

parties prospectively indicates the applicant's compliance with basic loan eligibility and credit criteria. Half the application fee is fully earned at the time NMFS requests its payment. NMFS will not return this half regardless of subsequent application disposition. The other half is fully earned only when NMFS issues an approval in principle letter approving an application. Once it has issued an approval in principle letter, NMFS will not return the second half of the application fee.

(9) *Transfer eligibility certificate.* Transfer eligibility certificates certify that parties are eligible to receive (hold) QS. The RAM Program issues these certificates to prospective QS purchasers. If, at the time of application, an applicant does not already have a transfer eligibility certificate, NWFSB will advise the applicant how to apply for one. If applicants cannot get transfer eligibility certificates for the QS they prospectively intend to purchase, pursuing the loan application process further is pointless. Applicants who do not obtain appropriate transfer eligibility certificates promptly enough may lose their processing priority to applicants who do.

## VII. Loan Processing

NMFS will, to the maximum extent possible, process loan applications in the order of their submission during the open season. If, however, applicants cannot, in NWFSB's discretion, reasonably promptly comply with application processing requirements, they may lose their processing priority to applicants who can. NWFSB will, from time to time, specify compliance time requirements that are responsive to the administrative need to have all credit authority fully obligated before the end of FY 1998. Applicants must comply or lose their application priority to other applicants who will.

NWFSB will conduct a standard due-diligence credit investigation. This should be a relatively simple and quick process. Once NMFS has made a due-diligence credit decision, loan approval requires certain internal clearances that will add some time to processing, but NMFS will try to accelerate processing as much as possible. Upon formal loan approval, NMFS will issue an approval in principle letter for the applicant's acceptance.

## VIII. Loan Closing

NMFS will establish all loan terms and conditions, prepare all closing documents, close all loans, and record all security interests. NMFS should generally have no need for applicants to hire attorneys for any loan purpose, but

applicants may do so if they wish. Generally, the only closing costs to applicants will be the cost of doing title/lien searches on, or recording security interests in, loan QS. NWFSB may need to do title/lien searches, and record security interests, in several different jurisdictions.

## IX. Title XI and 50 CFR Part 253

The general rules implementing Title XI are 50 CFR part 253, subpart B. Loans will be subject to so much of the other provisions of Title XI and of its implementing rules as can reasonably be applied to loans involving the purchase under this notice of QS (rather than the purchase of fishing vessels, fisheries shoreside facilities, or aquacultural facilities).

## X. Administrative Requirements

(1) In accordance with the provisions of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, a person may not obtain any Federal financial assistance in the form of a loan (other than a disaster loan) or loan guarantee if the person has an outstanding debt (other than a debt under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) with any Federal agency which is in a delinquent status, as determined under standards prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(2) Applicants are subject to a name check review process. Name checks are intended to reveal if any key individuals associated with the applicant have been convicted of or are presently facing criminal charges such as fraud, theft, perjury, or other matters which significantly reflect on the applicant's management honesty or financial integrity.

(3) A false statement on an application is grounds for denial or termination of funds and grounds for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment as provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

(4) Applicants must submit a completed Form CD-511, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying," and the following explanations are hereby provided:

i. *Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension.* Prospective participants (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, Section 105) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, "Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;

ii. *Anti-Lobbying.* Persons (as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Section 105) are subject to the lobbying provisions of 31

U.S.C. 1352, "Limitation on use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracting and financial transactions," and the lobbying section of the certification form prescribed above applies to applications/bids for grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts for more than \$100,000, and loans and loan guarantees for more than \$150,000.

## Classification

Neither the Administrative Procedure Act nor any other law requires prior notice and opportunity for public comment about this notice (which concerns loans). Consequently, the Regulatory Flexibility Act does not require a regulatory flexibility analysis.

This notice is not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

This document contains a collection-of-information requirement subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. OMB has, under control number 0648-0012, approved the collection of this information.

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 Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Dated: May 20, 1998.

**David L. Evans,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-13979 Filed 5-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. 980415097-8097-01]

RIN 0648-ZA40

### Regional Nonindigenous Species Research and Outreach and Improved Methods for Ballast Water Treatment and Management: Request for Proposals for 1998

**AGENCIES:** National Sea Grant College Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce and Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of request for proposals.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that the National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) are entertaining proposals to participate in innovative research, outreach, and demonstration projects that address the problems of nonindigenous species in U.S. coastal waters. Sea Grant will support regional projects to prevent and/or control nonindigenous species invasions in the marine environment. Sea Grant and the Service will support demonstration projects to improve ballast water treatment and management in U.S. marine waters in general (Service), and in Chesapeake Bay in particular (Sea Grant).

**DATES:** Proposals must be received by 4:00 p.m. EDT on July 8, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Proposals should be addressed to: National Sea Grant College Program, R/SG, Attn: Nonindigenous Species Competition, Room 11877, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Leon M. Cammen, Nonindigenous Species Coordinator, or Mary Robinson, Secretary, National Sea Grant Office, 301-713-2435; facsimile 301-713-0799; or Robert A. Peoples, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 703-358-2025; facsimile 703-358-2044.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Program Authority**

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 4701 *et seq.*; 33 U.S.C. 1121 *et seq.*

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

**II. Program Description**

**Background**

Nonindigenous species introductions are increasing in frequency and causing substantial damage to the Nation's environment and economy. Although the most prominent of these has been the zebra mussel, many other nonindigenous species have been introduced and have truly become a nationwide problem that threatens many aquatic ecosystems. While some intentional introductions may have had beneficial effects, there are many other nonindigenous species already present in U.S. waters, or with the potential to invade, that may cause significant damage to coastal resources and the economies that depend upon them. In response, the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4701 *et seq.*) established a framework for the Nation to address the problems of aquatic nuisance

species invasions of coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Although problems such as the zebra mussel and the sea lamprey within the Great Lakes have received the most attention, invasions of nonindigenous species in coastal marine environments are an increasing and serious threat. The National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-332, 110 Stat. 4073) recognized this by calling for Federal funding to support aquatic nuisance species prevention and control in five regions of the U.S. coast: Chesapeake Bay, the Gulf of Mexico, the Pacific coast, the Atlantic coast, and the San Francisco Bay—Delta estuary.

In addition, the Act recognized the serious threat posed by ballast water discharge in causing new invasions and called for ballast water management demonstration programs. A 1996 National Research Council study of the ballast water problem, "Stemming the Tide," concluded that with the growth of global shipping, and the changes in modern shipping practices, introductions of nonindigenous species through ballast water discharge were likely to remain a serious problem. The study called for the development of improved technology for the management of ballast water to eliminate this threat to the Nation's ecosystems. A demonstration project is currently underway in the Great Lakes testing filtration of ballast water as method of reducing introductions, but it is acknowledged that there is unlikely to be a single solution that is acceptable for all modes of shipping operations and classes of vessels.

**Funding Availability and Priorities**

The National Sea Grant College Program encourages proposals that address one of the following two program areas:

(1) Regional Research and Outreach to Prevent and Control Nonindigenous Species Invasions in Marine Environments

Projects should provide an "end-to-end" approach that integrates the research with the outreach necessary to ensure that the results will be applied to address the problem in that region. Projects must be targeted toward one (or more) of the following regions: Chesapeake Bay, the Gulf of Mexico, the Pacific coast, the Atlantic coast, and the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary. Possible topics include (but are not limited to): identification of vectors of introduction, development of cost-effective, realistic methods of prevention; development of selective, effective controls that minimize adverse

ecological/environmental impacts—engineering (redesigning water intakes, etc.), physical (scrapping, filtering, etc.), chemical (biocides, antifoulants, etc.), biological (parasites, predators, etc.), and/or physicochemical (heat, salinity, pH, etc.); and identification of mechanisms for further dispersal of individual established species that will lead to the development of safeguards and protocols to prevent and/or slow the spread of nonindigenous species to uninfested areas.

A total of \$420,000 is available for this activity in FY1998; an additional \$425,000 will be made available in FY1999 if appropriated. Proposals may be submitted for one or two years of activity; the second year of funding is contingent upon availability of funds and submission of an annual report showing satisfactory progress. Project activities should include identified milestones for each project year. Proposals may request up to \$140,000 per year and must include additional matching funds equivalent to 33% of the Federal funds requested; for example, a proposal requesting a total of \$270,000 for two years would have to include at least an additional \$90,000 in matching funds. The total dollar amount of indirect costs proposed in an application under this program area must not exceed the indirect cost rate negotiated and approved by the 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. It is anticipated that from three to five projects will be supported; no more than one project will be funded in each region.

(2) Chesapeake Bay Ballast Water Management

Research to develop workable and effective methods to eliminate ballast water discharge as a source of nonindigenous species introductions without imposing undue hardships on the shipping industry. Possible approaches include (but are not limited to) development and/or demonstration of technologies for treatment or management of ballast water on-board ship or for on-shore management. Projects that include on-vessel or on-shore demonstrations of feasibility will be given priority. Projects must be clearly targeted toward addressing ballast water management in Chesapeake Bay, but investigators located outside the Chesapeake Bay region may participate if all demonstrations are carried out on Chesapeake Bay.

A total of \$500,000 is available for this activity in FY1998. Proposals are limited to one year of funding, but activities may extend for up to two years; an annual report showing satisfactory progress must be submitted at the end of the first year. Project activities should include identified milestones for each project year. Proposals may request up to the full \$500,000; matching fund are encouraged, but not required. The total of dollar amount of indirect costs proposed in an application under this program area must not exceed the indirect cost rate negotiated and approved by the 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.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service encourages proposals that address the following program area:

(3) National Ballast Water Management

Research to develop workable and effective methods to eliminate ballast water discharge as a source of nonindigenous species introductions without imposing undue hardships on the shipping industry. Possible approaches include (but are not limited to) development and/or demonstration of technologies for treatment or management of ballast water on-board ship or for on-shore management. Projects may be carried out in any U.S. waters except Chesapeake Bay.

A total of \$150,000 is available for this activity in FY1998; support will be made available at the same level in FY1999 and FY2000 if funds are appropriated. Proposals may request up to three years of funding; the second and third years of funding are contingent upon availability of funds and submission of an annual report showing satisfactory progress. Project activities may be phased in and should include identified milestones for each project year. Proposals may request up to the full \$150,000; matching funds are encouraged, but not required. For proposals submitted under this program area only, indirect costs may not exceed 15% of direct costs.

### III. Eligibility

Applications requesting support under the "Regional Research and Outreach to Prevent and Control Nonindigenous Species Invasions in Marine Environments" program area are restricted to universities and non-Federal research institutions. Applications requesting support under the "Chesapeake Bay Ballast Water

Management" or "National Ballast Water Management" program areas may be submitted by individuals; public or private corporations, partnerships, or other associations or entities (including institutions of higher education, institutes, or non-Federal laboratories), or any State, political subdivision of a State, or agency or officer thereof.

### IV. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria for proposals submitted for support under the "Regional Research and Outreach to Prevent and Control Nonindigenous Species Invasions in Marine Environments" program area are:

(1) Impact of proposed project (50%): Significance of the nonindigenous species problem that will be addressed; the effect this activity will have on reducing the impact of nonindigenous species on the environment and/or the economy, or the need for this activity as a necessary step toward such a reduction in impact.

(2) Scientific or Professional Merit (20%): Degree to which the activity will advance the state of the science or discipline through use and extension of state-of-the-art methods.

(3) User Relationships (15%): Degree to which potential users of the results of the proposed activity have been involved in planning the activity, will be involved in the execution of the activity, and/or are providing matching funds.

(4) Innovativeness (10%): Degree to which new approaches to solving problems and exploiting opportunities in resource management or development, or in public outreach on such issues will be employed; alternatively, the degree to which the activity will focus on new types of important or potentially important resources and issues.

(5) Qualifications and Past Record of Investigators (5%): Degree to which investigators are qualified by education, training, and/or experience to execute the proposed activity; record of achievement with previous funding.

The evaluation criteria for proposals submitted for support under the "Chesapeake Bay Ballast Water Management" and "National Ballast Water Management" program areas are:

(1) Impact of proposed project (40%): Potential effectiveness of ballast water treatment technologies or practices in reducing introductions of nonindigenous species.

(2) Field-Scale Demonstration (10%): Inclusion of a field-scale demonstration of the proposed ballast water treatment technology or practices.

(3) Scientific or Professional Merit (20%): Degree to which the activity will

advance the state of the science or discipline through use and extension of state-of-the-art methods.

(4) User Relationships (15%): Degree to which potential users of the results of the proposed activity have been involved in planning the activity, will be involved in the execution of the activity, and/or are providing matching funds.

(5) Innovativeness (10%): Degree to which new approaches to solving problems and exploiting opportunities in resource management or development, or in public outreach on such issues will be employed; alternatively, the degree to which the activity will focus on new types of important or potentially important resources and issues.

(6) Qualifications and Past Record of Investigators (5%): Degree to which investigators are qualified by education, training, and/or experience to execute the proposed activity; record of achievement with previous funding.

### V. Selection Procedures

All proposals will be evaluated and ranked in accordance with the assigned weights of the above evaluation criteria by one of two independent peer review panels consisting of government, academic, and industry experts; one panel will review the Regional Research Proposals and a second panel will review the Ballast Water Management proposals. These panel members will provide individual evaluations on each proposal, but there will be no consensus advice. Their recommendations and evaluations will be considered by the Program Managers in the final selection. Those proposals ranked by the panel as "not recommended for funding" will not be given further consideration. For the proposals rated either Excellent, Very Good or Good, the Sea Grant and USFWS Program Managers will: (a) ascertain which proposals meet the objectives, fit the criteria posted, and do not substantially duplicate other projects that are currently funded by NOAA or USFWS or are approved for funding by other federal agencies, hence, awards may not necessarily be made to the highest-scored proposals; (b) select the proposals to be funded; (c) determine which components of the selected projects will be funded; (d) determine the total duration of funding for each proposal; and (e) determine the amount of funds available for each proposal. No more than one "Regional Research" project will be funded from any single region, but this limit will not be applied to the "Ballast Water" competitions. Investigators may be asked to modify objectives, work plans,

or budgets prior to final approval of the award. Subsequent grant administration procedures will be in accordance with the individual policies of the awarding agency. A summary statement of the scientific review by the peer panel will be provided to each applicant.

## VI. Instructions for Application

### General Guidelines

The ideal proposal attacks a well-defined problem that will be or is a significant societal issue. The organization or people whose task it will be to make related decisions, or who will be able to make specific use of the projects results, will have been identified and contacted by the Principal Investigator(s). The project will show an understanding of what constitutes necessary and sufficient information for responsible decision-making or for applied use, and will show how that information will be provided by the proposed activity, or in concert with other planned activities.

Research projects are expected to have: a rigorous, hypothesis-based scientific work plan, or a well-defined, logical approach to address an engineering problem; a strong rationale for the proposed research; and a clear and established relationship with the ultimate users of the information. Research undertaken jointly with industry, business, or other agencies with interest in the problem will be seen as being meritorious. Their contribution to the research may be in the form of collaboration, in-kind services, or dollar support. Projects that are solely monitoring efforts are not appropriate for funding.

### What To Submit

Each proposal should include the items listed below. All pages should be single- or double-spaced, typewritten in at least a 10-point font, and printed on metric A4 (210 mm x 297 mm) or 8½" x 11" paper. Brevity will assist reviewers and program staff in dealing effectively with proposals. Therefore, the Project Description may not exceed 15 pages. Tables and visual materials, including charts, graphs, maps, photographs and other pictorial presentations are included in the 15-page limitation. Conformance to the 15-page limitation will be strictly enforced. All information needed for review of the proposal should be included in the main text; no appendices are permitted.

(1) Signed title page: The title page should be signed by the Principal Investigator and the institutional representative and should clearly identify the program area being

addressed by starting the project title with either "Regional Research and Outreach", "Chesapeake Bay Ballast Water", or "National Ballast Water" as appropriate. The Principal Investigator and institutional representative should be identified by full name, title, organization, telephone number and address. The total amount of Federal funds being requested should be listed for each budget period.

(2) Project Summary: This information is very important. Prior to attending the peer review panel meetings, some of the panelists may read only the project summary. Therefore, it is critical that the project summary accurately describe the research being proposed and convey all essential elements of the research. The project summary should include: 1. Title: Use the exact title as it appears in the rest of the application. 2. Investigators: List the names and affiliations of each investigator who will significantly contribute to the project. Start with the Principal Investigator. 3. Funding request for each year of the project, including matching funds if appropriate. 4. Project Period: Start and completion dates. Proposals should request a start date of October 1, 1998, or later. 5. Project Summary: This should include the rationale for the project, the scientific or technical objectives and/or hypotheses to be tested, and a brief of summary of work to be completed.

(3) Project Description (15-page limit): (a) Introduction/Background/Justification: Subjects that the investigator(s) may wish to include in this section are: a) current state of knowledge; b) contributions that the study will make to the particular discipline or subject area; and c) contributions the study will make toward addressing the problem of nonindigenous species.

(b) Research or Technical Plan: a) Objectives to be achieved, hypotheses to be tested; b) Plan of work—discuss how stated project objectives will be achieved; and c) Role of project personnel.

(c) Output: Describe the project outputs that will enhance the Nation's ability to manage and control nonindigenous species impacts.

(d) Coordination with others Program Elements: Describe any coordination with other agency programs or ongoing research efforts. Describe any other proposals that are essential to the access of this proposal.

(4) Budget and Budget Justification: There should be a separate budget for each year of the project as well as a cumulative annual budget for the entire

project. Applicants are encouraged to use the Sea Grant Budget Form 90-4, but may use their own form as long as it provides the same information as the Sea Grant form. Subcontracts should have a separate budget page. Matching funds must be indicated if required; failure to provide adequate matching funds will result in the proposal being rejected without review. Applicants should provide justification for all budget items in sufficient detail to enable the reviewers to evaluate the appropriateness of the funding requested. For applications submitted for the "Regional Research and Outreach to Prevent and Control Nonindigenous Species Invasions in Marine Environments" and the "Chesapeake Bay Ballast Water Management" program areas, the total dollar amount of indirect costs must not exceed the indirect cost rate negotiated and approved by the cognizant Federal agency prior to the proposed effective date of the award or 1000 percent of the total proposed direct costs dollar amount in the application whichever is less. For proposals submitted for the "National Ballast Water Management" program area only, indirect costs may not exceed 15% of direct costs. The Sea Grant Budget Form 90-4 is available through the World Wide Web ([www.mdsg.umd.edu/NSGO/research/nonindigenous/RFP98.html](http://www.mdsg.umd.edu/NSGO/research/nonindigenous/RFP98.html)) or form Dr. Leon Cammen at the National Sea Grant Office (phone: 301-713-2435 x136 or e-mail: [leon.cammmen@noaa.gov](mailto:leon.cammmen@noaa.gov)).

(5) Current and Pending Support: Applicants must provide information on all current and pending support for ongoing projects and proposals, including subsequent funding in the case of continuing grants. All current project support from whatever source (e.g., Federal, State or local government agencies, private foundations, industrial or other commercial organizations) must be listed. The proposed project and all other projects or activities requiring a portion of time of the principal investigator and other senior personnel should be included, even if they receive no Federal salary support from the project(s). The number of person-months per year to be devoted to the projects must be stated, regardless of source of support. Similar information must be provided for all proposals already submitted or submitted concurrently to other possible sponsors, including those within NOAA and the USFWS.

(6) Vitae (2 pages maximum per investigator).

(7) Research Protocol (if appropriate): Research activities funded under this

program must not accelerate the spread of nonindigenous species to non-infested watersheds. Therefore, investigators whose laboratories or research study sites are in currently uninfested areas must adopt procedures for handling the particular nonindigenous species that will prevent its release into the environment. Such proposals must contain a research protocol for review by an interagency committee created under the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 before the grant can be awarded. Guidelines for developing suitable protocols are available through the World Wide Web ([www.mdsg.umd.edu/NSGO/research/nonindigenous/RFP98.html](http://www.mdsg.umd.edu/NSGO/research/nonindigenous/RFP98.html)) or from Dr. Leon Cammen at the National Sea Grant Office (phone: 301-713-2435 x136 or e-mail: [leon.cammen@noaa.gov](mailto:leon.cammen@noaa.gov)). Proposals lacking a suitable protocol will not be eligible for funding.

(8) Declaration of Vessel Selection (if appropriate): Applications proposing on-board demonstrations of ballast water management should address the requirements and priorities listed in the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 for selecting vessels for demonstration projects. These requirements are available through the World Wide Web ([www.mdsg.umd.edu/NSGO/research/nonindigenous/RFP98.html](http://www.mdsg.umd.edu/NSGO/research/nonindigenous/RFP98.html)) or from Dr. Leon Cammen at the National Sea Grant Office (phone: 301-713-2435 x136 or e-mail: [leon.cammen@noaa.gov](mailto:leon.cammen@noaa.gov)).

(9) Standard Application Forms: Applicants may obtain all required application forms through the World Wide Web ([www.mdsg.umd.edu/NSGO/research/nonindigenous/RFP98.html](http://www.mdsg.umd.edu/NSGO/research/nonindigenous/RFP98.html)) or from Dr. Leon Cammen at the National Sea Grant Office (phone: 301-713-2435 x136 or e-mail: [leon.cammen@noaa.gov](mailto:leon.cammen@noaa.gov)). The following forms must be included:

(a) Standard Forms 424, Application for Federal Assistance, 424A, Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs; and 424B, Assurances—Non-Construction Programs, (Rev 4-88). Applications should clearly identify the program area being addressed by starting the project title with either "Regional Research and Outreach", "Chesapeake Bay Ballast Water", or "National Ballast Water" as appropriate. Please note that both the Principal Investigator and an administrative contact should be identified in Section 5 of the SF424. For Section 10, applicants for the Regional Research and Outreach to Prevent and Control Nonindigenous Species Invasions in Marine Environments and Chesapeake Bay Ballast Water Management program

areas should enter "11.417" for the CFDA Number and "Sea Grant Support" for the title; applicants for the National Ballast Water Management program area should enter "15.FFA" for the CFDA Number and "Fish and Wildlife Management Assistant" for the title. The form must contain the original signature of an authorized representative of the applying institution.

(b) Primary Applicant Certifications. All primary applicants must submit a completed Form CD-511, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying," and the following explanations are hereby provided:

(i) Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension. Prospective participants (as defined at 15 CFR part 26, section 105) are subject to 15 CFR part 26, "Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;

(ii) Drug-Free Workplace. Grantees (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, Section 605) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, Subpart F, "Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;

(iii) Anti-Lobbying. Persons (as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Section 105) are subject to the lobbying provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1352, "Limitation on use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracting and financial transactions," and the lobbying section of the certification form prescribed above applies to applications/bids for grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts for more than \$100,000, and loans and loan guarantees for more than \$150,000, or the single family maximum mortgage limit for affected programs, whichever is greater; and

(iv) Anti-Lobbying Disclosures. Any applicant that has paid or will pay for lobbying using any funds must submit an SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," as required under 15 CFR Part 28, Appendix B.

(c) Lower Tier Certifications. Recipients shall require applicant/bidders for subgrants, contracts, subcontracts, or other lower tier covered transactions at any tier under the award to submit, if applicable, a completed Form CD-512, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transactions and Lobbying" and disclosure form, SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities." Form CD-512 is intended for the use of recipients and should not be transmitted

to the Department of Commerce (DOC). SF-LLL submitted by any tier recipient or subrecipient should be submitted to DOC in accordance with the instructions contained in the award document.

## VII. How To Submit

The original and two (2) copies of each proposal must be received in the National Sea Grant Office no later than 4:00 p.m. EDT on the closing date July 8, 1998. Although investigators are not required to submit more than 3 copies of the proposal, the normal review process requires 10 copies. Investigators are encouraged to submit sufficient proposal copies for the full review process if they wish all reviewers to receive color, unusually sized (not 8.5x11"), or otherwise unusual materials submitted as part of the proposal. Only three copies of the Federally required forms are needed. Completed applications should be sent via regular mail to: National Sea Grant Office, R/SG, Attn: Nonindigenous Species Competition, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

For express mail or courier-delivered applications, the following address must be used: National Sea Grant Office, R/SG, Attn: Nonindigenous Species Competition, NOAA, Room 11877, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Phone: 301-713-2435 (for express mail applications).

Applications received after the deadline and application that deviate from the format described above will be returned to the sender without review. Facsimile transmissions and electronic mail submission of full proposals will not be accepted. If you have any questions or require further information, contact one of the agency coordinators listed above.

## VIII. Other Requirements

(A) Federal Policies and Procedures—Recipients and subrecipients are subject to all Federal laws and Federal, Department of Commerce (DOC), and Department of Interior (DOI) policies, regulations, and procedures applicable to Federal financial assistance awards.

(B) Past Performance—Unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding.

(C) Preaward Activities—If applicants incur any costs prior to an award being made, they do so solely at their own risk of not being reimbursed by the Government. Notwithstanding any verbal or written assurance that may have been received, there is no obligation on the part of DOC or DOI to cover preaward costs.

(D) No Obligation for Future Funding—If an application is selected for funding, DOC and DOI have no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of DOC and DOI.

(E) Delinquent Federal Debts—No award of Federal funds shall be made to an applicant who has an outstanding delinquent Federal debt until either:

(1) The delinquent account is paid in full,

(2) A negotiated repayment schedule is established and at least one payment is received, or

(3) Other arrangements satisfactory to DOC or DOI are made.

(F) Name Check Review—All non-profit and for-profit applicants are subject to a name check review process. Name checks are intended to reveal if any key individuals associated with the applicant have been convicted of or are presently facing criminal charges such as fraud, theft, perjury, or other matters which significantly reflect on the applicant's management honesty or financial integrity.

(G) False Statements—A false statement on an application is grounds for denial or termination of funds and grounds for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment as provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

(H) Intergovernmental Review—Applications for support from the National Sea Grant College Program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs. Applications for support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

(I) Purchase of American-Made Equipment and Products—Applicants are hereby notified that they will be encouraged to the greatest extent practicable, to purchase American-made equipment and products with funding provided under this program.

## IX. Classification

Prior notice and an opportunity for public comments are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act or any other law for this notice concerning grants, benefits, and contracts. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required for purposes of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

This action has been determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

This notice contains collection of information requirements subject to the

Paperwork Reduction Act. The Sea Grant Budget Form and Standard Forms 424, 424a, and 424b have been approved under control numbers 0648-0034, 0348-0043, 0348-0044, and 0348-0040 with average responses estimated to take 15, 45, 180, and 15 minutes, respectively. 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 on these estimates or any other aspect of these collections to National Sea Grant College Program, R/SG, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (Attention: Leon M. Cammen) and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 (Attention: NOAA Desk Officer). Notwithstanding any other provision of the 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 Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Dated: May 20, 1998.

**Alan R. Thomas,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

Dated: May 20, 1998.

**Gary B. Edwards,**

*Assistant Director—Fisheries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051898D]

#### North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

**ACTION:** Notice of meetings of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies.

**SUMMARY:** The Council and its advisory committees will meet in Dutch Harbor, AK.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held during the week of June 8, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** The Council and Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will meet at the Grand Aleutian Hotel in Dutch Harbor, AK. The Advisory Panel (AP) will meet at the UniSea Galley Conference Room in the UniSea Central Building.

**Council address:** North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Council staff, telephone: 907-271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** All meetings are open to the public with the exception of Council executive sessions, which may be held during the noon hour during the meeting week, if necessary, to discuss personnel, international issues, or litigation.

The SSC will meet beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 8, continuing through at least Wednesday, June 10.

The AP will begin meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 8, and continue through a portion of Friday, June 12.

The Council's regular plenary session will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 10, and continue through a portion of Monday, June 15, 1998.

Other workgroup or committee meetings may be held during the week. Notices of these meetings will be posted at the hotel.

The agenda for the Council's plenary session will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

1. Reports from the NMFS and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) on the current status of the fisheries off Alaska, and enforcement reports from the U.S. Coast Guard and NMFS Enforcement.

2. Final action on allocation of pollock between inshore and offshore fisheries.

3. Final action on an amendment to the fishery management plans to incorporate essential fish habitat information as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

4. Final action on an amendment to close a 4-mile by 4-mile area off Sitka (Cape Edgecumbe Pinnacles) to protect habitat important for juvenile rockfish and lingcod.

5. Final action on an amendment to extend the existing vessel moratorium.

6. Preliminary review of proposed amendments to the license limitation program for groundfish and crab.

7. Status report on NMFS guidelines for vessel buyback programs.

8. Final action on an amendment to roll over the current pollock community