

Dated: November 19, 1999.

**Kenneth Prewitt,**

*Director, Bureau of the Census.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 991028291-9291-01]

RIN 0648-ZA75

#### Office of Research and Applications Ocean Remote Sensing Program; Notice of Financial Assistance

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of Federal assistance.

**SUMMARY:** The NESDIS Office of Research and Applications (ORA) announces the availability of Federal assistance for fiscal year 2000 (FY 2000) in the Ocean Remote Sensing Program area. This announcement provides details on the technical program, and includes detailed guidelines on proposal submission, evaluation criteria and selection procedures. Selected recipients will either receive a grant, or enter into a cooperative agreement with ORA, depending upon the amount of the Office's involvement in the project. A project will be considered a grant where the proposed work is considered substantially independent work. A cooperative agreement will be considered where there is substantial involvement by the Office in the proposed work.

All applicants are required to submit a NOAA Grants Application Package and project proposal. The standard NOAA Grants Application Package (which includes Forms SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, SF-424C, SF-424D, CD-511, CD-512, and SF-LLL) can be obtained from the NOAA Grants Website at <http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/~grants/pdf/>. If Internet access is not available, a Grants Package can be obtained by mail by contacting the NOAA/NESDIS/ORA at (301) 763-8127. Funding for this program area in FY 2000 will be contingent upon the availability of funds but is anticipated to be in the range of \$100,000 to \$500,000. Individual awards are expected to range from a minimum of \$50,000 to \$150,000 on an annual basis. Successful proposals that are deemed to be exceptionally meritorious by the

Selection Panel may be larger. There is no guarantee that all the areas of research interest identified in this Notice will be able to receive funding consideration.

Pursuant to Executive Orders 12876, 12900, and 13021, the Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (DOC/NOAA) is strongly committed to broadening the participation of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI), and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU) in its educational and research programs. The DOC/NOAA vision, mission, and goals are to achieve full participation by Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) in order to advance the development of human potential, to strengthen the nation's capacity to provide high-quality education, and to increase opportunities for MSIs to participate in and benefit from Federal Financial Assistance programs. DOC/NOAA encourages all applicants to include meaningful participation of MSIs.

**DATES:** Proposals with completed Grants Applications Package must be received by ORA no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on January 17, 2000. Final selection is anticipated to be completed by approximately March 3, 2000. The earliest anticipated start date is June 1, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Send all proposals to the Office of Research and Applications; NOAA/NESDIS; 5200 Auth Road; Room 701; Camp Springs, MD 20746-4304. Proposals should cite this Notice and be sent to the attention of Dr. H. Lee Dantzler, Jr., Chief, Oceanic Research and Applications Division.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Administrative questions should be directed to Kathy LeFevre, (301) 763-8127 or [klefevre@nesdis.noaa.gov](mailto:klefevre@nesdis.noaa.gov). Technical point of contact is Dr. H. Lee Dantzler, Jr. at (301) 763-8184 or [ldantzler@nesdis.noaa.gov](mailto:ldantzler@nesdis.noaa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Authority:** Statutory authority for these programs is provided under 33 U.S.C. 1442 (Research program respecting possible long-range effects of pollution, overfishing, and man-induced changes of ocean ecosystems); 15 U.S.C. (Cooperative Agreements); and 49 U.S.C. 44720 (Meteorological Services).

#### Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA)

This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under Number 11.440 (Research in Remote Sensing of the Earth and Environment).

## General Information

Environmental prediction, assessment and the conservation and management of coastal and oceanic resources are primary functions of NOAA. NESDIS, one of the five principal Offices within NOAA, is the world's largest civil, operational environmental space organization and operates the Nation's civil geostationary and polar-orbiting environmental satellites. NESDIS also facilitates the acquisition of non-U.S. environmental satellite data through international agreements. Satellite systems provide data and information that are critical to weather forecasting; natural disaster response and mitigation; climate change forecasts and research; living and non-living marine resources management; and coastal and open oceanographic research. ORA provides overall guidance and direction to the oceanic, atmospheric and climate research and applications activities of NESDIS. The Ocean Remote Sensing Program, managed by ORA's Oceanic Research and Applications Division, has as its goal to help build capabilities nationwide to make expanded and improved use of earth-orbiting satellite data and information. The Program has particular interest in activities relating to sustaining healthy coasts, building sustainable fisheries, recovering protected species, providing improved environmental forecasts, and preparing for future NOAA operational satellite missions.

## Program Description

The Ocean Remote Sensing Program seeks to expand the use of and improve access to operational satellite oceanographic data by state, Federal, regional governmental and non-profit entity users. The program is seeking proposals in each of the following research areas listed in approximate priority order: (1) The application of satellite oceanographic data and information in coastal and oceanic marine (living and non-living) resources management; (2) The application of satellite oceanographic data to gain improved insight on regional oceanographic factors affecting important fisheries and critical ecosystems (e.g., essential fish habitat, early life recruitment and survival, stock assessment, protected species, important socio-economic interactions, and coral reefs); (3) Innovative techniques to simplify and improve access to satellite oceanographic data by public users (e.g., access by educators, by users employing geographic information systems (GIS) technologies, and by users employing Internet-based

data access and data distribution technologies); (4) Research to increase the accuracy, precision and quantitative use of satellite oceanographic data in coastal and ocean surface research investigations (e.g., sea surface temperature, ocean color, ocean surface winds, sea level and surface height, and sea surface roughness derived from spaceborne synthetic aperture radar); (5) Research supporting the development of future ocean sensing capable U.S. satellite systems (e.g., the National Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS)); and (6) Improved coastal and oceanic climatologies using satellite oceanographic data. All proposals will be evaluated in the context of the potential value of the proposed work to a targeted user community (to be identified in the proposal), and the relationship of the proposed work to the NOAA/NESDIS mission (as described in the "General Information" section of this Notice).

### Background

ORA provides overall guidance and direction to the research and application activities of NESDIS. ORA provides expert service to other NESDIS Offices and Centers relating to satellite sensor development, instrument performance, and systems hardware components. It coordinates with other NESDIS Offices and Centers, appropriate NOAA units, and U.S. Government agencies in the implementation and evaluation of operational and research satellite data and products that result from research activities. It coordinates research activities of mutual interest with the academic community, NASA laboratories, and with foreign organizations, particularly those in satellite operating countries. ORA provides advice to the Assistant Administrator concerning interfaces among the Centers and Offices of NESDIS and among the major NOAA elements in relation to broad scale scientific projects. It also produces and provides specific programmatic studies, statistics, and scientific recommendations as needed.

### Project Proposals

Project proposals must be received by ORA by the time and date indicated in the "DATES" section of this Notice. Proposals received after that time and date will not receive consideration. In addition to the information requested below, the offeror must submit a complete NOAA grants application package (with signed originals). All project proposals must include the sections identified below and total no

more than eight pages (excluding title page and any appendices) in double-spaced, 12-point font format. Multi-year proposals, in annual increments up to a maximum of three years, will be considered; however, funding beyond the first year will be dependent upon satisfactory performance and the continued availability of funds.

1. Title page—The title page shall provide the project's title, the lead Principal Investigator (PI) name(s), Partner name(s) if any, the respective affiliations, complete addresses, telephone, FAX, and e-mail information. The title page will also present the total proposed cost, the proposed budget period, and a brief abstract of the proposed work. The title page shall also identify the specific research area of interest (from those listed by number in the "Program Description" in this Notice), and clearly identify that the proposal is in response to this Notice. The title page should be signed by the PI(s) and the institutional representative of the PI's organization.

2. Goals and Objectives—Identify broad project goals and quantifiable objectives.

3. Background/Introduction—State the problem and summarize existing efforts in the context of present knowledge and/or capabilities.

4. User Application Audience—Describe specifics of how the project will contribute to improving or resolving an issue with an identified primary target audience. The target audience must be explicitly stated.

5. Project Description/Methodology—Describe the specifics of the proposed project (3 pages maximum).

6. Project Partners—Identify any project partners, their respective roles, and their contributions/relationships to the proposed effort.

7. Milestones and Outcomes—List target milestones, time lines, and desired outcomes. The potential value of the proposed work to the identified target audience's needs should be identified in this section of the proposal.

8. Project Budget—Provide a detailed budget breakdown by category (and in multi-year proposed efforts, by year) and a brief narrative to provide the basis for the proposed budget.

### Selection Process

A project selection panel will be convened to review and to provide recommendations on selection using the criteria published in these guidelines. Each proposal will be reviewed by at least three reviewers who are qualified to review the proposed work. These reviewers may include both Federal and

non-Federal individuals. Individuals in the Oceanic Research and Applications Division, however, will be excluded from participating in the review process. Proposals will be ranked according to a score (explained below) and presented to the Selecting Official (the Chief, Oceanic Research and Applications Division) for final selection. In addition to the individual proposal rankings assigned by the panel, the Selecting Official may consider program policy factors such as balance among the prioritized research areas of programmatic interest described in the "Program Description" section of this Notice, and (for cooperative agreements that have substantial ORA involvement) geographic location in making a final decision.

### Selection Criteria (With Weights)

All proposals will be scored using the following criteria:

1. Relevance of the Proposed Research to NESDIS and NOAA Missions (30 Points)

Does the proposed project (directly or indirectly) address a critical need? Are the project goals and objectives clear and concise? Does the proposed project have a clearly defined user audience? Are there direct ties to relevant NESDIS, NOAA, Federal, regional, state or local activities?

2. Technical Merit (25 Points)

Is the approach technically sound? Does the proposed project build on existing knowledge? Is the approach innovative?

3. Applicability and Effectiveness (25 Points)

Does the proposed work have the potential of increasing the accessibility, usability (i.e., easily understood and used), and relevance of satellite observed oceanographic data and information by the identified target user community? Does the proposed work provide for flexible, early and effective opportunities for user involvement (e.g., through cooperative experiments, demonstrations, or user evaluations)? Does the proposed work have the potential for long-term (lasting) value and widespread applicability? Does the proposed work include an effective mechanism by which the project's progress can be evaluated?

4. Cost Efficiency (15 Points)

Is the budget realistic and commensurate with the project needs?

## 5. Overall Qualifications (5 Points)

Are the proposers capable of conducting a project of the scope and scale proposed (*i.e.*, scientific, professional, facility, and administrative resources/capabilities)? Are appropriate partnerships going to be employed to achieve the highest quality content and maximal efficiency?

### *Selection Schedule*

Proposals submitted in response to this Notice will be reviewed once during the year according to the following schedule:

Proposals due—January 17, 2000

Final Selection—Approximately March 3, 2000

Grant start date—Approximately June 1, 2000

**Note:** All deadlines are for receipt by ORA no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on the due date identified. All applicants are required to submit one original and two complete paper copies of (1) the signed completed proposal; and, (2) the completed and signed NOAA Grants Application Package. The Grants Application Package may be accessed on-line from the NOAA Grants Home Page at <http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/grants/index/html>. Paper copies of this Notice and of the NOAA Grants Package can be obtained by mail by calling Kathy LeFevre at (301) 763-8127.

### *Funding Availability*

Specific funding available for awards in response to this Notice will be finalized after the NOAA budget for FY 2000 is authorized. Total funding available for this Notice is anticipated to be between \$100,000 and \$500,000. Individual awards are expected to range from a minimum of \$50,000 to \$150,000 on an annual basis. Successful proposals that are deemed by the selection panel to be exceptionally meritorious may be larger. There is no guarantee that sufficient funds will be available to make awards for all approved projects, nor that all research areas of interest will be supported. Publication of this Notice does not obligate NOAA toward any specific grant or cooperative agreement or to obligate all or any parts of the available funds.

### *Cost Sharing*

There is no requirement for cost sharing in response to this program announcement and no additional weight will be given to proposals with cost sharing.

### *Eligibility Criteria*

Applications for grants or cooperative agreements under this program announcement may be submitted in accordance with the procedures set

forth in these specific guidelines by any U.S. state, territory, commonwealth, local or regional resource management agency; college or university; private industry; nonprofit organization; or cooperative research unit. Federal agencies or institutions are not eligible to receive Federal assistance under this Notice, but may be included as a participating partner(s) in the proposed work.

## **General Information for All Programs**

### *Indirect Costs*

The total dollar amount of the indirect costs proposed in an application under this program must not exceed the current indirect cost rate negotiated and approved by the applicant's cognizant Federal agency (prior to the proposed effective date of the award), or 25 percent of the total proposed direct costs dollar amount in the application, whichever is less.

### *Federal Policies and Procedures*

Recipients and sub-recipients are subject to all Federal laws and Federal and DOC policies, regulations, and procedures applicable to Federal assistance awards.

### *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 recipient have been convicted of, or are presently facing, criminal charges such as fraud, theft, perjury, or other matters that significantly reflect on the recipient's management, honesty, or financial integrity.

### *Past Performance*

Unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding.

### *Pre-Award 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 to cover pre-award costs, should an award not be made or funded at a level less than requested.

### *No Obligation for Future Funding*

If the application is selected for funding, DOC has 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.

### *Delinquent Federal Debts*

No award or Federal Funds shall be made to an applicant who has an outstanding delinquent Federal debt until either:

(i) The delinquent account is paid in full,

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

(iii) Other arrangements satisfactory to DOC are made.

### *Primary Applicant Certifications*

All organizations or individuals preparing grant applications must submit a completed Form CD-511 "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying," and explanations are hereby provided:

### *Non-Procurement 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.

### *Drug-Free Workplace*

Grantees (as defined at 15 CFR part 26, Section 605) are subject to 15 CFR part 26, subpart f, "Government-wide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies.

### *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 application/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.

### *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.

*Lower-Tier Certifications*

Recipients shall require applicants/bidders for sub-grants, 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 DOC. SF-LLL submitted by any tier recipient or sub-recipient should be submitted to DOC in accordance with the instructions contained in the award document.

*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.

*Intergovernmental Review*

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

*Buy American-Made Equipment or 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 in accordance with Congressional intent.

*Classification*

Executive Order 12866

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 a person be subject to, a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number. This notice contains a collection of information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The use of Standards Forms 424, 424A, 424B, 424C, 424D, SF-LLL and the name check form have been approved by OMB under the respective control numbers 0328-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040,

0348-0041, 0348-0042, 0348-0046 and 0651-0001.

**Mary M. Glackin,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services.*

[FR Doc. 99-30721 Filed 11-24-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-HR-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 111799C]

**Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council) and its Administrative Committee will hold meetings.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held on December 14-15, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** All meetings will be held at the Caravelle Hotel, 44A, Queen Cross Street, Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S.V.I. 00820

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-2577, telephone: (787) 766-5926.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Council will hold its 99th regular public meeting to discuss the items contained in the following agenda:

Call to Order  
Adoption of Agenda  
Consideration of 98th Council Minutes  
Executive Director's Report  
Proposal for Rapid Assessment of Fish Kills  
Update on Marine Conservation District  
Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA)  
Change to SFA Document and Final Action by the Council  
Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey  
Essential Fish Habitat Amendment  
Trap Impact Studies  
Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan (FMP)  
Subcommittee Meeting Report and Consideration of Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Advisory Panel (AP) Recommendations  
Queen Conch FMP  
Subcommittee Meeting Report and Consideration of SSC and AP Recommendations

Coastal Pelagics FMP (Wahoo/Dolphin)

Subcommittee Meeting Report and Consideration of SSC and AP Recommendations

Enforcement

-Federal Government

-Puerto Rico

-U.S. Virgin Islands

Administrative Committee Recommendations

Meetings Attended by Council Members and Staff

Other Business

Next Council Meeting

The Council will convene on Wednesday, December 14, 1999, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., through Thursday, December 15, 1999, from 9:00 a.m. until noon., approximately. The Administrative Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 14, 1999, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., to discuss administrative matters regarding Council operation.

The meetings are open to the public, and will be conducted in English. Fishers and other interested persons are invited to attend and participate with oral or written statements regarding agenda issues.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

**Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or request for sign language interpretation and/or other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolon, Executive Director, at the Council (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 18, 1999.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-F**