

remaining program, although not falling within the definition of an export subsidy under Article 3.1(a) of the Subsidies Agreement, could be found to be inconsistent with Article 6 if the net countervailable subsidy exceeds 5 percent, as measured in accordance with Annex IV of the Subsidies Agreement. The Department, however, has no information with which to make such a calculation, nor do we believe it appropriate to attempt such a calculation in the course of a sunset review. Rather, we are providing the Commission the following program descriptions.

(1) Because only exporters are eligible to use short-term export financing under the Foreign Trade Regulations, short-term export financing falls within the definition of an export subsidy under Article 3.1(a) of the Subsidies Agreement.

(2) The program for export tax reserves under Articles 22, 23, and 24 of the Act Concerning the Regulation of Tax Reduction and Exemption was found to confer benefits which constitute export subsidies because they provide a deferral, contingent upon exports, of direct taxes. Therefore, this program falls within the definition of an export subsidy under Article 3.1(a) of the Subsidies Agreement.

(3) The program providing for small business loans to "promising" companies on the basis that they were exporting companies, was found to be a countervailable export subsidy to the extent that the loans were provided at preferential interest. Because companies qualified for these loans on the basis of export performance, this program falls within the definition of an export subsidy under Article 3.1(a) of the Subsidies Agreement.

(4) Because the Duty Drawback Program provides for duty drawback on items not physically incorporated into exported articles and because the duty drawback for loss or wastage on physically incorporated items is unreasonable or excessive, we found the program to confer a countervailable export subsidy. As such, this program falls within the definition of an export subsidy under Article 3.1(a) of the Subsidies Agreement.

(5) Exemption from the acquisition tax under the Law for the Promotion of Income Sources in Rural Areas is limited to companies located in certain regions of the country and therefore, may fall within the definition of an actionable subsidy under Article 6.1 of the Subsidies Agreement.

## Final Results of Review

As a result of this review, the Department finds that revocation of the countervailing duty order on cookware from Korea would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of countervailable subsidies. The country-wide net countervailable subsidy likely to prevail if the order were revoked is 0.77 percent *ad valorem*.<sup>10</sup>

This notice serves as the only reminder to parties subject to administrative protective order (APO) of their responsibility concerning the disposition of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305 of the Department's regulations. Timely notification of return/destruction of APO materials or conversion to judicial protective order is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and the terms of an APO is a sanctionable violation.

This five-year ("sunset") review and notice are in accordance with sections 751(c), 752, and 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: August 30, 1999.

**Robert S. LaRussa,**

*Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.*

[FR Doc. 99-23035 Filed 9-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

#### Performance Review Board

**AGENCY:** International Trade Administration, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Announcement of New Member for the Performance Review Board.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** LaVerne H. Hawkins, Department of Commerce, Office of Human Resources Management, Room 4803, Washington, DC 20230 202-482-2537.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice announces the appointment by the Under Secretary for International Trade, David L. Aaron, of the Performance Review Board (PRB). The appointments are for a 2 year period. The purpose of the International Trade Administration's Performance Review Board (PRB) is to review and make recommendations to the appointing

<sup>10</sup> As noted above, due to *de minimis* net subsidies found for Woo Sung Company Ltd. and Dae Sung Industrial Company Ltd., these two Korean producers/exporters were excluded from the order.

authority on performance management issues such as appraisals and bonuses, ES-level Increases and Presidential Rank Awards for members of the Senior Executive Service (SES). The members are:

Eleanor Roberts Lewis—Non-ITA—Career

Chief Counsel for International Trade

Troy H. Cribb—Non-Career

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Textiles, Apparel and Consumer Goods

Henry H. Misco—Career

Director, Office of Automotive Affairs

Marjory Searing—Career

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Japan

Joseph Spetrini—Career

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Antidumping Countervailing Duty Enforcement III

Franklin J. Vargo—Career

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Agreements Compliance

Elizabeth C. Sears—Non-Career

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Promotion Services

LaVerne H. Hawkins—Executive Secretary

Office of Human Resources Management, 202-482-2537

Dated: August 26, 1999.

**James T. King, Jr.,**

*Human Resources Manager.*

[FR Doc. 99-23078 Filed 9-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-25-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket Number: 990624170-9170-01]

RIN 0648-ZA66

#### Announcement of Graduate Research Fellowships in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System for Fiscal Year 2000

**AGENCY:** Estuarine Reserves Division (ERD), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Estuarine Reserves Division (ERD) of the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management is soliciting applications for graduate fellowship funding within the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. This notice sets forth funding priorities, selection criteria, and application procedures.

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announces the availability of Graduate Research Fellowships. ERD anticipates that 34 Graduate Research Fellowships will be competitively awarded to qualified graduate students whose research occurs within the boundaries of at least one Reserve. Minority students are encouraged to apply. Fellowships will start no earlier than June 1, 2000.

**DATES:** Applications must be postmarked no later than *November 1, 1999*. Notification regarding the awarding of fellowships will be issued on or about March 1, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Erica Hubertz, Program Specialist, NOAA/Estuarine Reserves Division, 1305 East-West Highway, N/ORM5, SSMC4, 11th Floor, Silver Spring, MD 20910, Attn: FY00 NERRS Research. Phone: 301-713-3132, ext. 172, Fax: 301-713-4363, internet: [erica.hubertz@noaa.gov](mailto:erica.hubertz@noaa.gov). Web page: [http://www.nos.noaa.gov/ocrm/nerr/nerrs\\_research.html](http://www.nos.noaa.gov/ocrm/nerr/nerrs_research.html). See Appendix I for National Estuarine Research Reserve addresses.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information on specific research opportunities at National Estuarine Research Reserve sites, contact the site staff listed in Appendix I or the program specialist listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above. For application information, contact Erica Hubertz of the Estuarine Reserves Division (see **ADDRESSES** above).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Authority and Background

Section 315 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended (CZMA), 16 U.S.C. 1461, establishes the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS). 16 U.S.C. 1461(e)(1)(B) authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to make grants to any coastal state or public or private person for purposes of supporting research and monitoring within a national estuarine reserve that are consistent with the research guidelines developed under subsection (c). This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) under "Coastal Zone Management Estuarine Research Reserves," Number 11.420.

#### II. Information on Established National Estuarine Research Reserves

The NERRS consists of estuarine areas of the United States and its territories which are designated and managed for research and educational purposes. Each National Estuarine Research

Reserve (Reserve) within the NERRS is chosen to reflect regional differences and to include a variety of ecosystem types in accordance with the classification scheme of the national program as presented in 15 CFR part 921.

Each Reserve supports a wide range of beneficial uses of ecological, economic, recreational, and aesthetic values which are dependent upon the maintenance of a healthy ecosystem. The sites provide habitats for a wide range of ecologically and commercially important species of fish, shellfish, birds, and other aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. Each Reserve has been designed to ensure its effectiveness as a conservation unit and as a site for long-term research and monitoring. As part of a national system, the Reserves collectively provide an excellent opportunity to address research questions and estuarine management issues of national significance. For a detailed description of the sites, contact the individual site staff or refer to the NERR internet web site provided in the **ADDRESSES** section.

#### III. Availability of Funds

Funds are expected to be available on a competitive basis to qualified graduate students for research within National Estuarine Research Reserves leading to a graduate degree. No more than two fellowships at any one site will be funded at any one time; based upon fellowships awarded in the 1999 funding cycle, we anticipate 34 openings for Fellowships in FY00. Fellowships are expected to be available at the following sites:

NERR site	Fellowships
Ashepoo Combahee:	
Edisto Basin, SC .....	1
Apalachicola, FL .....	1
Chesapeake Bay, MD ...	1
Chesapeake Bay, VA ....	1
Delaware .....	1
Elkhorn Slough, CA .....	2
Grand Bay, MS .....	2
Great Bay, NH .....	1
Guana Tolomato:	
Matanzas, FL .....	2
Hudson River, NY .....	2
Jobos Bay, PR .....	1
Kachemak Bay, AK .....	2
Narragansett Bay, RI ....	2
North Inlet-Winyah Bay, SC .....	2
North Carolina .....	2
Old Woman Creek, OH .....	2
Padilla Bay, WA .....	1
Rookery Bay, FL .....	1
Sapelo Island, GA .....	1
Tijuana River, CA .....	2
Waquoit Bay, MA .....	2
Weeks Bay, AL .....	2

Because NOAA is an active partner in NERRS research, funds will be awarded through a cooperative agreement. NOAA may be involved in the award in the following manner:

The Estuarine Reserves Division (ERD), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, reserves the right to immediately halt activity under this award if it becomes obvious that award activities are not fulfilling the mission of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. While day-to-day management is the responsibility of the recipient, frequent guidance and direction is provided by the Federal Government for the successful conduct of this award. Non-compliance with a Federally approved project may result in immediate halting of the award.

ERD generally will review and approve each stage of work annually before the next begins to assure that studies will produce viable information on which to form valid coastal management decisions.

All staff at NERRS sites are ineligible to submit an application for a fellowship under this Announcement. Federal funds requested must be matched by the applicant by at least 30% of the *TOTAL cost, not the Federal share, of the project*. It is anticipated that fellowships receiving funding under this announcement will begin no earlier than June 1, 2000.

#### IV. Purpose and Priorities

NERR Research funds are provided to support management-related research projects that will enhance scientific understanding of the Reserve ecosystem, provide information needed by Reserve management and coastal management decision-makers, and improve public awareness and understanding of estuarine ecosystems and estuarine management issues (15 CFR § 921.50).

The NERR Graduate Research Fellowship program is designed to fund high quality research focused on enhancing coastal zone management while providing students with hands-on training in ecological monitoring.

Research projects proposed in response to this announcement must: (1) Address coastal management issues identified as having local, regional, or national significance, described in the "Scientific Areas of Support" below; and (2) be conducted within one or more designated NERR sites. Funding (\$16,500 per year) is intended to provide any combination of research support, salary, tuition, supplies, or other costs as needed, including overhead. Fellows will be expected to participate in an ecological training program that will entail some aspect of ecological monitoring or research for up to a maximum of 15 hours per week. Fellows conducting multi-site projects

may fulfill this requirement at one or a combination of sites but for no more than a total of 15 hours per week. This training program may occur throughout the academic year or may be concentrated during a specific season. Students are encouraged, but not required, to incorporate these training activities into their own research programs.

#### *Scientific Areas of Support*

The NERRS program has identified the following as areas of nationally significant research interest. Proposed research projects submitted in response to this announcement must address one of the following topics (see #1 above):

- The effects of non-point source pollution on estuarine ecosystems;
- Evaluative criteria and/or methods for estuarine ecosystem restoration;
- The importance of biodiversity and effects of invasive species on estuarine ecosystems;
- Mechanisms for sustaining resources within estuarine ecosystems; or
- Socioeconomic research applicable to estuarine ecosystem management.

Each NERR has local issues of concern that fall within one of the topics above. Applicants are responsible for contacting the NERR site of interest to determine if their proposed projects would be relevant to the Reserve's site-specific research needs.

**Note:** It is strongly suggested that applicants contact the host Reserve (see Appendix I) for general information about the Reserve and its research needs and priorities and ecological training opportunities as they relate to this announcement.

#### **V. Guidelines for Application Preparation, Review, and Reporting Requirements**

Applicants for ERD research fellowships must follow the guidelines presented in this announcement. Applications not adhering to these guidelines may be returned to the applicant without further review.

Applications for graduate fellowships in the NERRS are solicited annually for award the following fiscal year. Minority students are encouraged to apply. Application due dates and other pertinent information are contained in this announcement of research opportunities. *Applicants must submit an original and two (2) copies of each application and all supporting documents (curricula vitae, literature referenced, unofficial transcripts, etc.), excluding letters of reference which must come directly from their source.*

Applicants may request funding for up to three years; funding for years two

and three will be made available based on availability of funds and satisfactory progress of research as determined by the Host NERR Research Staff and the student's faculty advisor, in consultation with ERD. The amount of the award is \$15,000/annum plus 10% overhead for a total of \$16,500/annum. Requested Federal funds must be matched by at least 30 percent of the *award total* (ie. \$7,072 match for \$16,500 in Federal funds for a total project cost of \$23,572).

Applicants who are selected for funding will be required to: (1) Work with the Research Coordinator or Reserve Manager to develop an ecological training program for up to 15 hours per week; (2) submit semi-annual technical reports to ERD and the host Reserve before the end of each funding cycle on the research accomplishments to date; and (3) acknowledge NERRS support in all relevant scientific presentations and publications. In addition, fellows are strongly encouraged to publish their results in peer-reviewed literature and make presentations at scientific meetings.

#### *A. Applications*

Students admitted to or enrolled in a full-time Master's or Doctoral program at U.S. accredited universities are eligible to apply. Students should have completed a majority of their course work at the beginning of their fellowship and have an approved thesis research program.

Applicants are required to submit:

- (1) An academic resume or a curriculum vitae that includes all graduate and undergraduate institutions (department or area of study, degree, and year of graduation), all publications (including undergraduate and graduate theses), awards or fellowships, and work/research experience;
- (2) a cover letter from the applicant indicating current academic status, research interests, career goals, and how the proposed research fits into their degree program, and the results of any discussion with host NERR staff regarding the ecological monitoring training program;
- (3) a titled research proposal (double-spaced in a font no smaller than 12-point courier) that includes an Abstract, Introduction, Methods and Materials, Project Significance, and Bibliography;
- (4) a proposed budget (see Section B, Proposal Content, below for specific guidelines);
- (5) an unofficial copy of all undergraduate and graduate transcripts;
- (6) a signed letter of support from the applicant's graduate advisor indicating the advisor's contribution (financial and

otherwise) to the applicant's graduate studies, and an assurance that the student is in good academic standing; and

(7) two letters of recommendations (from other than the applicant's graduate advisor) sent directly from their source.

**Note:** Electronically transmitted letters of support are not acceptable.

One original and two (2) copies of the information requested above, excluding letters of reference and transcripts, must be submitted to the ERD Program Specialist at the address in the Addresses section, postmarked no later than November 1, 1999. *Applications postmarked November 2, 1999 or later, will be returned without review.* Receipt of all applications will be acknowledged and a copy sent to the appropriate Reserve staff.

#### *B. Proposal Content*

The research proposal should contain the sections described below.

##### *1. Title Page*

A title page must be provided which lists:

- student name, address, telephone number, fax number & email address
- project title;
- amount of funding requested;
- name of graduate institution;
- name of institution providing matching funds and amount of matching funds;
- name, address, telephone number, fax number & email address of faculty advisor;
- NERR site where research is to be conducted; and
- number of years of requested support.

If it is a multi-site project, the title page must indicate which Reserve will be the primary contact ("host Reserve") for the training program.

##### *2. Abstract*

The abstract should state the research objectives, scientific methods to be used, and the significance of the project to a particular Reserve and the NERRS program. The abstract must be limited to *one page*.

##### *3. Project Description*

The project description must be limited to *6 double-spaced pages* excluding figures. The main body of the proposal should be a detailed statement of the work to be undertaken, and include the following components:

- (a) Introduction. This section should introduce the research setting and environment. It should include a brief review of pertinent literature and

describe the research problem in relation to relevant coastal management issues and the research priorities. This section should also present the primary hypothesis upon which the project is focused, as well as any additional or component hypotheses which will be addressed by the research project.

(b) **Methods.** This section should state the method(s) to be used to accomplish the specific research objectives, including a systematic discussion of what, when, where, and how the data are to be collected, analyzed, and reported. Field and laboratory methods should be scientifically valid and reliable and accompanied by a statistically sound sampling scheme. Methods chosen should be justified and compared with other methods employed for similar work.

Techniques should allow the testing of the hypotheses, but also provide baseline data related to ecological and management questions concerning the Reserve environment. Methods should be described concisely and techniques should be reliable enough to allow comparison with those made at different sites and times by different investigators. The methods must have proven their utility and sensitivity as indicators for natural or human-induced change.

Analytical methods and statistical tests applied to the data should be documented, thus providing a rationale for choosing one set of methods over alternatives. Quality control measures also should be documented (e.g., statistical confidence levels, standards of reference, performance requirements, internal evaluation criteria). The proposal should indicate by way of discussion how data are to be synthesized, interpreted and integrated into final work products.

A map clearly showing the study location and any other features of interest *must* be included; a U.S. Geological Survey topographic map, or an equivalent, is suggested for this purpose. Consultation with Reserve personnel to identify existing maps is strongly recommended.

(c) **Project Significance.** This section should provide a clear discussion of how the proposed research addresses state and national estuarine and coastal resource management issues and how the proposed research effort will enhance or contribute to improving the state of knowledge of the estuary; i.e., why is the proposed research important and how will the results contribute to coastal resource management? This section must also discuss the relation of the proposed research to the research priorities stated in Section IV.

Applicability of research findings to other NERRS and coastal areas should also be mentioned. In addition, if the proposed research is part of a larger research project, the relationship between the two should be described.

#### 4. Milestone Schedule

A milestone schedule is required. This schedule should show, in table form, anticipated dates for completing field work and data collection, data analysis, progress reports, the final technical report and other related activities. Use "Month 1, Month 2," rather than June, July, etc., in preparing these charts.

#### 5. Personnel and Project Management

The proposal must include a description of how the project will be managed, including the name and expertise of faculty advisors and other team members. Evidence of ability to successfully complete the proposed research should be supported by reference to similar efforts performed.

#### 6. Literature Cited

This section should provide complete references for current literature, research, and other appropriate published and unpublished documents cited in the text of the proposal.

#### 7. Budget

The amount of Federal funds requested must be matched by the applicant by at least 30% of the *total* project cost (i.e., \$7,072 match for \$16,500 in Federal funds for a total project cost of \$23,572). Cash or the value of goods and services (except land) directly benefitting the research project may be used to satisfy the matching requirements. Overhead costs for these awards are limited to \$1,500 of the Federal share (i.e., \$15,000 for project and \$1,500 for overhead) and waived overhead costs may also be used as match. *Funds from other Federal agencies and NERRS staff salaries supported by Federal funds may not be used as match.* Requirements for the non-Federal share are contained in OMB Circular A-110. ERD strongly suggests that the applicant work with their institution's research office to develop their budget (see section D, below).

The applicant may request funds under any of the categories listed below as long as the costs are reasonable and necessary to perform research. The budget should contain itemized costs with appropriate narratives justifying proposed expenditures. Budget categories are to be broken down as follows, clearly showing both Federal and non-Federal shares *side by side*:

- Salary. The rate of pay (hourly, monthly, or annually) should be indicated. Salaries requested must be consistent with the institution's regular practices. The submitting organization may request that salary data remain confidential information.
- Fringe Benefits. Fringe benefits (i.e., social security, insurance, retirement) may be treated as direct costs as long as this is consistent with the institution's regular practices.
- Equipment. While not their primary purpose, fellowship funds may be approved for the purchase of equipment only if the following conditions are met: (a) A lease versus purchase analysis has been conducted by the applicant or the applicant's institution for equipment that costs greater than \$5000 and the findings determine that purchase is the most economical method of procurement; and (b) the equipment does not exist at the recipient's institution or the Reserve site and is essential for the successful completion of the project.

The justification must discuss each of these points along with the purpose of the equipment and a justification for its use, and include a list of equipment to be purchased, leased, or rented by model number and manufacturer, where known. At the termination of the fellowship, disposition of equipment will be determined by the NOAA Property Administrator.

- Travel. The type, extent, and estimated cost (broken down by transportation, lodging and per diem) of travel should be explained and justified in relation to the proposed research; the justification should also identify the person traveling. Travel expenses are limited to round trip travel to field research locations and professional meetings to present the research results and should not exceed 40 percent of total award costs.
- Other Direct Costs. Other anticipated costs should be itemized under the following categories:

- *Materials and Supplies.* The budget should indicate in general terms the types of expendable materials and supplies required and their estimated costs;

- *Research Vessel or Aircraft Rental.* Include purpose, unit cost, duration of use, user, and justification;

- *Laboratory Space Rental.* Funds may be requested for use of laboratory space at research establishments away from the student's institution while conducting studies specifically related to the proposed effort;

- *Telecommunication Services and Reproduction Costs.* Include expenses associated with telephone calls, facsimile, copying, reprint charges, film duplication, etc.;

- *Computer Services.* The cost of unusual or costly computer services may be requested and must be justified.

—Indirect Costs. Requested overhead costs under NERRS fellowship awards are limited to \$1,500 of the Federal amount.

#### 8. Requests for Reserve Support Services

On-site Reserve personnel sometimes can provide limited logistical support for research projects in the form of manpower, equipment, supplies, etc. Any request for Reserve support services, including any services provided as match, should be approved by the Reserve Manager or Research Coordinator prior to application submission and be included as part of the application package in the form of written correspondence. Reserve resources which are supported by Federal funds are not eligible to be used as match.

#### 9. Coordination With Other Research in Progress or Proposed

ERD encourages collaboration and cost-sharing with other investigators to enhance scientific capabilities and avoid unnecessary duplication of effort. Applications should include a description of how the research will be coordinated with other research projects that are in progress or proposed, if applicable.

#### 10. Permits

The applicant must apply for any applicable local, state or Federal permits. A copy of the permit application and supporting documentation should be attached to the application as an appendix. ERD must receive notification of the approval of the permit application before funding can be approved.

#### C. Application Review and Evaluation

All applications will be evaluated for scientific merit by ERD staff, the host Reserve scientific panel of no less than three reviewers from the scientific community, and the appropriate Research Coordinator and/or Reserve Manager. Criteria for evaluation include: (1) The quality of proposed research and its applicability to the NERRS Scientific Areas of Support listed earlier in this announcement (70%); (2) the research's applicability to specific Reserve research and resource management goals as they relate to the Scientific Areas of Support listed in this

announcement (20%); and (3) academic excellence based on the applicant's transcripts and two letters of reference (10%). No more than two Fellowships will be awarded at any one time for any one Reserve. Final selection will be made by the Chief of the Estuarine Reserves Division, based upon scientific review and the research's applicability to NERRS research and resource management goals.

#### D. Fellowship Awards

Awards are normally made to the fellow's graduate institution through the use of a cooperative agreement. Applicants whose projects are recommended for funding will be required to complete all necessary Federal financial assistance forms (SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, CD-511, and SF-LLL), which will be provided by ERD with the letter of fellowship notification. ERD recommends that all applicants work with their graduate institution during the development of their budget to ensure concurrence on budgetary issues (e.g. the use of salary and fringe benefits as match).

#### VI. Other Requirements

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

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.

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 the Department of Commerce (DOC) are made.

Unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding. In addition, any recipients who are past due for submitting acceptable final reports under any previous ERD-funded research will be ineligible to be considered for new awards until final reports are received, reviewed and deemed acceptable by ERD.

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.

If an application is selected for funding, the Department of Commerce 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 the DOC. However, funding priority will be given to the additional years of multi-year proposals upon satisfactory completion of the current year of research.

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

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

1. *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;

2. *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;

3. *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 the use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracting and financial transactions," and the lobbying section of the certification form which 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

4. *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.

5. *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

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." The original form CD-512 is intended for the use of recipients. 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.

**Buy American-Made Equipment or Products:** Applicants are hereby notified that any equipment or products authorized to be purchased with funding provided under this program should be American-made to the extent feasible.

**Indirect Costs:** 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 prior to the proposed effective date of the award or \$1,500, whichever is less.

**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.

## VII. Classification

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

This action is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment by NOAA Administrative Order 216-6.

This notice does not contain policies with federalism implications sufficient to warrant preparation of a federalism assessment under Executive Order 12612.

This notice involves a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act. The requirements have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, and 0348-0046.

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 displays a current valid OMB control number.

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.420 Coastal Zone Management Estuarine Research Reserves)

Dated: August 30, 1999.

**Captain Ted I. Lillestolen,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Ocean Service.*

## Appendix I. NERRS On-Site Staff

### Alabama

Mr. L.G. Adams, Manager; Mr. Bob McCormack, Interpretive Coordinator, Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 11300 U.S. Highway 98, Fairhope, AL 36532, (334) 928-9792, ladams@surf.nos.noaa.gov, bmcormack@surf.nos.noaa.gov

### Alaska

Mr. Glenn Seaman, Manager, Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Department of Fish and Game, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518-1599, (907) 267-2331, glenns@fishgame.state.ak.us

### California

Ms. Becky Christensen, Manager, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, 1700 Elkhorn Road, Watsonville, CA 95076, (408) 728-2822, beckychristensen@dfg2.ca.gov

(or)

Mr. Mark Silberstein, Elkhorn Slough Foundation, P.O. Box 267, Moss Landing, CA 95039, (831) 728-5939, silbermud@aol.com and for further info www.elkhornslough.org

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

## National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 082399D]

## South Atlantic 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 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will

hold a meeting of its Personnel, Joint Executive & Finance, Calico Scallop, Snapper Grouper, Marine Reserves, Golden Crab, Mackerel, Dolphin & Wahoo and Shrimp Committees; and a Council Session.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held from September 20-24, 1999. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Town and Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407; telephone: (843) 571-1000; (800) 334-6660.

*Council address:* South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306; Charleston, SC 29407-4699.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Kerry O'Malley, telephone: (843) 571-4366; fax: (843) 769-4520; email: kerry.omalley@noaa.gov

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Meeting Dates**

*September 20, 1999, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.—Personnel Committee (Closed Session);*

The Personnel Committee will meet to review and approve personnel sections in the Council's draft Administrative Handbook;

*September 20, 1999, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Joint Executive and Finance Committees;*

The committees will review and approve the Council's draft Administrative Handbook, the proposed 2000 Council budget and schedule of activities and discuss the status of the Sargassum Fishery Management Plan (FMP);

*September 21, 1999, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.—Calico Scallop Committee;*

The committee will review the Calico Scallop Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report, the status of the FMP, hear a report on the status of the vessel monitoring systems and discuss bycatch monitoring;

*September 21, 1999, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.—Snapper Grouper Committee;*

The committee will receive an update on the status of the red Porgy Emergency Rule Request, review Snapper Grouper Amendment 12 (red progy closure) and approve for public hearing, and will receive a status report on the amberjack trip limit resubmission;

*September 21, 1999, 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Marine Reserves Committee;*

The Committee will review the Marine Reserves and Habitat/Coral advisory panels recommendations on the Marine Reserves Discussion

Document, review and approve revised Marine Reserves Discussion Document, discuss format of public scoping meetings, set locations and dates for public scoping meetings and receive a status report on other marine reserve related activities in the southeast;

*September 22, 1999, 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.—Golden Crab Committee;*

The committee will receive a report on the informal meeting with the golden crab fishermen and review and approve options for Golden Crab Amendment 1;

*September 22, 1999, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.—Mackerel Committee;*

The committee will review public hearing and NMFS comments as well as Gulf Council action on Mackerel Amendment 12, develop recommendations for approval of Mackerel Amendment 12 and discuss the current framework action;

*September 22, 1999, 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Dolphin & Wahoo Committee;*

The committee will review Gulf and Caribbean actions, review the draft FMP and establish preferred actions, and approve the FMP for public hearing (dependent on status of the Gulf and Caribbean Councils actions);

*September 23, 1999, 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.—Shrimp Committee;*

The committee will review the SAFE report, review status of the bycatch reduction device (BRD) protocol and provide direction to staff, discuss bycatch monitoring, and discuss the use of vessel monitoring systems;

*September 23, 1999, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Council Session;*

The Council will hold elections for a new chairman and vice chairman and make presentations from 10:45 to 11:15;

Beginning at 11:15 p.m. the Council will hear the Joint Executive & Finance Report and the Council will take public comment on NMFS' Notice of Availability for the South Atlantic Council's Sargassum FMP;

The Council will also discuss their position on the Sargassum FMP, approve the Council's draft handbook, approve the proposed 2000 budget and activities schedule and approve the 1999/2000 Operations Plan;

*From 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. the Council will resume hearing the Joint Executive & Finance Report;*

*From 3:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. the Council will hear the Calico Scallop Committee report.*

*From 3:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. the Council will hear the Snapper Grouper committee Report and approve Snapper Grouper Amendment 12 for Public Hearing;*

*From 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. the Council will hear the Marine Reserves Committee report and approve the revised Marine Reserves Discussion*