

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Federal Agency Name(s): National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce

Funding Opportunity Title: 2010 Monkfish Research Set-Aside

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NMFS-NEFSC-2010-2001980

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.454, Unallied Management Projects

Dates: Full proposals must be received and validated by Grants.gov, postmarked, or provided to a delivery service on or before 5 p.m. EDT, August 31, 2009. Please note: Validation or rejection of your application by Grants.gov may take up to 2 business days after submission. Please consider this process in developing your submission timeline. Applications received after the deadline will be rejected/returned to the sender without further consideration. Use of U.S. mail or another delivery service must be documented with a receipt. No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted.

Funding Opportunity Description: NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is soliciting monkfish research proposals to utilize 500 Monkfish Days-at-Sea (DAS) that have been set-aside by the New England Fishery Management and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils (Councils) to fund monkfish research endeavors through the 2010 Monkfish Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program (May 1, 2010-April 30, 2011). No Federal funds are provided for research under this notification. Rather, proceeds generated from the sale of monkfish harvested during a set-aside DAS is used to fund research activities and compensate vessels that participate in research activities and/or harvest set-aside quota.

Projects funded under the Monkfish RSA Program must enhance the knowledge of the monkfish fishery resource or contribute to the body of information on which monkfish management decisions are made. Priority will be given to monkfish research proposals that investigate research priorities identified by the Councils and which are detailed under the Program Priorities section of this announcement.

## FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

### I. Funding Opportunity Description

#### A. Program Objective

Amendment 2 to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) established a DAS set-aside program, which sets aside 500 monkfish DAS annually from the total number of monkfish DAS allocated to limited access monkfish vessels, to address monkfish research priorities identified by the Councils. NMFS, in cooperation with the Councils, is soliciting proposals for monkfish research to be conducted under the 2010 Monkfish RSA Program. DAS will be awarded to successful applicants.

#### B. Program Priorities

Projects funded under an RSA DAS award must enhance understanding of the monkfish fishery resource or contribute to the body of information on which management decisions are made. NMFS and the Councils will give priority to funding research proposals in the areas set forth below. The numbering of priorities is not intended to indicate preference of one priority over another.

2010 Monkfish RSA Program Research Needs and Priorities:

1. Cooperative research to supplement NMFS surveys focusing on: (a) deep water surveys (i.e., greater than 200 meters), and (b) estimation of efficiency of NMFS survey gear with respect to monkfish.
2. Research on monkfish life history focusing on: (a) Age and growth, (b) longevity, (c) reproduction, and (d) natural mortality;
3. Tagging and telemetry studies focusing on: (a) Short- and long-term movements, and (b) habitat usage.
4. Research concerning bycatch and discard mortality focusing on: (a) Target species (i.e., monkfish or Northeast multispecies), and (b) non-target species (i.e., monkfish or skate).
5. Trawl and gillnet gear studies focusing on: (a) Size and/or species selectivity, and (b) bycatch reduction, including reducing bycatch of and interactions with protected species.

#### C. Program Authority

Statutory authority for this program is found under sections 303(b)(11), 402(e), and 404(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1853(b)(11), 16 U.S.C. 1881a(e), and 16 U.S.C. 1881(c), respectively. The ability to set aside monkfish DAS for research purposes was established in the final rule implementing Amendment 2 to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (70 FR 21927, April 28, 2005), codified at 50 CFR 648.92(c).

## II. Award Information

### A. Funding Availability

DAS will be awarded to successful applicants. No Federal funds are provided for research under this notification. Funds generated from landings harvested and sold under the Monkfish RSA Program shall be used to cover the cost of research activities, including vessel costs. For example, the funds may be used to pay for gear modifications, monitoring equipment, the salaries of research personnel, or vessel operation costs.

The Federal Government is not liable for any costs incurred by the researcher or vessel owner should the sale of catch not fully reimburse the researcher or vessel owner for their expenses. Any additional funds generated through the sale of set-aside landings, above the cost of the research activities, shall be retained by the vessel owner as compensation for the use of his/her vessel.

The Federal Government (i.e., NMFS) may issue an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP), if needed, that may provide special fishing privileges in response to research proposals selected under this program. For example, in previous years, some successful applicants have requested, and were granted, exemption from monkfish DAS possession limits to make compensation fishing more efficient and cost effective. In such cases, applicants were authorized to harvest a maximum amount of monkfish by weight, or fish up to the number of awarded monkfish DAS, whichever came first. To obtain such an exemption, an EFP application must be submitted to the Northeast Regional Office, NMFS. Please be aware that EFP applications are reviewed on a case by case basis, and may be disapproved. For additional information, contact Ryan Silva, Cooperative Research Liaison, at 978-281-9326, or [ryan.silva@noaa.gov](mailto:ryan.silva@noaa.gov).

### B. Project/Award Period

The research project may encompass all or part of the 2010 monkfish fishing year (May 1, 2010 through April 30, 2011). However, all DAS awarded as part of the 2010 Monkfish RSA Program to compensate for research costs and participation must be utilized by April 30, 2011.

Multi-year grant awards may be approved under this announcement. If a multi-year grant award is approved, the research DAS available under subsequent RSA solicitations will be adjusted accordingly.

### C. Type of Funding Instrument

Proposals selected for funding will be funded through a grant or cooperative agreement depending upon the amount of collaboration, participation, or involvement by NOAA in the management of the project. Examples of substantial involvement may include but are not limited to, proposals for collaboration between NOAA

scientists and a recipient scientist. Funding for contractual arrangements for services or products for delivery to NOAA is not available under this notice.

### III. Eligibility Information

#### A. Eligible Applicants

1. Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to, institutions of higher education, hospitals, other nonprofits, commercial organizations, individuals, state, local, and Native American tribal governments. Federal agencies and institutions are not eligible to receive Federal assistance under this notice. Additionally, employees of any Federal agency or Regional Fishery Management Council (Council) are ineligible to submit an application under this program. However, Council members who are not Federal employees may submit an application.

2. DOC/NOAA supports cultural and gender diversity and encourages women and minority individuals and groups to submit applications to the RSA program. In addition, DOC/NOAA is strongly committed to broadening the participation of historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic serving institutions, tribal colleges and universities, and institutions that work in underserved areas. DOC/NOAA encourages proposals involving any of the above institutions.

3. DOC/NOAA encourages applications from members of the fishing community and applications that involve fishing community cooperation and participation.

#### B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

None required

#### C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility

1. Research proposals submitted under the 2010 Monkfish RSA Program must be received within the application submission period to be eligible for consideration.

2. Proposals for different and distinct projects must be submitted separately in accordance with the format requirements in Section IV.B. Multiple stand-alone projects in the same proposal will not be accepted.

3. Any applicant who requests regulatory exemptions that extend beyond the 500 DAS set-aside implemented in Amendment 2 may be required to adhere to the regulations governing the issuance of an EFP by NMFS. As appropriate, NMFS will consult with the Councils and successful applicants to secure the information required for granting an exemption if issuance of an EFP is necessary for the research to be conducted. Furthermore, applicants may be required to provide additional specific information that will serve as the basis for any required environmental impact analyses. Applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting an

environmental assessment if NOAA determines an assessment is required.

4. If an applicant must submit a request for an EFP to NMFS, it should be received by NMFS at least 60 days before the requested start date of the proposed research to allow for additional review and analysis. No research or usage of research DAS will be allowed until NMFS notifies the applicant that the applicant's EFP request is approved.

#### IV. Application and Submission Information

##### A. Address to Request Application Package

Application information is available at <http://www.grants.gov>. Electronic copies of the Standard Forms for submission of research proposals may be found on the Internet in a PDF (Portable Document Format) version at <http://www.ago.noaa.gov/ago/grants/forms.cfm>. Applicants without Internet access may contact Cheryl Corbett, NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543, by phone 508-495-2070, fax 508-495-2004, or email at [cheryl.corbett@noaa.gov](mailto:cheryl.corbett@noaa.gov). To apply for this NOAA Federal funding opportunity, please go to <http://www.grants.gov>, and use the following funding opportunity number: NMFS-NEFSC-2010-2001980.

##### B. Content and Form of Application

DOC regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) are found at 15 C.F.R. Part 4, "Public Information," which sets forth rules for DOC to make requested materials, information, and records publicly available under the Act. Applications submitted in response to this Federal Funding Opportunity may be subject to requests for release under FOIA. In the event that an application contains information or data that the applicant deems to be confidential commercial information which is exempt from disclosure under FOIA, the applicant should identify and bracket such information or data, marking it as "Privileged, Confidential, Commercial, or Financial Information- Limited Use." Based on these markings, the confidentiality of the contents of those pages will be maintained to the extent permitted by law.

Applications must adhere to the provision under "Applications" and the nine requirements under "Required Elements" by the application deadline. Failure to follow these provisions will result in proposals being returned to the applicant without review.

##### 1. Applications

a. Applications submitted to the 2010 Monkfish RSA Program must include a Standard Form 424 (Application for Federal Assistance), including a detailed budget using Standard Form 424A, (Budget Information--Non-Construction Programs), Standard Form 424B (Assurances--Non-Construction Programs), Commerce

Department Form CD-511, (Certification Regarding Lobbying), and if applicable, Standard Form SF-LLL (Disclosure of Lobbying Activities). These forms are available at <http://www.grants.gov>. These forms should be submitted through the Grants Online website. Applicants submitting hard copy must include one signed original and two signed unbound copies of the application (including supporting information).

b. Applicants must identify the specific research priority or priorities to which they are responding. If the proposal addresses more than one priority, it should list the priority that most closely reflects the objectives of the proposal first. Each application must address only one research investigation. If an application does not fulfill a priority category, it must be clearly stated in the application. Applicants should not assume prior knowledge on the part of NMFS as to the relative merits of the project described in the application.

## 2. Required Elements

Proposals should be limited to 10 pages, excluding item "f" below. The format may vary, but must include:

- a. A project summary of work to be performed;
- b. A narrative project description to include project goals and objectives. Funding objectives should be simple and understandable; as specific and quantitative as possible; clear as to the "what and when," but avoiding the "how and why;" and attainable within the time, funding, and resources available. Proposals should be accomplishment oriented and identify specific performance measures, and describe how investigators foresee research results being used in the management arena to enhance the understanding of the monkfish resource or contributing to the body of information on which management decisions are made (see Section I.B.). The main body of the narrative should be a clear statement of the work to be undertaken and include: (1) Project design and management, including who is responsible, expected products, and participants other than applicant; (2) project duration (starting on the first day of the month and ending on the last day of the month); (3) names and affiliations of the principal investigator(s) (PI); (4) contribution and relevance of the proposed work; and (5) a summary of the existing state of knowledge related to the project;
- c. A description of all funding sources (including revenues derived from the sale of fish harvested while fishing under a research DAS) and funding needs. This element of the proposal must include the number of research DAS requested, the expected funds to be generated from the fish harvested while under a research DAS, as well as the expected funds to be allocated to the researcher and any involved fishing vessel;
- d. A budget that includes a breakdown of research costs including labor, vessel, permit, equipment, supplies, and overhead, as applicable;
- e. A list of any Federal regulations that the applicant needs to have waived and a brief justification for such a waiver. NOAA may not exempt the vessel from any requirement imposed by any state. Therefore, applicants are urged to discuss with state fisheries agencies any proposed landings in their state(s), and must request separately exemptions from state regulations as required by the state(s). NOAA cannot guarantee that state agencies will

accede to any particular exemption request;

f. Supporting documents, including resumes, letters of intent for vessels to participate in research activities, and any relevant contracts;

g. Each proposal must identify the RSA activities for the vessel(s) participating in the research project. All vessel(s) selected by the applicant must be listed in the proposal, if possible, or specifically identified prior to final approval by NOAA. Proposals may request that the DAS set-aside be used for compensation trips. The separate compensation trips do not necessarily have to be conducted by the same vessel;

h. The researcher's proposal must state the amount of funds required to support the research project including any costs for participation by project scientists or consultants and the amount required to compensate the vessel owner for participation in the research project; and

i. The proposal should also include the agreement between the applicant and the participating vessel operators demonstrating exactly how the research activity will be funded, if possible, or such agreement must be provided prior to final approval by NOAA. Proposals that employ multiple vessels to utilize the DAS set-aside should provide a description of the safeguards that will be used to ensure that the DAS set-aside will not be exceeded.

j. As part of this application process, questions from The Environmental Compliance Questionnaire for NOAA Federal Financial Assistance Applicants, OMB Approval Number 0648-0538, must be answered and submitted with the application. These questions include: A1-A3, A2, A11, A12, B1, C1, D1-D3, E1, E4, F1-F3, F10-F13, H1-H24, H26, H27-H31. This form is located at <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov>. Failure to complete all of the indicated questions with current and relevant information will result in the application being considered incomplete.

### C. Submission Dates and Times

Full proposals must be received and validated by Grants.gov, postmarked, or provided to a delivery service on or before 5 p.m. EDT, August 31, 2009. Please note: Validation or rejection of your application by Grants.gov may take up to 2 business days after submission. Please consider this process in developing your submission timeline. Applications received after the deadline will be rejected/returned to the sender without further consideration. Use of U.S. mail or another delivery service must be documented with a receipt. No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted.

If an applicant does not have Internet access, hard copy proposals will be accepted, and date recorded when they are received in the program office. Electronic or hard copies received after the deadline will not be considered, and hard copy applications will be returned to the sender. Mark hard copy proposals "Attention 2010 Monkfish RSA Program."

#### D. Intergovernmental Review

Applicants will need to determine if their State participates in the intergovernmental review process. This information can be found at the following website: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html>. This information will assist applicants in providing either a Yes or No response to Item 16 of the Application Form, SF-424, entitled "Application for Federal Assistance."

#### E. Funding Restrictions

1. The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the Federal Register notice of February 11, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 7696), are applicable to this solicitation.
2. The RSA harvest time frame must fall within May 1, 2010, through April 30, 2011. Proposals requesting to utilize research DAS prior to or after that time frame will not be considered.
3. The Federal Government shall not be liable for any costs incurred in the conduct of the project.

#### F. Other Submission Requirements

1. Applications should be submitted through <http://www.grants.gov>. If an applicant does not have Internet access, hard copies should be sent to, NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543. Mark hard copy proposals "Attention 20010 Monkfish RSA Program."
2. NOAA employees (whether full-time, part-time, or intermittent) are not permitted to assist in the preparation of an application, except that staff may provide information on program goals, funding priorities, application procedures, and completion of application forms. Because this is a competitive program, NMFS and NOAA employees will not provide assistance in conceptualizing, developing, or structuring proposals, or write letters of support for an application. However, the Council or NMFS contact person may provide assistance to researchers who are seeking vessels to participate in research projects.
3. NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for applicant projects or proposals that are seeking NOAA Federal assistance opportunities, including special fishing privileges. The impacts of the 500 DAS set-aside was analyzed in the Final Supplemental Impact Statement (FSEIS) prepared for Amendment 2. Therefore, if the applicant does not request additional regulatory exemptions beyond the use of research DAS, additional NEPA analysis may not be required. Applications that propose research and/or compensation fishing exceeding the scope of analysis contained in the FSEIS for Amendment 2 may require the applicant to provide additional specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses.

4. Proposals must identify the research to be conducted and the total amount of the DAS set-aside requested for the project, including its approximate cash value. If an exemption from Federal regulations is proposed, a list of the specific regulations to be exempted and a brief justification for each regulation to be exempted must be included. Should an applicant submit a request for an EFP to NMFS, the completed application should be received by NMFS at least 60 days before the requested start date of the proposed research to allow for additional review and analysis. A final decision on the applicant's grant request for research DAS will not be made until NMFS has approved the applicant's EFP request, if needed.

5. Successful applicants will be required to submit project results in electronic form in accordance with data collection protocols of the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) and/or other data base formats as may be required by NMFS.

To apply for this NOAA Federal funding opportunity, please go to <http://www.grants.gov>, and use the following funding opportunity # NMFS-NEFSC-2010-2001980. Applicants without Internet access may contact Cheryl Corbett, NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543, by phone 508-495-2070, fax 508-495-2004, or email [cheryl.corbett@noaa.gov](mailto:cheryl.corbett@noaa.gov).

## V. Application Review Information

### A. Evaluation Criteria

The review panel convened by NMFS to evaluate proposals submitted in response to this Request for Financial Assistance (see Section V.B.), will evaluate proposals by assigning scores up to the maximum indicated for each of the following criteria:

1. Importance and/or relevance and applicability of the proposed project: This criterion ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, Federal, regional, state, or local activities. For the 2010 Monkfish RSA Program, provide a clear definition of the problem, need, issue, or hypothesis to be addressed. The proposal should describe its relevance to RSA program priorities and detail how the data gathered from the research will be used to enhance the understanding of the fishery resource or contribute to the body of information on which management decisions are made. If the proposal is not directly related to priorities listed in this solicitation, provide justification why the proposed project should be considered. (25 points)
2. Technical/scientific merit: This criterion assesses whether the approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and objectives. Special emphasis will be given to proposals that foster and improve cooperative interactions with NMFS. A clear definition of the approach to be used including description of field work, theoretical studies, and laboratory analysis to support the proposed research, and the ability of the applicant to actually utilize all allocated research DAS during the 2010 fishing year in the area and time proposed are important. The time frame for

utilizing research DAS and conducting the proposed research should be clearly specified. Activities that take place over a wider versus narrower geographical range, where appropriate, are preferred. (25 points)

3. Overall qualifications of the project: This criterion assesses whether the applicant, and team members, possess the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project. This includes demonstration of support, cooperation and/or collaboration with the fishing industry, and qualifications/experience of project participants. Where appropriate, combined proposals involving multiple principal investigators are preferred versus separate stand-alone proposals on related projects. For proposals involving multiple vessels, special attention will be given to specification of safeguards to ensure that the authorized DAS set-aside will not be exceeded. (15 points)

4. Project costs: This criterion evaluates the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time frame. Cost-effectiveness of the project is considered. The anticipated revenue should be commensurate with the estimated project costs. Economic and budget projections should be quantified, to the extent possible. Where appropriate, use of existing equipment (fishing gear) is preferred versus acquisition of new equipment. (25 points)

5. Outreach and education: This criterion assesses whether the project involves a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nation's natural resources. This includes identification of anticipated benefits, potential users, likelihood of success, and methods of disseminating results. Where appropriate, data generated from the research must be formatted in a manner consistent with NMFS and ACCSP databases. A copy of this format is available from NMFS. (10 points)

## B. Review and Selection Process

NMFS will solicit written technical evaluations from up to three or more appropriate private and public sector experts to determine the technical merit of the proposal and to provide a rank score of the project based on the criteria described in the Evaluation Criteria section of this document. Following completion of the technical evaluation, NMFS will convene a review panel, including Council members and technical experts, to review and individually critique the scored proposals to enhance NOAA's understanding of the proposals. Initial successful applicants may be required, in consultation with NMFS, to further refine/modify the study methodology as a condition of project approval. No consensus recommendations will be made.

## C. Selection Factors

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 to applying the selection factors below. The Selecting Official shall award

in the rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based upon one or more of the following factors:

1. Availability of funding.
2. Balance/distribution of funds:
  - a. Geographically
  - b. By type of institutions
  - c. By type of partners
  - d. By research areas
  - e. By project types
3. Whether this project duplicates other projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA or other Federal agencies.
4. Program priorities and policy factors.
5. Applicant's prior award performance.
6. Partnerships and/or Participation of targeted groups.
7. Adequacy of information necessary to conduct a NEPA analysis and determination. Key program policy factors (see 4 above) to be considered by the Selecting Official are: (1) The time of year the research activities are to be conducted; (2) the ability of the proposal to meet the applicable experimental fishing requirements; (3) redundancy of research projects; and (4) logistical concerns. Therefore, the highest scoring projects may not necessarily be selected for an award. All approved research must be conducted in accordance with provisions approved by NOAA, and provided in an EFP issued by NMFS, if an EFP is required. Unsuccessful applications will be returned to the submitter. Successful applications will be incorporated into the award document.

#### D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Subject to the availability of research DAS under the Monkfish RSA Program, review of proposals will occur during the 2 months following the date given in this announcement that the proposals are due to NMFS. Initiation of approved RSA project activities should begin during Spring/Summer 2010 for most projects. May 1, 2010, should be used as the proposed start date on proposals, unless otherwise directed by the Program Officer.

## VI. Award Administration Information

### A. Award Notices

Successful applicants will receive notification that their applications have been recommended for selection to the NOAA Grants Management Division. This notification is not an authorization to begin project operations. Official notification of selection, signed by the NOAA Grants Officer, is the authorizing document that allows a project to begin. Notifications will be issued to the Authorizing Official and the Principal Investigator of the

project. Successful applicants may be notified either electronically or in writing. NMFS will notify unsuccessful applicants, in writing, by postal mail. If an application is not selected, NOAA will return the proposal and related documents to the applicant.

## B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Administrative and national policy requirements for all DOC awards are contained in the DOC Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the Federal Register notice of February 11, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 7696). You may obtain a copy of these notices by contacting the agency contact(s) under the Council and Agency Contact(s) section of this document, or by going to the website:

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. Applicants whose proposed projects may have an environmental impact should furnish sufficient information to assist proposal reviewers in assessing the potential environmental consequences of supporting the project.

### National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by NEPA, for applicant projects or proposals that are seeking NOAA Federal assistance opportunities, including special fishing privileges. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA website: <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/> including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA,

[http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216\\_6\\_TOC.pdf](http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216_6_TOC.pdf) and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>.

Consequently, as part of an applicant's package, and under the description of program activities, applicants are required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non-indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to coral reef systems). The impacts of the 500 DAS set-aside were analyzed in the FSEIS prepared for Amendment 2. Therefore, if the applicant does not request additional regulatory exemptions beyond the use of research DAS, additional NEPA analysis may not be required. However, if the research proposal requests exemptions from regulations that extend beyond the 500 DAS set-aside, applicants may be required to provide additional specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses. Applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting an environmental assessment if NOAA determines such an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying and implementing feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts associated with their proposed research activity. The failure to do so shall be grounds for the denial of an application.

### C. Reporting

Recipients will be required to submit the following financial and performance (technical) reports. These reports are to be submitted electronically unless the recipient does not have Internet access, in which case hard copy submissions will be accepted. A final Financial Status Report (SF-269) is required to be submitted to the Grants Officer no later than 90 days after the award expiration. Performance or progress reports are required to be submitted to the NOAA Program Officer semi-annually. These reports will be due no later than 30 days following the end of each 6-month period from the start date of an award. The final report is due 90 days after the award expiration.

The format of the final report may vary, but must contain:

1. A brief summary of the completion report (200-word or less abstract);
2. A description of the issue/problem that was addressed;
3. A detailed description of methods of data collection and analyses;
4. A discussion of results and any relevant conclusions presented in a format that is understandable to a non-technical audience. This should include benefits and/or contributions to management decision-making;
5. A list of entities, firms, or organizations that actually performed the work, and a description of how the work was accomplished;
6. A detailed accounting of the following: fish landed, fish sold, and, if applicable, the disbursement of any additional funds generated through the sale of set-aside landings above the costs of the research activities; and
7. Data from research projects must be submitted in electronic format with appropriate documentation to NMFS as requested. All raw data collected under grants issued as a result of this solicitation belongs to, and shall remain the property of the Federal government. Grantees will be required to collect, assimilate, maintain and transmit any and all raw data in a format and time frame that may be specified by NMFS.

### VII. Agency Contacts

Information may be obtained from Paul Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC), by phone 978-465-0492, or by fax 978-465-3116; Philip Haring, Senior Fishery Analyst, NEFMC, by phone 978-465-0492, or by email at [pharing@nefmc.org](mailto:pharing@nefmc.org); or Cheryl Corbett, NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, phone 508-495-2070, fax 508-495-2004, or email [cheryl.corbett@noaa.gov](mailto:cheryl.corbett@noaa.gov), or from Ryan Silva, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, Cooperative Research Liaison, phone (978) 281-9326, fax (978) 281-9326, email [ryan.silva@noaa.gov](mailto:ryan.silva@noaa.gov).

## VIII. Other Information

### Limitation of Liability

In no event shall NOAA or DOC be responsible for proposal preparation costs if these programs are cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to provide special fishing privileges.