2937.

Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way, N.E., BIN C15700, Building 1, Seattle, WA 98115, (206) 526-6115.

Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802 or Federal Building, 709 West 9th Street, 4th Floor, Juneau, AK 99801-1668, (907) 586-7224.

Financial Services Division, NMFS F/CS2, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301) 713-2358.

Information Contact(s): Alicia L. Jarboe, S-K Program Manager, F/CS2,

Room 13112, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282, tel. (301) 713-2358, or by email at: alicia.jarboe@noaa.gov. You may also contact the NMFS Regional Federal Program Officers, at the addresses and telephone numbers listed above.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants must be; (1) a citizen or national of the United States; (2) a citizen of the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), being an individual who qualifies as such under section 8 of the Schedule on Transitional Matters attached to the constitution of the NMI; (3) a citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, or the Federated States of Micronesia; or (4) represent an entity that is an institution of higher education, other nonprofit, commercial organization, state, local or Indian tribal government, if such entity is a citizen of the United States or NMI, within the meaning of section 2 of the Shipping Act, 1916, as amended.

Cost Sharing Requirements:

Applicants must provide a minimum cost share of 10 percent of total (Federal and non-Federal combined) project costs, but the cost share must not exceed 50 percent of total costs.

Intergovernmental Review:

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

4. Cooperative Research Program, Research and Development Projects in the Gulf of Mexico and off the U.S. South Atlantic Coastal States

Summary Description: NMFS announces the availability of Federal assistance under the Cooperative Research Program (CRP) Grant Program. We provide financial assistance for research and development projects that optimize the use of fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico and along the Atlantic coast involving the U.S. fishing industry (commercial and recreational), including fishery biology, resource assessment, socio-economic assessments, management and conservation, selected harvest methods, and fish handling and processing.

Funding Availability: Approximately \$2 million may be available through this announcement for fiscal year 2004.

Statutory Authority: The authorizing statute for the Cooperative Research Program is 15 U.S.C. 713c-3(d).

CFDA: 11.454, Unallied Management Projects.

Application Deadline: We must receive your application by close of business (5:00 p.m. EDT) on August 14, 2003. Applications received after that time will not be considered for funding.

The earliest start date of awards is about 300 days after the date of publication of this notice.

Address for submitting Proposals: You can obtain an application package from, and send your completed application(s) to: National Marine Fisheries Service, State/Federal Liaison Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive, N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702. You may also obtain the application package from the CRP homepage at: <http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov/grants/programs/crp.htm>

Information Contact(s): Ellie Francisco Roche, Chief, State/Federal Liaison Office, (727)570-5324.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include institutions of higher education, other nonprofits, commercial organizations, state governments, and private citizens. 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.

Cost Sharing Requirements: Cost-sharing is not required for the CRP.

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

5. General Coral Reef Conservation

Summary Description: Funding will support efforts by educational and non-governmental institutions to conserve the 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). The objective of this program is to support programs and projects to help preserve, sustain and restore the condition of coral reef ecosystems, promote the wise management and sustainable use of coral reef resources, and increase public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their conservation. NMFS will accept preapplications for peer review. Applications for research activities will not be eligible under this category. This program is part of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 which provides matching grants of financial assistance for coral reef conservation projects. 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 NMFS.

Funding Availability: NMFS will provide approximately \$400,000 in funding in FY 2004 for awards. It is expected that most awards will range from a minimum of \$15,000 to a maximum of \$50,000. Funding will be subject to the availability of federal appropriations.

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

CFDA: 11.463 Habitat Conservation.

Preapplication/Application Deadline: Preapplications are due to NOAA before midnight, EDT, on March 12, 2004.

Final applications are due to NOAA before midnight, EDT on June 4, 2004.

Address for submitting Proposals: 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 14717, NOAA Fisheries, 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, and local and Indian tribal governments. U.S. State, Territory, and Commonwealth and Freely Associated State Government Agencies are not eligible under this program. Federal agencies are eligible under this program; however, such applications will be a low priority unless they are an essential part of a cooperative project with other eligible educational or non-governmental institutions.

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.

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

6. Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans

Summary Description: The object of this program is support value-added studies or projects that will enhance the conservation of coral reef fishery resources by the Regional Fishery Management Councils with responsibilities for Fishery Management Plans that include coral reefs or fishery resources that depend on these reef ecosystems. It is not intended to support normal Council activities or responsibilities. While first priority will be given to proposals for coral reef activities in the Council's jurisdiction, proposals for complementary activities of high conservation value within state waters that are fully coordinated with appropriate state, territory or commonwealth management authorities will also be accepted. This program is part of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 which provides matching grants of financial assistance for coral reef conservation projects. NMFS will accept preapplications 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 NMFS.

Funding Availability: NMFS will provide approximately \$1,050,000 in funding in FY 2004. In order to ensure regional balance, a maximum of \$525,000 will be available for activities in the Western Pacific, and a maximum of \$525,000 will be 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.

CFDA: 11.441 Regional Fishery Management Councils.

Preapplication/Application Deadline: Preapplications are due to NOAA before midnight, EST, on March 12, 2004. Final applications are due to NOAA before midnight, EDT on June 4, 2004.

Address for submitting Proposals: 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 14717, NOAA Fisheries, 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, South Atlantic

Fishery Management Council, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, and 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."

National Ocean Service (NOS)

1. FY 04 Career Program Announcement of Funding Opportunity for Undergraduate, Graduate, and Recently Graduated Students Concerning Career Development in Coastal Ocean Science, Management, and Policy.

Summary Description: NOS/NCCOS/CSCOR/COP is soliciting 1-year and 2-year proposals for career development programs commencing in late Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 with an anticipated start date of July 1, 2004. The purpose of these awards will be to support activities designed to facilitate and/or enhance the development of qualified professionals in the fields of coastal ocean science, management, and policy. The coastal ocean is inclusive of the near shore ocean, estuaries, and the Great Lakes. This notice solicits applications for proposals from eligible non-Federal applicants. Proposals selected for funding from non-Federal researchers will be funded through a project grant. Proposals from academic institutions, particularly those that are Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), collaborate with MSIs, or serve minority students, are strongly encouraged.

Statutory Authority: 15 U.S.C. 1540.

CFDA NUMBER: 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/COP office is 3:00 p.m., local time, January 14, 2004. (Note that late-arriving applications provided to a delivery service on or before January 14, 2004, with delivery guaranteed before 3:00 p.m., local time, on January 14, 2004, will be accepted for review if the applicant can document that the application was provided to the delivery service with delivery to the address listed below guaranteed by the specified closing date and time and, in any event, the proposals are received in the NCCOS/CSCOR/COP office by 3:00 p.m. local time, no later than two business days following the closing date.) Subject to the availability of funds and facilities, it is anticipated that final decisions on awards will be made by early March, 2004.

Addresses for submitting proposals: Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research/Coastal Ocean Program (N/SCI2), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1305 East-West Highway, SSMC4, 8th Floor Station 8243, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282, attn. CAREER 04.

Information Contacts(s): Technical Information. John Wickham, Susan Banahan, CAREER 2004 Program Manager, NCCOS/CSCOR/COP, 301-713-3338/ext 156 (148), Internet: John.Wickham@noaa.gov; Susan.Banahan@noaa.gov.

Business Management Information. Leslie McDonald, NCCOS/CSCOR/COP Grants Administrator, 301-713-3338/ext 155, internet: Leslie.McDonald@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. (a) 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. (b) 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. (c) NCCOS/CSCOR/COP 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. (d) 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."

2. 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. This program is part of the Coral Reef

Conservation Act of 2000 which provides matching grants of financial assistance for coral reef conservation projects. Funding will also support jurisdictional participation in national coral reef planning activities, such as U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meetings. NOS will accept preapplications 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 \$2,100,000 will be available in FY 2004 to support awards under this program. Each eligible jurisdiction can apply for a maximum of \$400,000. Funding is subject to the availability of federal appropriations.

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

CFDA: 11.419, Coastal Zone Management Program.

Preapplication/Application Deadline: Preapplications are due to NOAA before midnight, EST, on March 12, 2004. Final applications are due to NOAA before midnight, EDT on June 4, 2004.

Address for submitting Proposals: 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): Bill Millhouser, 1305 East West Highway, 11th Floor, N/ORM3, Silver Spring, MD 20910, phone 301-713-3155 extension 189, e-mail at bill.millhouser@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are the governor-appointed point of contact agencies for coral reef activities 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."

3. State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring

Summary Description: National Ocean Service, National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science (NCCOS) funds support a nationally coordinated, comprehensive, long term monitoring program to assess the condition of U.S. coral reef ecosystems and evaluate the efficacy of coral reef ecosystem management. This program is part of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 which provides matching grants of financial assistance for coral reef conservation projects. NOS will accept preapplications 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: NCCOS will provide approximately \$840,000 in funding for FY 04 to support coral reef monitoring activities under this program. FY 2004 awards to Puerto Rico, Florida, U.S. Virgin Islands, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are expected to range from \$50,000 to \$250,000. FY 2004 awards to the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands are expected to range from \$10,000 to \$20,000 per year. Funding will be subject to the availability of federal appropriations.

Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 6403.
CFDA: 11.426, Financial Assistance for National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science.

Preapplication/Application Deadline: Preapplications are due to NOAA before midnight, EDT, on March 12, 2004. Final applications are due to NOAA before midnight, EDT on June 4, 2004.

Address for submitting Proposals: 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): John Christensen, 1305 East West Highway, 9th Floor, N/SCI1, Silver Spring, MD 20910, phone 301-713-3028

extension153, e-mail at

john.christensen@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are limited to the natural resource management agency in each U.S. State, Territory, or Freely Associated State, with jurisdiction over coral reefs, as designated by the respective governors or other applicable senior jurisdictional official. NOAA is requesting proposals from Puerto Rico, Florida, U.S. Virgin Islands, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and Republic of the Marshall 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."

4. International Coral Reef Conservation

Summary Description: This program supports four project categories; promoting of watershed management in the Wider Caribbean small island communities excluding the Mesoamerican coral reef corridor, enhancing management effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas, encouraging regional approaches to further no-take marine reserves in the Wider Caribbean and Southeast Asia, and promoting socio-economic monitoring in coral reef management. This program is part of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 which provides matching grants of financial assistance for coral reef conservation projects. NOS will accept preapplications 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 will be available in FY 2004 to support grants and cooperative agreements under this program. Approximately \$75,000-\$100,000 will be allocated to each of the four project categories listed below, with the following award ranges: a. Watershed Management: up to \$75,000, b. Management Effectiveness: (1) single site projects: \$20,000-\$40,000, (2) Regional capacity building projects: \$100,000 c. Marine Reserves: \$25,000-\$40,000, d. Socio-economic monitoring: \$15,000-\$25,000. Funding will be subject to the availability of federal appropriations.

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

CFDA: 11.463 Habitat Conservation.

Preapplication/Application Deadline: Preapplications are due to NOAA before midnight, EDT, on March 12, 2004. Final applications are due to NOAA before midnight, EDT on June 4, 2004.

Address for submitting Proposals: 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): Arthur Paterson, 1315 East West Highway, 5th Floor, Room 5627, Silver Spring, MD 20910, phone 301-713-3078 extension 217, e-mail at Authur.E.Paterson@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include all international, governmental, and non-governmental organizations, including the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Eligibility is also contingent upon whether activities undertaken with respect the application would be consistent with applicable conditions or restrictions imposed by the U.S. government.

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."

5. FY2004 Coastal Services Center Broad Area Announcement

Summary Description: NOS is soliciting projects for the Coastal Services Center (CSC) Director's Office (DO) program, with an anticipated start date of May 1, 2004. The DO program is seeking proposals for grant projects that enhance the organization, implementation, and application of regional coastal ocean observing systems. Coastal observing systems are meant to include the sensors, personnel, and data management that obtain, process and apply regular and sustained in-situ and/or remote observations of the physical, chemical, and biological environment of Great Lakes, estuaries, and the near shore ocean of the United States. Of particular interest is the utility of such systems for management of coastal and ocean resources and for the benefit of coastal communities. Two types of projects to benefit the development of regional coastal ocean observing systems are requested: (1) projects that facilitate building partnerships and regional organizational structures for Regional Observing System Coordination, and (2) projects that will support implementation of Regional Coastal Ocean Observation Pilot Projects.

Funding Availability: Estimated available funding for both types of projects is expected to be between \$1,000,000 to \$15,000,000 depending on congressional appropriation. For the Regional Observation System Coordination, funding is expected to be between \$200,000 to \$500,000 with two to five grants being awarded ranging from \$20,000 to \$100,000. For the Regional Coastal Ocean Observation Pilot Projects, funding is expected to be between \$500,000 to \$14,000,000 with two to ten grants being awarded ranging from \$100,000 to \$3,000,000. Applications must clearly state which type of project is targeted.

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

CFDA: 11.473, Coastal Services Center.

Application Deadline: Applicants applying for federal assistance under the DO program, must submit their

applications by 5:00 p.m. EST, October 31, 2003.

Address for submitting Proposals: Coastal Services Center, 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413 to the attention of Geno Olmi, room 234A.

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 Geno Olmi, NOAA CSC; 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Room 234A, Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413, or by phone at 843-740-1230, or by fax 843-740-1297, or via internet at Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, non-profit and for-profit 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 are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

6. FY2004 Coastal Services Center Broad Area Announcement

Summary Description: NOS is soliciting projects for the Coastal Services Center (CSC) Geographic Information System (GIS) Integration and Development (I&D) program, with an anticipated start date of March 1, 2004. THE GIS I&D program seeks proposals for a 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. A priority of the GIS I&D program is to fund a state and local level coastal resource management organizations proposing geospatial solutions to issues related to coastal hazards, smart growth, marine protected areas, permitting systems, data access and distribution, or Internet mapping.

Funding Availability: Funding is estimated to be \$200,000. Typically the GIS I&D program funds two to three

projects with awards ranging from about \$50,000 to \$100,000.

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

CFDA: 11.473, Coastal Services Center.

Application Deadline: Applicants applying for federal assistance under the GIS I&D program, must submit their applications by 5:00 p.m. EDT, October 6, 2003.

Address for submitting Proposals: Coastal Services Center, 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413 to the attention of James Lewis Free, room 213.

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 153; Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413, or by phone at 843-740-1192, or by fax 843-740-1315, 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 are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

7. FY2004 Coastal Services Center Broad Area Announcement

Summary Description: NOS is soliciting projects for the Coastal Services Center (CSC) Information Resources (IR) program with an anticipated start date of March 1, 2004. The IR program is seeking proposals for a one year grant to make coastal data, products, and publications of importance to U.S. coastal resource managers available on-line using standard documentation formats and information retrieval protocols. Allowable documentation formats are the Federal Geographic Data Committee's (FGDC) content standard for geospatial data, commonly referred to as the FGDC metadata standard, and

the Machine Readable Cataloging (MARC) 21 format.

Funding Availability: Funding is expected to be \$200,000 for a one year grant period. It is anticipated that multiple grant proposals will be funded under this announcement ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

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

CFDA: 11.473, Coastal Services Center.

Application Deadline: Applicants applying for federal assistance under the IR program, must submit their applications by 5:00 p.m. EDT, October 6, 2003.

Address for submitting Proposals: Coastal Services Center, 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413 to the attention of Anne Ball, room 211.

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 153; Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413, or by phone at 843-740-1192, or by fax 843-740-1315, or via internet at Hamilton.Smillie@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 are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

8. FY2004 Coastal Services Center Broad Area Announcement

Summary Description: NOS is soliciting projects for the Coastal Services Center (CSC) Landscape Characterization and Restoration (LCR) program, with an anticipated start date of March 1, 2004. Proposals are being requested where the Center will enter into a two year cooperative agreement which the cooperater and the Center will jointly develop an environmental characterization of a coastal estuary, watershed, or special management area

in the Northeastern United States located entirely or in part within Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, or North Carolina.

Funding Availability: Total anticipated funding for a two year project is estimated to be \$300,000 and no more than one award is expected.

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

CFDA: 11.473, Coastal Services Center.

Application Deadline: Applicants applying for federal assistance under the LCR program, must submit their applications by 5:00 p.m. EDT, October 6, 2003.

Address for submitting Proposals: Coastal Services Center, 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413 to the attention of Linda Rowe, room 236B.

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 Linda Rowe, NOAA CSC; 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Room 236B; Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413, or by phone at 843-740-1283, or by fax 843-740-1315, or via internet at Linda.Rowe@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 are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

9. Ecological Forecasting (EcoFore)

Summary Description: The purpose of this document is to advise the public that NCCOS/CSCOR/COP is soliciting proposals for ecological forecasting. It is anticipated that projects funded under this announcement will have a May 1, 2004, start date. NCCOS/CSCOR/COP is soliciting research proposals for projects of 2 to 5 years in duration for the development of ecological forecasting capability and the transition/

operationalism of ecological forecasts. Funding is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2004 Federal appropriations. It is anticipated that final recommendations for funding under this announcement will be made in early Calendar Year 2004.

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

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

Application Deadline: The deadline for receipt of proposals at the COP office is 3:00 p.m., local time, November 4, 2003. (Note that late-arriving applications provided to a delivery service on or before November 4, 2003, with delivery guaranteed before 3:00 p.m., local time on November 4, 2003, will be accepted for review if the applicant can document that the application was provided to the delivery service with delivery to the address listed below guaranteed by the specified closing date and time; and, in any event, the proposals are received in the NCCOS/CSCOR/COP office by 3:00 p.m., local time, no later than 2 business days following the closing date.)

Addresses for submitting Proposals: Attn. EcoFore 04, Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research/Coastal Ocean Program (N/SCI2), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1305 East-West Highway, SSMC4, 8th Floor Station 8243, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Information Contact(s): Technical Information. Beth Turner, ECOFORE 2004 Program Manager, NCCOS/CSCOR/COP, 603-862-4680, Internet: elizabeth.turner@noaa.gov

Business Management Information. Leslie McDonald, NCCOS/CSCOR/COP Grants Administrator, 301-713-3338/ ext 155, Internet: Leslie.McDonald@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. (a) 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. (b) 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. (c) NCCOS/CSCOR/COP 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. (d) 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."

10. National Estuarine Research

Reserves System FY2004 Land Acquisition and Construction 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. 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 and enhance long-term protection of the area for research and education and for facility and exhibit construction. The ERD of NOAA announces the availability of funding for the NERRS land acquisition and/or construction. The ERD anticipates that approximately \$10.0 million, pending availability of funds, will be competitively awarded to qualified National Estuarine Research Reserves that meet the funding priorities and selection criteria.

Funding Availability: Approximately \$10.0 million will be available to designated reserve agencies or universities only through this announcement for fiscal year 2004.

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

CFDA: 11.420, Coastal Zone Management Estuarine Research Reserves.

Application Deadline: Proposals must be received by or postmarked by February 13, 2004.

Address for submitting Proposals: NOAA/NOS; 1305 East-West Highway, Room 10509; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

Information Contact(s): Doris Grimm, NOAA/NOS; 1355 East-West Highway, Room 10509; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, or by phone at 301-713-3155 ext. 107, or fax to 301-713-4363, 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."

11. FY2004 Coastal Services Center Broad Area Announcement

Summary Description: NOS is soliciting projects for the Coastal Services Center (CSC) Coastal Remote Sensing (CRS) program, with an anticipated start date of April 1, 2004. CRS is seeking proposals on applications of remotely sensed coastal spatial data to support coastal resource management decision-making and to help resolve coastal issues. The Center's goal is to aid coastal resource managers while promoting the use of remote sensing technologies and innovations. The Center seeks proposals for a two year cooperative agreement under which the Center will acquire commercial remote sensing imagery and/or products to the identified issue. The cooperator must show how their management issue will benefit substantially by the inclusion of remotely sensed data.

Funding Availability: Total anticipated funding is \$75,000 over two years. Between one and three awards are anticipated with each award being funded at \$25,000 over a two year period. Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1456c.

CFDA: 11.473, Coastal Services Center.

Application Deadline: Applicants applying for federal assistance under the CRS program, must submit their applications by 5:00 p.m. EDT, October 6, 2003.

Address for submitting Proposals: Coastal Services Center, 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413 to the attention of Kirk Waters, room 236B.

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 Kirk Waters, NOAA CSC; 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Room 103; Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413, or by phone at 843-740-1227, or

by fax 843-740-1289, or via internet at Kirk.Waters@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are state, local and Indian tribal governments, institutions of higher education, and other non-profits. 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 are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

National Weather Service (NWS)

1. CSTAR 2004 Collaborative Science, Technology, and Applied Research (CSTAR) Program

Summary Description: NWS is soliciting projects to be conducted by university investigators for a 1-year, 2-year, or 3-year period, with an anticipated start date of April 1, 2004. The CSTAR Program represents an NOAA/NWS effort to create a cost-effective transition from basic and applied research to operations and services through collaborative research between operational forecasters and academic institutions which have expertise in the environmental sciences. These activities will engage researchers and students in applied research of interest to the operational meteorological community and will improve the accuracy of forecasts and warnings of environmental hazards by applying scientific knowledge and information to NWS products and services. The NOAA CSTAR Program is a contributing element of the U.S. Weather Research Program. NOAA's program is designed to complement other agency contributions to that national effort.

Funding Availability: Approximately \$500,000 will be available through this announcement for fiscal year 2004. 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; 49 U.S.C. 44720(b); 33 U.S.C. 883d; 15 U.S.C. 2904; 15 U.S.C. 2934.

CFDA: 11.468, Applied Meteorological Research.

Application Deadline: Proposals must be received by the NWS no later than 5:00 p.m., EDT, October 23, 2003.

Address for submitting Proposals: NOAA/NWS; 1325 East-West Highway, Room 15330; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3283.

Information Contact(s): Sam Contorno, NOAA/NWS; 1325 East-West Highway, Room 15330; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3283, or by phone at 301-713-3557 ext. 150, or fax to 301-713-1253, or via internet at samuel.contorno@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education and federally funded educational institutions such as the Naval Postgraduate School.

Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

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

2. Hydrologic Research

Summary Description: This program announcement is for projects to be conducted by research investigators for a 1-year, 2-year, or 3-year period. June 1, 2004, should be used as the proposed start date on proposals. 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.

Funding Availability: Proposals should be prepared assuming an annual budget of no more than \$125,000. It is expected that approximately four to eight awards will be made, depending on availability of funds.

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

CFDA: 11.462, Hydrologic Research.

Application Deadline: Proposals are due no later 5 pm, EST, on December 19, 2003.

Address for submitting Proposals: Proposals must be submitted to NOAA/NWS; 1325 East-West Highway, Room 8348; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3283.

Information Contact(s): Dr. George Smith by phone at 301-713-0640 ext. 117, or fax to 301-713-0963, or via internet at George.Smith@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."

Ocean and Atmospheric Research (OAR)

1. THORPEX: A Global Atmospheric Research Program

Summary Description: The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is soliciting preapplications (PA) and full proposals under the United States Weather Research Program (USWRP) for THORPEX: A Global Atmospheric Research Program. THORPEX is a major long-term international program aimed at improving the accuracy and utility of operational global numerical weather predictions (NWP) on time scales out to two weeks through international collaboration between the operational and research communities. Applicants are encouraged to submit preapplications describing the proposed work and its relevance to targeted priority project areas. The purpose of the preapplication process is to provide information to potential applicants on the relevance of their proposed project to THORPEX and the likelihood of it being funded in advance of preparing a full proposal.

Funding Availability: The estimate for total funding that will be available in FY 2004 will not exceed \$1,500,000, but this amount is expected to increase substantially in future years. Funding of any THORPEX proposals is contingent upon availability of these funds. It is anticipated that 10-15 awards will be made. Although there are no restrictions on amount, it is likely the awards will range from \$25,000 to \$200,000.

Statutory Authority: 49 U.S.C. 44720(b), 33 U.S.C. 883d.

CFDA: 11.431, Climate and Atmospheric Research.

Preapplication/Application Deadline: Preapplications must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., EDT, on July 30, 2003. Response letters will be sent from NOAA no later than August 14, 2003. Full proposals must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., EDT, on September 15, 2003.

Addresses for submitting Preapplications and Proposals: Preapplications and full proposals may be sent as printed hard copy to: John Gaynor, Director, Interagency Program Office of the U.S. Weather Research, Room 11116, SSMC 3, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910; or they may be submitted electronically by sending in portable document format (PDF) via e-mail to John.Gaynor@noaa.gov with a copy to Zoltan.Toth@noaa.gov.

Information Contact(s): Karen King, DOC/NOAA, Office of Weather & Air Quality Research, Routing Code R/WA, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 11216, Silver Spring, MD 20910, phone (301) 713-0460 ext. 202, email Karen.King@noaa.gov.

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

Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

Intergovernmental Review:

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

Proposal Review and Selection Process for Internships, Fellowships, and Scholarships

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 applications is conducted to determine compliance with requirements and completeness of applications. A panel review is conducted to individually evaluate, score, and rank applications using the evaluation criteria. A second panel review may be conducted on the applicants that meet the program's threshold (based on scores from the first panel 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 panel 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 noted 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 Fellowship/Scholarships/Internships Competitions

This omnibus notice describes funding opportunities for the following NOAA discretionary fellowship, scholarship, internship programs:

National Ocean Service (NOS)

1. 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 31 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: All applications must be postmarked by November 1, 2003.

Address for submitting Proposals: NOAA's Estuarine Reserves Division; 1305 East-West Highway; SSMC4, Station 10500, N/ORM5; Silver Spring, MD 20912.

Information Contact: Erica Seiden, 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 172, or fax to 301-713-4363, internet at erica.seiden@noaa.gov or <http://www.ocrm.nos.noaa.gov/grf/welcome.html>.

Eligibility: Institutions eligible to receive awards include institutions of higher education, other non-profits, commercial organizations, international organizations, state, local and Indian tribal 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."

2. 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. The intent of this program is to recognize outstanding scholarship and encourage independent graduate level research in the above mentioned fields.

Funding Availability: Approximately \$330,000.

Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1445c-1; National Marine Sanctuaries Preservation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-283; National Marine Sanctuaries Amendments Act of 2000, Public Law 106-513.

CFDA: 11.429 National Marine Sanctuary Program.

Application Deadline: Applications must be received between January 28, 2004 and March 31, 2004 no later than 5:00 p.m., EST.

Address for submitting Proposals: Applications should be sent 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 in "Addresses", by telephone (301) 713-3074, or by internet to <http://fosterscholars.noaa.gov>.

Eligibility: Only 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.

Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

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 2004 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, for programs which have deadline dates on or after October 1, 2003, they may be required to provide a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number during the application process. See the October 30, 2002 (67 FR 66177) and April 8, 2003 (68 FR 17090) **Federal Register** notices 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>).

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** notice of October 1, 2001 (66 FR 49917), as amended by the **Federal Register** notice published on October 30, 2002 (67 FR 66109), 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 and 424A, 424B, SF-LLL, and CD-346 has been approved by 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 24, 2003.

James R. Walpole,

General Counsel, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 03-16434 Filed 6-27-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-12-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 062403A]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held on July 14-17, 2003.

ADDRESSES: These meetings will be held at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club, 851 Gulf Shore Boulevard, North, Naples, FL; telephone: 239-261-2222.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne E. Swingle, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Council

July 16

1:30 p.m. - Convene.

1:45 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. - Receive a report by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the dispersal of wastewater from the Piney Point Phosphate Plant.

2:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Receive public testimony on the Reef Fish Amendment 21 and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Generic Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Amendment. Reef Fish Amendment 21 contains a proposal to extend the time period for the

Madison/Swanson and Steamboat Lumps marine reserves beyond their June 16, 2004 expiration date. The Draft EIS for the Generic EFH Amendment contains alternatives for specifying EFH, habitat areas of particular concern (HAPCs), and impacts of fishing on EFH. Final action to approve Reef Fish Amendment 21 and the Draft EIS for the Generic EFH Amendment will be taken at on Thursday during the Council meeting. Persons testifying must register before the start of the testimony period.

4:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. - (Closed Session) Receive the report of the Joint Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Selection/Advisory Panel (AP) Selection Committee.

July 17

8:30 a.m. - 9 a.m. - Receive a presentation by the U.S. Geological Services on the Pulley's Ridge Coral Study.

9 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. - Receive a presentation by NMFS on the designation of sawfish as an endangered species.

9:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. - Receive a review of the draft EIS for EFH Amendment by MRAG Americas, Inc.

10 a.m. - 12 noon - Review and final approval of the EIS for EFH Amendment.

1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. - Receive the Reef Fish Management Committee report.

3 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. - Receive the Shrimp Management Committee report.

3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Receive the Mackerel Management Committee report.

3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. - Receive the Migratory Species Committee report.

3:45 p.m. - 4 p.m. - Receive the Joint Reef Fish/Mackerel/Red Drum Management Committee report.

4 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Receive the Joint Personnel/Administrative Policy/Budget Committee Report.

4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. - Receive a report of the Logo Selection Committee.

4:45 p.m. - 5 p.m. - Receive the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) Liaison Report.

5 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. - Receive Enforcement Reports.

5:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Receive a report of the Council Chairs Meeting.

5:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. - Receive the NMFS Regional Administrator's Report.

5:45 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. - Receive Director's Reports.

6:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Other Business.

Committees

July 14

8:30 a.m. - 9 a.m. - (Closed Session) Convene the Joint SSC and AP Selection

Silver Spring, MD 20910, Phone: (301) 713-2328, ext. 216.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Marine recreational anglers are surveyed for catch and effort data, fish biology data, and angler socioeconomic characteristics. These data are required to carry out provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), as amended, regarding conservation and management of fishery resources.

II. Method of Collection

A random-digit-dialing telephone survey of coastal zone households collects data on the proportion of marine fishing households and the number of shore and private/rental boat fishing trips by residents of those households. A directory telephone survey of boat operators collects data on the numbers of angler fishing trips on party and charter boats. On-site intercept interviews of marine recreational anglers collect data on the catch per trip by species. Supplemental surveys collect economic data about marine recreational fishing.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0052.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 770,504.

Estimated Time Per Response: 7 minutes for fishing households; 7 minutes for party/charter boat operators; 4.5 minutes for intercepted anglers; 3 minutes for supplemental economic data from fishing households; 5 minutes for supplemental economic data from party/charter boat operators; 8 minutes for supplemental economic data from intercepted anglers; 1.5 minutes for verification calls; 1 minute for non-fishing households; and .5 minutes for non-households.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 34,887.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

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: June 17, 2004.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-14375 Filed 6-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 061804F]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program (S-K Program) Applications and 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, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before August 23, 2004.

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 Alicia Jarboe, F/MB5, Room 13112, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282 (telephone 301-713-2358, ext. 199 or e-mail alicia.jarboe@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The S-K Program provides financial assistance on a competitive basis for research and development projects that benefit the U.S. fishing industry (commercial and recreational). In addition to standard Federal government grant application requirements, S-K applications must provide a project summary form (NOAA Form 88-204), use NOAA Form 88-0205 instead of SF-424A for budget information, and provide one original and nine copies of applications. Successful grants applicants are required to submit semi-annual progress reports and a final report.

II. Method of Collection

Final reports must be submitted in electronic form unless an exemption is granted. The other documentation is in paper form.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0135.

Form Number: NOAA Forms 88-204 and 88-205.

Type of Review: Regular Submission.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions; business or other for-profit organizations; individuals or households; and state, local, or tribal government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 210.

Estimated Time Per Response: 1 hour for a project summary form; 1 hour for a budget form; 2.5 hours for a semi-annual report; and 13 hours for a final report.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 985.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$606.

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: June 17, 2004.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-14376 Filed 6-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 061804E]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Reporting Requirements for the Ocean Salmon Fishery Off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California

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, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before August 23, 2004.

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(s) and instructions should be directed to Christopher Wright, F/NWR2, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115-6349 (phone 206-526-6140).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Based on the management regime specified each year, designated regulatory areas in the commercial ocean salmon fishery off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California may be managed by numerical quotas. To accurately assess catches relative to quota attainment during the fishing season, catch data by regulatory area must be collected in a timely manner. The requirements to land salmon within specific time frames and in specific

areas may be implemented in the preseason regulations to aid in timely and accurate catch accounting for a regulatory area. State landing systems normally gather the data at the time of landing. If unsafe weather conditions or mechanical problems prevent compliance with landing requirements, fishermen need an alternative to allow for a safe response. Fishermen would be exempt from landing requirements if the appropriate notifications are made to provide the name of the vessel, the port where delivery will be made, the approximate amount of salmon (by species) on board, and the estimated time of arrival.

II. Method of Collection

Notifications are made by at-sea radio or cellular phone transmissions.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0433.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 40.

Estimated Time Per Response: 15 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 10.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

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: June 17, 2004.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-14377 Filed 6-23-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 061604B]

NOAA Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) is hosting a series of public meetings to present a draft of the NOAA Fisheries Strategic Plan for Recreational Fisheries 2005-2010. The primary goal of the meetings is to collect public input on the draft plan.

DATES: The meetings announced by this notice will be held July 6, 2004, in Orange Beach, AL and July 8, 2004, in Houston, TX. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific times, addresses, and directions. Copies of the Draft Plan will be available at each meeting, or can be obtained in advance of the meeting on the website at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/recfish/> or by contacting Michael Kelly, Division Chief, NOAA Fisheries Office of Constituent Services (301) 713-2379.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Kelly, Division Chief, Office of Constituent Services at (301) 713-2379.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting in Alabama is scheduled for July 6, 2004, from 6 p.m. at the Orange Beach Community Center, 27235 Canal Road, Orange Beach, AL. The meeting in Texas is scheduled from July 8, 2004, 6 p.m. at the Coastal Conservation Association National Headquarters Office 6919 Portwest, Suite 100, Houston, TX.

Directions from Mobile, Alabama airport: Begin going East on AIRPORT BLVD/CR-56 E toward JOSEPH DRAWNS DR. Merge onto I-65S. Merge onto I-10 E. Take the AL-59 S exit number 44 toward LOXLEY/GULF SHORES-BEACHS/GULF STATE PARK. Merge onto N HICKORY ST. N HICKORY ST becomes AL-59S. Turn LEFT onto FOLEY BEACH (Portions toll). Turn LEFT onto AL-180/CANAL RD. Turn SLIGHT LEFT to stay on AL-180/CANAL RD. Proceed to 27235 CANAL RD. ORANGE BEACH, AL.

Directions: From Bush Intercontinental airport: Start out going West on TERMINAL RD N toward TERMINAL A BAGGAGE CLAIM. Turn LEFT onto AIRPORT EXIT. Turn LEFT