

Dated: October 19, 2009.

John A Bricker,

*State Conservationist, Natural Resources
Conservation Service, Richmond, Virginia.*

[FR Doc. E9-25931 Filed 10-27-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Solicitation of Input From Stakeholders on the Tribal Colleges Research Grants Program, Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program and Tribal Colleges Extension Services Program

AGENCY: National Institute of Food and
Agriculture, USDA.

ACTION: Request for written stakeholder
input.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Food
and Agriculture (NIFA) is requesting
written stakeholder input on the
following NIFA grant programs: (1)
Tribal College Research Grants Program,
(2) Tribal Colleges Education Equity
Grants Program, and (3) Tribal Colleges
Extension Services Program. The
programs are authorized under Sections
534(a), 534(b), and 536 of the Equity in
Educational Land-Grant Status Act of
1994.

Tribal College Research Grants Program

Authority for this program is
contained in section 536 of the Equity
in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of
1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note), as amended
(hereinafter "the Act"). In accordance
with the statutory authority, subject to
the availability of funds, the Secretary of
Agriculture may award competitive
grants to assist the 1994 Land-Grant
Institutions (hereinafter "1994
Institutions") in conducting agricultural
research that addresses high priority
concerns of Tribal, national or multi-
State significance.

Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program

Authority for this program is
contained in section 534(a) of the Act.
Subject to the availability of
appropriations, the U.S. Department of
Agriculture (USDA), through the
National Institute of Food and
Agriculture (NIFA), will award grants to
the thirty-four 1994 Institutions as
defined in section 532 of the Act. This
Act, in Section 533(a), requires that each
1994 Institution be accredited or making
progress towards accreditation to
receive funding under this and the other

programs. The purpose of this program
is to enhance educational opportunities
for Native Americans by strengthening
instructional programs in the food and
agricultural sciences at the thirty-four
colleges or universities designated as
1994 Institutions.

Tribal Colleges Extension Services Program

Authority for this program is
contained in section 534(b) of the Act.
This section amends section 3 of the Act
of May 8, 1914 (Smith-Lever Act) (7
U.S.C. 343). Under this authority,
appropriated funds are to be awarded to
the 1994 Institutions for Extension work
and funds are to be distributed on the
basis of a competitive application
process.

By this notice, NIFA is soliciting
public comment and stakeholder input
from interested parties regarding the
future design and implementation of the
1994 Tribal College Grant Programs
described above.

DATES: All written comments must be
received by November 27, 2009.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments,
identified by NIFA-2009-0008, through
the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the
instructions for submitting comments.
Include NIFA-2009-0008 in the subject
line of the message.

Fax: (202) 401-7752.

Mail: Paper, disk or CD-ROM
submissions should be submitted to
Office of Extramural Programs Unit,
National Institute of Food and
Agriculture, U.S. Department of
Agriculture, Mail Stop 2299, 1400
Independence Avenue, SW.,
Washington, DC 20250-2299.

Hand Delivery/Courier: Joanna Moore,
Office of Extramural Programs Unit,
National Institute of Food and
Agriculture, U.S. Department of
Agriculture, Room 2250, Waterfront
Centre, 800 9th Street, SW.,
Washington, DC 20024.

Instructions: All submissions received
must include the Title, "1994 Tribal
Colleges" and NIFA-2009-0008. All
comments received will be posted to
<http://www.regulations.gov>, including
any personal information provided.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joan
Gill, 202-720-6487 (phone), 202-720-
2030 (fax), jgill@nifa.usda.gov or Saleia
Afele-Faamuli, 202-720-0384 (phone),
202-720-2030 (fax),
sfaamuli@nifa.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On
October 1, 2009, all programs and
authorities delegated to the Cooperative
State Research, Education, and
Extension Service (CSREES) were

transferred to the NIFA per section 7511
of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246).

Background and Summary

Purpose

NIFA is considering releasing the
Request for Applications (RFAs) for all
three Tribal College Programs on the
same day in mid December 2009 with
the due date for application submission
on the same day in early March 2010.
The peer review panel for each of the
programs will be conducted during
early May 2010. For existing grantees,
the RFA will request all applicants
provide evidence of a college plan or
roadmap showing that active projects
funded through any of the three 1994
Tribal Colleges programs are being
utilized in a coordinated manner within
the college's land grant office or mission
area. In addition, existing grantees will
be asked to numerically indicate any
recruiting, retention, course or degree
enrollments, internships, outreach
clients or graduation rates, or other
indicators of program activity in the
food and agriculture initiatives
supported by active grants from the
aforementioned programs.

The purpose of the grant programs is
designed to build the land-grant
capability in institutional teaching,
research, and extension capacities of the
eligible institutions in the following
three major goals:

(1) To advance cultural diversity of
the food and agricultural scientific and
professional work force by attracting
and educating more students from
underrepresented groups;

(2) To strengthen linkages among the
1994 Institutions, other colleges and
universities, USDA, and private
industry; and

(3) To enhance the quality of teaching,
research, and extension programs at the
1994 Institutions to enable them to
better serve their students and
communities by building capacity to
provide science based information and
decision making to solve problems and
take advantage of opportunities—thus
establishing them as relevant partners in
the U.S. food and agricultural sciences
higher education system.

In developing the FY 2010 1994
Tribal College RFAs, NIFA plans to
consider all stakeholder input and the
written comments received in response
to this notice.

Done at Washington, DC, this 22nd day of October, 2009.

Ralph Otto,

Associate Administrator, National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

[FR Doc. E9-25854 Filed 10-27-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Fish and Seafood Promotion

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

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

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before December 28, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 7845, 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 John M. Ward, (301) 713-9504 or John.M.Ward@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Under the authority of the Fish and Seafood Promotion Act of 1986 information collected under this program is used to promote domestically-produced fishery products. The information collection requirements can be broadly divided into two categories: (1) Information required of an individual or organization applying for consideration to form a seafood promotion council, and (2) information required of a formed and operating council, or permitted for its participants. Information required of an individual or organization applying for consideration to form a council, consists of an 'application for charter', composed of three subparts: Petition, proposed

charter, and a list of eligible referendum participants. The information collection required of a formed and operating council, or permitted for its participants, is as follows: Council submission of an annual plan, an annual budget, and an annual financial report; council submissions of semiannual progress reports; notice of assessments once a year; list of council nominations following a favorable referendum once a year; and meeting notices once a year.

II. Method of Collection

Information can be submitted via e-mail.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0556.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions; and business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3.

Estimated Time per Response: 320 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 960 hours.

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: October 23, 2009.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-25950 Filed 10-27-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XR73

Endangered Species; File No. 14249

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Ronald Smolowitz, Coonamessett Farm Foundation, Inc., 277 Hatchville Road, East Falmouth, MA 02536, has been issued a permit to take loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), and green (*Chelonia mydas*) sea turtles for purposes of scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)713-0376;

Northeast Region, NMFS, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930; phone (978)281-9300; fax (978)281-9333.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick Opay or Kate Swails, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 24, 2009, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (74 FR 8230) that a request for a scientific research permit to take loggerhead, leatherback, Kemp's ridley, and green sea turtles had been submitted by the above-named individual. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Researchers will evaluate modifications to scallop dredge gear that may reduce the probability of turtle injuries due to interactions with gear. They will also study sea turtle behavior so that behavior can be factored into bycatch reduction strategies and collect biological and animal health information to improve NMFS' ability to assess stocks and the impact of anthropogenic activities. Up to 23 loggerheads, 1 leatherback, 1 green, and 1 Kemp's ridley would be taken during