

entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the commodity to the Government.

2. The action will not have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the commodity.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the commodity to the Government.

4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 USC 46-48c) in connection with the commodity proposed for addition to the Procurement List.

Accordingly, the following commodity is hereby added to the Procurement List:

Insignia, Embroidered, Tab, Shoulder Sleeve, Army
8455-00-121-1315

This action does not affect current contracts awarded prior to the effective date of this addition or options that may be exercised under those contracts.

Beverly L. Milkman,

Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 97-10740 Filed 4-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6353-01-P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Additions to the procurement list.

SUMMARY: This action adds to the Procurement List commodities and services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 27, 1997

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 31, February 7, 28 and March 7, 1997, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notices (62 FR 4722, 5797, 9158 and 10519) of proposed additions to the Procurement List.

After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of qualified nonprofit agencies to provide the commodities and services and

impact of the additions on the current or most recent contractors, the Committee has determined that the commodities and services listed below are suitable for procurement by the Federal Government under 41 U.S.C. 46-48c and 41 CFR 51-2.4.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the commodities and services to the Government.

2. The action will not have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the commodities and services.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the commodities and services to the Government.

4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the commodities and services proposed for addition to the Procurement List.

Accordingly, the following commodities and services are hereby added to the Procurement List:

Commodities

Office and Miscellaneous Supplies (Requirements for Brooks Air Force Base, Texas)
Floor Care Products
7930-01-380-8447
7930-01-380-8387
7930-01-380-8469
7930-01-380-8381
7930-01-380-8365
7930-01-436-7991
7930-01-436-8039

Link, Hasp and Strap Assembly

9905-00-NIB-0001 (orange)
9905-00-NIB-0014 (yellow)
(Requirements for the U.S. Postal Service)

Services

Janitorial/Custodial, Buildings 2186, 5115 and 5324, Fort Campbell, Kentucky
Mail and Messenger Service, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southern Division, Charleston, South Carolina
Mailroom Operation, U.S. Customs Indianapolis Center, 6026 Lakeside Boulevard, Indianapolis, Indiana.

This action does not affect current contracts awarded prior to the effective

date of this addition or options that may be exercised under those contracts.

Beverly L. Milkman.

Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 97-10741 Filed 4-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6353-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 970321061-7061-01; I.D. 042297B]

RIN: 0648-ZA28

Financial Assistance for Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessments to Encourage Research Projects for Improvement in the Stock Conditions of the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of funds.

SUMMARY: A total of \$540,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 1997 funds is available through the NOAA/NMFS Chesapeake Bay Office to assist interested state fishery agencies, academic institutions, and other nonprofit organizations relating to cooperative research units, in carrying out research projects to provide information for Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessments through cooperative agreements. About \$240,000 of the base amount is available to initiate new projects in FY 1997, as described in this announcement. NMFS issues this document describing the conditions under which eligible applications will be accepted and how NMFS will determine which applications will be selected for funding.

DATES: Applications for funding under this program will be accepted until 6 p.m. eastern standard time on May 27, 1997. Applications received after that time will not be considered for funding. No applications will be accepted by facsimile machine submission.

Successful applicants generally will be selected approximately 90 days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register** of this document. The earliest date for awards will be approximately 180 days after the date of publication in the **Federal Register** of this document.

ADDRESSES: Send applications to: M. Elizabeth Gillelan, Division Chief, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, NMFS, 410 Severn Avenue, Suite 107A, Annapolis, MD 21403.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: M. Elizabeth Gillelan, 410/267-5660.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Introduction.**

A. *Authority.* The Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended, at 16 U.S.C. 753 (a), authorizes the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), for the purpose of developing adequate, coordinated, cooperative research and training programs for fish and wildlife resources, to continue to enter into cooperative agreements with colleges and universities, with game and fish departments of the several states, and with non-profit organizations relating to cooperative research units. The Departments of Commerce (DOC), Justice, State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1997 makes funds available to the Secretary (Public Law 104-208).

B. *Catalog of Federal assistance.* The research to be funded is in support of the Chesapeake Bay Studies (CFDA 11.457), under the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC).

C. *Program Description.* CBSAC was established in 1985 to plan and review Bay-wide resource assessments, coordinate relevant actions of state and Federal agencies, report on fisheries status and trends, and determine, fund and review research projects. The program implements a Bay-wide plan for the assessment of commercially, recreationally, and selected ecologically important species in the Chesapeake Bay. In 1988, CBSAC developed a Bay-wide Stock Assessment Plan, in response to provisions in the Chesapeake Bay Agreement of 1987. The plan identified that key obstacles to assessing Bay stocks was the lack of consistent, Bay-wide, fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data. Research projects funded since 1988 have focused on developing and improving fishery-independent surveys and catch statistics for key Bay species, such as striped bass, oysters, blue crabs and allosids. Stock assessment research is essential, given the recent declines in harvest and apparent stock condition for many of the important species of the Chesapeake Bay.

II. Areas of Special Emphasis

A. Proposals should exhibit familiarity with related work that is completed or ongoing. Where appropriate, proposals should be multidisciplinary. Coordinated efforts involving multiple eligible applicants or persons are encouraged. Eligible women and minority owned and operated non-profit organizations are encouraged to apply.

Consideration for funding will be given to applications that address one or

more of the following stock assessment research and management priorities for the Chesapeake Bay. Proposals in other areas will be considered on a funds-available basis.

1. Design and development of a method to age blue crabs in Chesapeake Bay using lipofuscin. Last year, a feasibility study was funded to evaluate whether metabolic products called lipofuscin are useful to estimate age and growth of blue crabs. It is understood that the chemical characteristics of lipofuscin and their accumulation rates over time are a function of tissue and metabolic rate. The priority this year is to further study lipofuscin accumulation rate dynamics temporally and spatially, and to test the use of lipofuscin data in blue crab growth models. At a minimum, proposals should define how the measurement of lipofuscin can be used in growth models that incorporate size, sex, salinity, and temperature to enable age determination.

2. Development of a design for a Bay-wide recreational survey, directed primarily at blue crabs, but including other recreationally-harvested species where opportunities arise. A major impediment to understanding the status of the blue crab fishery resource in the Chesapeake Bay is the lack of knowledge of the total removals of blue crabs by recreational crabbing. While estimates of commercial catches from both Maryland and Virginia are available based on state reporting requirements, estimates of recreational blue crab harvest are not available for most years.

This study should provide not only estimates of harvest and associated effort but also biological sample data on size, sex, and length distribution of the recreational harvest of blue crabs. This could be designed as a stand-alone survey or as a supplement to the NMFS' Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey.

3. Design and implementation of a Bay-wide blue crab tagging study, integrated with the aforementioned recreational survey. This study should be designed to produce additional age data, growth rates, migration rates, population rates, terminal molt estimates, commercial fishing mortality estimates, recreational fishing mortality estimates and natural mortality estimates.

4. Design and development of a hard clam stock assessment which would provide abundance and mortality estimates for the entire Chesapeake Bay stock. The hard clam has become a valuable economic species in Chesapeake Bay with little associated assessment data. This study will

integrate and compile fisheries harvest data and provide estimates of abundance and mortality rates.

B. Applications addressing the priorities should build upon, or take into account, any related past or current work.

III. How to Apply

A. *Eligible applicants.* Applications for cooperative agreements under the Chesapeake Bay Studies Program may be submitted, in accordance with the procedures set out in this document, by any state game and fish department, college or university, or other nonprofit organizations relating to cooperative research units. Other Federal agencies or institutions are not eligible to receive Federal assistance under this document.

DOC/NOAA/NMFS employees, including full-time, part-time and intermittent personnel are not eligible to submit an application under this solicitation or aid in the preparation of an application, except to provide information on program goals, funding priorities, application procedures, and completion of application forms. Since this is a competitive program, assistance will not be provided in conceptualizing, developing, or structuring proposals.

Eligible applicants outside the Chesapeake Bay region may submit proposals, as long as their objectives support the technical and management priorities of the Chesapeake Bay, as defined in section II.A. above. All solicited proposals received by the closing date will be considered by NMFS.

B. *Duration and terms of funding.* Under this solicitation, NMFS will fund Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Research Projects for 1 year cooperative agreements. The cooperative agreement has been determined as the appropriate funding instrument because of the substantial involvement of NMFS in:

1. Developing program research priorities;

2. Evaluating the performance of the program for effectiveness in meeting regional goals for Chesapeake Bay stock assessments;

3. Monitoring the progress of each funded project;

4. Holding periodic workshops with investigators; and

5. Working with recipients in preparation of annual reports summarizing current accomplishments of the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee. Project dates should be scheduled to begin no later than 1 October 1997. Cooperative agreements are approved on an annual basis but may be considered eligible for continuation beyond the first project

and budget period subject to the approved scope of work, satisfactory progress, and availability of funds at the total discretion of NMFS. However, there are no assurances for such continuation. Publication of this document does not obligate NMFS to award any specific cooperative agreement or to obligate any part of the entire amount of funds available.

C. Cost-Sharing requirements.

Applications must reflect the total budget necessary to accomplish the project, including contributions and/or donations. Cost-sharing is not required under the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Research Program. However, cost sharing is encouraged to enhance the value of a project, and in case of a tie in considering proposals for funding, cost-sharing may affect the final decision. The appropriateness of all cost-sharing will be determined on the basis of guidance provided in applicable Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Federal cost principles. If an applicant chooses to share cost, and if that application is selected for funding, the applicants will be bound by the percentage of cost-sharing reflected in the award documents.

The non-Federal share may include funds received from private sources or from state or local governments or the value of in-kind contributions. Federal funds may not be used to meet the non-Federal share of matching funds, except as provided by Federal statute. In-kind contributions may be in the form of, but are not limited to, personal services rendered in carrying out functions related to the project, and permission to use real or personal property owned by others (for which consideration is not required) in carrying out the project. To support the budget, the applicant must describe briefly the basis for estimating the value of the non-Federal funds derived from in-kind contributions.

The total cost of a project begins on the effective date of a cooperative agreement between the applicant and an authorized representative of the U.S. Government and ends on the date specified in the award. Accordingly, the time expended and costs incurred in either the development of a project or the financial assistance application, or in any subsequent discussions or negotiations prior to the award, are neither reimbursable nor recognizable as part of the recipient's cost share.

D. *Format.* 1. Applications for project funding must be complete. Applicants must identify the specific research priority or priorities to which they are responding. For applications containing more than one project, each project component must be identified

individually using the format specified in this section. If an application is not in response to a priority, it should be so stated. Applicants should not assume prior knowledge on the part of NMFS as to the relative merits of the project described in the application.

Applications are not to be bound in any manner and should be one-sided. All incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant. Applicants must submit one signed original and two copies of the complete application. Required forms are provided in a NOAA Application Kit which applicants may obtain from the NOAA Grants Management Division or the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office (see ADDRESSES).

2. Applications must be submitted in the following format:

a. *Cover sheet:* An applicant must use OMB Standard Form 424 (revised 4/92) as the cover sheet for each project. Applicants may obtain copies of these forms from the NOAA Grants Management Division or the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office (see ADDRESSES).

b. *Project summary:* Each proposal must contain a summary of not more than one page that provides the following:

- (1) Project title.
- (2) Project status (new).
- (3) Project duration (beginning and ending dates).
- (4) Name, address, and telephone number of applicant.
- (5) Principal Investigator(s).
- (6) Project objectives.
- (7) Summary of work to be performed.
- (8) Total Federal funds requested.
- (9) Cost-sharing to be provided from non-Federal sources, if any. Specify whether contributions are project-related cash or in-kind.
- (10) Total project cost.

c. *Project description:* Each project must be completely and accurately described. Each project description may be up to 15 pages in length. If an application is awarded, NMFS will make all portions of the project description available to the public for review; therefore, NMFS cannot guarantee the confidentiality of any information submitted as part of any project, nor will NMFS accept for consideration any project requesting confidentiality of any part of the project.

Each project must be described as follows:

- (1) *Identification of problem(s):* Describe the specific priority/problem to be addressed (see section II above).
- (2) *Project objectives:* This is one of the most important parts of the Project Proposal. Use the following guidelines for stating the objective of the project.
 - (a) Keep it simple and easily understandable.

(b) Be as specific and quantitative as possible.

(c) Specify the "what and when;" avoid the "how and why."

(d) Keep it attainable within the time, money, and human resources available.

(e) Use action verbs that are accomplishment oriented.

(3) *Need for Government financial assistance:* Demonstrate the need for assistance. Any appropriate database to substantiate or reinforce the need for the project should be included. Explain why other funding sources cannot fund all the proposed work. List all other sources of funding that are or have been sought for the project.

(4) *Benefits or results expected:* Identify and document the results or benefits to be derived from the proposed activities.

(5) *Project statement of work:* The Statement of Work is the scientific or technical action plan of activities that are to be accomplished during each budget period of the project. This description must include the specific methodologies, by project job activity, proposed for accomplishing the proposal's objective(s). If the work described in this section does not contain sufficient detail to allow for proper technical evaluation, NMFS will not consider the application for funding and will return it to the applicant.

Investigators submitting proposals in response to this announcement are strongly encouraged to develop inter-institutional, inter-disciplinary research teams in the form of single, integrated proposals or as individual proposals that are clearly linked together. Such collaborative efforts will be factored into the final funding decision by the Chief of the NOAA/NMFS Chesapeake Bay Office.

Each Statement of Work must include the following information:

- (a) The applicant's name.
- (b) The inclusive dates of the budget period covered under the Statement of Work.
- (c) The title of the proposal.
- (d) The scientific or technical objectives and procedures that are to be accomplished during the budget period. Devise a detailed set of objectives and procedures to answer who, what, how, when, and where. The procedures must be of sufficient detail to enable competent workers to be able to follow them and to complete scheduled activities.
- (e) Location of the work.
- (f) A list of all project personnel and their responsibilities.
- (g) A milestone table, labeled with Month I, Month II, Month III, etc., that summarizes the procedures (from item

III.D.c(5)(d)) that are to be attained in each month covered by the Statement of Work.

(6) *Participation by persons or groups other than the applicant:* Describe the level of participation required in the project(s) by NOAA or other government and non-government entities. Specific NOAA employees should not be named in the initial proposal.

(7) *Federal, state and local government activities:* List any programs (Federal, state, or local government or activities, including Sea Grant, state Coastal Zone Management Programs, NOAA Oyster Disease Research Program, the state/Federal Chesapeake Bay Program, etc.) this project would affect and describe the relationship between the project and those plans or activities.

(8) *Project management:* Describe how the project will be organized and managed. Include resumes of principal investigators. List all persons directly employed by the applicant who will be involved with the project. If a consultant and/or subcontractor is selected prior to application submission, include the name and qualifications of the consultant and/or subcontractor and the process used for selection.

(9) *Monitoring of project performance:* Identify who will participate in monitoring the project.

(10) *Project impacts:* Describe how these products or services will be made available to the fisheries and management communities.

(11) *Evaluation of project:* The applicant is required to provide an evaluation of project accomplishments at the end of each budget period and in the final report. The application must describe the methodology or procedures to be followed to determine technical feasibility, or to quantify the results of the project in promoting increased production, product quality and safety, management effectiveness, or other measurable factors.

(12) *Total project costs:* Total project costs is the amount of funds required to accomplish what is proposed in the Statement of Work, and includes contributions and donations. All costs must be shown in a detailed budget. A standard budget form (SF-424A) is available from the offices listed (see ADDRESSES). NMFS will not consider fees or profits as allowable costs for grantees. Additional cost detail may be required prior to a final analysis of overall cost allowability, allocability, and reasonableness. The date, period covered, and findings for the most recent financial audit performed, as well as the name of the audit firm, the

contact person, and phone number and address, must be also provided.

d. *Supporting documentation:* Provide any required documents and any additional information necessary or useful to the description of the project. The amount of information given in this section will depend on the type of project proposed, but should be no more than 20 pages. The applicant should present any information that would emphasize the value of the project in terms of the significance of the problems addressed. Without such information, the merits of the project may not be fully understood, or the value of the project may be underestimated. The absence of adequate supporting documentation may cause reviewers to question assertions made in describing the project and may result in lower ranking of the project. Information presented in this section should be clearly referenced in the project description.

IV. Review Process and Criteria

A. *Initial Evaluation of Applications.* Applications will be reviewed by NOAA to assure that they meet all requirements of this announcement, including eligibility and relevance to the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Research Program.

B. *Consultation with Experts in the Field of Stock Assessment Research.* For applications meeting the requirements of this solicitation, NMFS will conduct a technical evaluation of each project prior to any other review. This review normally will involve experts from non-NOAA as well as NOAA organizations. All comments submitted to NMFS will be taken into consideration in the technical evaluation of projects. Each reviewer will be asked to rate and provide comments based on the following evaluation criteria:

1. Problem description and conceptual approach for resolution, especially the applicant's comprehension of the problem(s), familiarity with related work that is completed or ongoing, and the overall concept proposed to resolve the problem(s) (30 points).

2. Soundness of project design/technical approach, especially whether the applicant provided sufficient information to technically evaluate the project and, if so, the strengths and weaknesses of the technical design proposed for problem resolution (35 points).

3. Project management and experience and qualifications of personnel, including organization and management of the project, and the personnel

experience and qualifications (15 points).

4. Justification and allocation of the budget in terms of the work to be performed (20 points).

C. *Review panel.* NMFS will convene a review panel consisting of at least three regionally recognized experts in the scientific and management aspects of stock assessment research who will conduct reviews as follows:

1. Evaluate technical reviews.

2. Provide independent review based on the same criteria as the technical review.

3. Discuss all review comments as a panel.

4. Provide individual panelist scores and suggestions for modifications (i.e., budget, personnel, technical approach, etc.).

D. *Funding decision.* 1. Applications will be ranked by NMFS into two groups: (a) Recommended, and (b) not recommended. As previously stated (section III.A.1.), collaborative proposals and applications which proposed a cost share are strongly encouraged, and therefore will be given added weight in the selection process. The numeric ranking by the review panel will be the major consideration for deciding which of the "recommended" proposals will be selected for funding.

2. After projects have been ranked for funding, the Chief of the NOAA/NMFS Chesapeake Bay Office, in consultation with the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, will determine the projects to be recommended for funding based upon the technical evaluations, panel review, numerical ranking and availability of funding. The Chief may also give greater consideration to those projects that best meet the objectives of the program. The exact amount of funds awarded to each project will be determined in preaward negotiations between the applicant, the Grants Office, and the NOAA/NMFS Chesapeake Bay Office staff.

V. Administrative Requirements

A. *Obligations of the applicant.* 1. *Deliverables*—In addition to quarterly status and budget reports, and at the time of submission of the final report of results of funded projects, recipients must submit a four-to-five page summary of project work and results that will be compiled in a report of Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Research Program results.

2. *Periodic Workshops*—Investigators will be expected to attend one or two workshops with other Stock Assessment Research Program researchers to encourage interdisciplinary dialogue and forge synthesis of results.

3. *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:

a. *Nonprocurement debarment and suspension*—Prospective participants (as defined at 15 CFR 26.105) are subject to 15 CFR part 26, "Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension," and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;

b. *Drug-free workplace*—Grantees (as defined at 15 CFR part 26.605) 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;

c. *Anti-lobbying*—Persons (as defined at 15 CFR 28.105) 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

d. *Anti-lobbying disclosure*—Any applicant who 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.

4. *Lower Tier Certifications*—Recipients shall require applicants/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 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. B. *Other requirements*. 1. *Federal policies and procedures*—Recipients and subrecipients are subject to all Federal laws and Federal and DOC policies, regulations, and procedures applicable to Federal financial assistance awards.

2. *Indirect cost rates*—The total dollar amount of the indirect costs proposed in an application under this program must not exceed the indirect cost rate negotiated and approved by a cognizant Federal agency. NOAA's acceptance of negotiated rates is subject to total indirect costs not to exceed 100 percent of total direct costs. This language is pursuant to the NOAA Grants and Cooperative Agreements Policy Manual, Chapter 3(B)(2).

3. *Past performance*—Unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding. In addition, any recipient and/or researcher who is past due for submitting acceptable progress reports on any previous project funded under this program may be ineligible to be considered for new awards until the delinquent reports are received, reviewed and deemed acceptable by NMFS.

4. *Financial management certifications/preaward accounting survey*—Successful applicants, at the discretion of the NOAA Grants Officer, may be required to have their financial management systems certified by an independent public accountant as being in compliance with Federal standards specified in the applicable OMB Circulars prior to execution of the award. Any first-time applicant for Federal grant funds may be subject to a preaward accounting survey by the DOC prior to execution of the award.

5. *Delinquent Federal debts*—No award of Federal funds shall be made to an applicant who has an outstanding delinquent Federal debt until either:

a. The delinquent account is paid in full;

b. A negotiated repayment schedule is established and at least one payment is received; or

c. Other arrangements satisfactory to DOC are made.

6. *Name checks*—Potential recipients may be required to submit an "Identification-Application for Funding Assistance"

(Form CD-346), which is used to ascertain background information on key individuals associated with the potential recipient. 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 that significantly reflect on the applicant's management honesty or financial integrity. Applicants will also be subject to credit check reviews.

7. *False statements*—A false statement on the 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.

8. *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 to cover preaward costs.

9. *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.

10. *Other*—If an application is selected for funding, DOC has no obligation to provide any additional 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.

Cooperative agreements awarded pursuant to pertinent statutes shall be in accordance with the Fisheries Research Plan (comprehensive program of fisheries research) in effect on the date of the award.

Classification

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

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

Prior document and an opportunity for public comment 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.

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 unless that collection of information displays a current valid OMB control number.

This document contains collections of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act, which have been approved by OMB under OMB control numbers 0348-0043 and 0605-0001.

Dated: April 21, 1997.

Nancy Foster,

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

[FR Doc. 97-10770 Filed 4-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 042197F]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries

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

ACTION: Notice of solicitation of interest.

SUMMARY: NMFS is soliciting participation by surf clam and ocean quahog industry members in a study to calibrate the surf clam dredge employed by the NOAA R/V DELAWARE II to conduct surf clam and ocean quahog abundance surveys. The study will involve the use of three surf clam dredge vessels working in conjunction with the R/V DELAWARE II on or about May 12-23, 1997, in a circumscribed area off Northern New Jersey.

DATES: Prospective participants must apply by telephone to Dr. Steven Murawski on or before May 2, 1997 (see below).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Steve Murawski, Chief, Population Dynamics Branch, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, (508) 495-2303.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) last conducted a research vessel survey of the surf clam and ocean quahog resource in 1994. The catch of surf clams and ocean quahogs during the 1994 survey greatly exceeded the amounts caught in prior surveys. These results proved inexplicable as an examination of the various aspects and components of the survey dredging operation identified no apparent discrepancies between the 1994 survey methodology and that of previous surveys. Developing a methodology to explain these results has been a high research priority of the Invertebrate Subcommittee (Subcommittee) of the Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Review Committee. Many industry members are also anxious to have an explanation of the 1994 survey results, since these results could have implications for the level of the quotas that are set each year.

One of the Subcommittee members, Dr. Eric Powell, Rutgers University, presented three research proposals to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) at its April 1997 meeting. The Council supported a dredge calibration study as its top priority. Since then, some industry members have offered the use of their vessels to aid the NEFSC with the research survey. The information collected will be a first step in attempting to explain the 1994 survey results. NMFS wishes to take advantage of the industry's offer of assistance and is requesting expressions of interest from industry members to participate in a dredge calibration study to take place on or about May 12-23, 1997. Three commercial surf clam dredge vessels are needed for the study.

The study will occur at three sites within a circumscribed area off Northern New Jersey where clam dredging will take place. The R/V DELAWARE II will make initial tows at each site and mark the study locations with buoys and differential Global Positioning System. The commercial vessels selected for the study will then commence fishing, one vessel at each site, to re-sample the study area initially sampled by DELAWARE II. The vessels will conduct fairly normal dredging operations within the sites. The participants must carry a scientific observer for the day(s) on which they participate in the study. Each tow must be conducted at a specified speed and for a specified distance. NMFS personnel will designate the starting point for each tow. The industry participants must be willing to continue fishing the sites until the NMFS observer determines that a statistically significant decline in catch per tow has occurred. This will require making multiple passes over the entire experimental area at each site. For each tow, the observer will estimate the total volume of surf clams caught and, prior to their deposit in cages will collect a subsample of the catch to measure length for estimating age frequency composition. Measurements by the observer will be recorded in the vessel's logbook in place of the normal estimates recorded by the vessel operator. Industry members will tag these cages as required by the regulations. Any amounts of surf clams that will not be retained must be discarded outside the experimental area.

To apply, applicants must telephone Dr. Steve Murawski at (508) 495-2303 on or before May 2, 1997. Vessels will be selected based on their suitability for the study. Preference will be given to single dredge vessels, as double dredge

vessels unnecessarily complicate the calibration process. The size and configuration of the vessel will also be considered in selecting the participating vessels. Preference will be given to those vessels whose size and configuration allow the observer to function without impeding the normal fishing operation of the vessel. NEFSC will select the vessels to participate and notify all of the prospective participants of the selections.

Dated: April 22, 1997.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Applications of the Chicago Board of Trade for Designation as a Contract Market in Futures and Options on Medium Term Inflation Index U.S. Treasury Notes and Inflation Index U.S. Treasury Bonds

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the terms and conditions of proposed commodity futures and option contracts.

SUMMARY: The Chicago Board of Trade (CBT or Exchange) has applied for designation as a contract market in futures and options on medium term inflation index U.S. Treasury notes and inflation index U.S. Treasury bonds. The Acting Director of the Division of Economic Analysis (Division) of the Commission, acting pursuant to the authority delegated by Commission Regulation 140.96, has determined that publication of the proposals for comment is in the public interest, will assist the Commission in considering the views of interested persons, and is consistent with the purpose of the Commodity Exchange Act.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 12, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons should submit their views and comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581. In addition, comments may be sent by facsimile transmission to facsimile number (202) 418-5521, or by electronic mail to secretary@cftc.gov. Reference should be made to the CBT futures and options on medium term inflation index U.S.