

adjourn at 3:00 p.m. on November 18, 1999. The entire meeting will be closed.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Administrative Building Tenth Floor Conference Room, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Harry Hertz, Director, National Quality Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, telephone number (301) 975-2361.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on April 26, 1999, that the meeting of the Judges Panel will be closed pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, as amended by Section 5(c) of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Pub. L. 94-409. The meeting, which involves examination of records and discussion of Award applicant data, may be closed to the public in accordance with Section 552b(c)(4) of Title 5, United States Code, since the meeting is likely to disclose trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential.

Dated: October 22, 1999.

Karen H. Brown.

Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 99-28494 Filed 10-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-CN-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 990810211-9211-01]

RIN 0648-ZA69

National Sea Grant College Program— National Marine Fisheries Service Joint Graduate Fellowship Programs in Population Dynamics and Marine Resource Economics

AGENCY: National Sea Grant College Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice is to announce that the National Sea Grant College Program Office (NSGO), in fulfilling its broad educational responsibilities and to strengthen its collaboration with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and NMFS, in fulfilling its responsibilities to manage, conserve, and protect the Nation's living marine

resources within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone and to provide the sound scientific information and analyses necessary for those purposes, have jointly established and are accepting applications for two new Graduate Fellowship Programs in (1) Population Dynamics and (2) Marine Resource Economics. Each program will provide grants to support two graduate students enrolled in relevant PhD degree programs in any university in the United States. Fellows would work on thesis problems of public interest and relevance and have summer internships under the guidance of a NMFS mentor at participating NMFS Science Centers, Laboratories, or Regional Offices. Applications must be submitted through one of the state Sea Grant Programs (see below).

DATES: Applications must be received by February 15, 2000 by a state Sea Grant Program.

ADDRESSES: Applications should be addressed to a state Sea Grant Program. Contact the appropriate state Sea Grant Program from the list below to obtain the mailing address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Information can be obtained from Dr. Emory D. Anderson, Program Director for Fisheries, National Sea Grant College Program, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, tel: (301) 713-2435 ext. 144, e-mail: emory.anderson@noaa.gov; from any state Sea Grant Program (see below); or from any participating NMFS facility (see below).

Sea Grant Programs

University of Alaska, (907) 474-7086
University of California, (619) 534-4440
University of Connecticut, (860) 405-9128
University of Delaware, (302) 831-2841
University of Florida, (352) 392-5870
University of Georgia, (706) 542-6009
University of Hawaii, (808) 956-7031
University of Illinois, (765) 494-3593
Louisiana State University, (225) 388-6710
University of Maine, (207) 581-1436
University of Maryland, (301) 405-6209
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, (617) 253-7131
University of Michigan, (734) 763-1437
University of Minnesota, (218) 726-8106
Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, (228) 875-9341
University of New Hampshire, (603) 862-0122
New Jersey Marine Science Consortium, (732) 872-1300
State University of New York, (516) 632-6905

University of North Carolina, (919) 515-2454
Ohio State University, (614) 292-8949
Oregon State University, (541) 737-2714
University of Puerto Rico, (787) 832-3585
Purdue University, (765) 494-3593
University of Rhode Island, (401) 874-6800
South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium, (843) 727-2078
University of Southern California, (213) 740-1961
Texas A&M University, (409) 845-3854
Virginia Graduate Marine Science Consortium, (804) 924-5965
University of Washington, (206) 543-6600
University of Wisconsin, (608) 262-0905
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, (508) 289-2557

Participating NMFS Facilities (for Population Dynamics Program)

Alaska Fisheries Science Center
Auke Bay Laboratory, Juneau, AK;
Contact person: Phillip Rigby; Tel: (907) 789-6653; E-mail: phillip.rigby@noaa.gov
National Marine Mammal Laboratory, Seattle, WA; Contact person: Douglas DeMaster; Tel: (206) 526-4047; E-mail: douglas.demaster@noaa.gov
Resource Ecology and Fisheries Management Division, Seattle, WA; Contact person: Richard Marasco; Tel: (206) 526-4172; E-mail: rich.marasco@noaa.gov
Northwest Fisheries Science Center
Montlake Laboratory, Seattle, WA; Contact person: Linda Jones; Tel: (206) 860-3200; E-mail: linda.jones@noaa.gov
Mark O. Hatfield Marine Science Center, Newport, OR; Contact person: Linda Jones; Tel: (206) 860-3200; E-mail: linda.jones@noaa.gov
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Woods Hole Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA; Contact person: Fredric Serchuk; Tel: (508) 495-2245; E-mail: fred.serchuk@noaa.gov
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Miami Laboratory, Miami, FL; Contact person: Joseph Powers; Tel: (305) 361-4295; E-mail: joseph.powers@noaa.gov
Beaufort Laboratory, Beaufort, NC; Contact person: Douglas Vaughan; Tel: (252) 728-8761; E-mail: doug.vaughan@noaa.gov
Southwest Fisheries Science Center
La Jolla Laboratory, La Jolla, CA; Contact person: Russell Vetter; Tel: (619) 546-7125; E-mail: russ.vetter@noaa.gov
Pacific Fisheries Environmental

Laboratory, Pacific Grove, CA;
Contact person: George Boehlert;
Tel: (831) 648-8447; E-mail:
george.boehlert@noaa.gov

Honolulu Laboratory, Honolulu, HI;
Contact person: Jerry Wetherall;
Tel: (808) 983-5386; E-mail:
jerry.wetherall@noaa.gov

Santa Cruz/Tiburon Laboratory,
Tiburon, CA; Contact person:
Churchill Grimes; Tel: (415) 435-
3149; E-mail:
churchill.grimes@noaa.gov

Participating NMFS Facilities (for
Marine Resource Economics Program)

Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Woods Hole Laboratory, Woods Hole,
MA; Contact person: Philip Logan;
Tel: (508) 495-2354; E-mail:
phil.logan@noaa.gov

Southeast Regional Office
St. Petersburg, FL; Contact person:
Richard Raulerson; Tel: (727) 570-
5335; E-mail:
richard.raulerson@noaa.gov

Southwest Fisheries Science Center
La Jolla Laboratory, La Jolla, CA;
Contact persons: Cindy Thomson;
Tel: (831) 459-3068; E-mail:
cthompson@cats.ucsc.edu; Samuel
Herrick; Tel: (619) 546-7111; E-
mail: sam.herrick@noaa.gov

Northwest Regional Office
Seattle, WA; Contact person: Steve
Freese; Tel: (206) 526-6117; E-mail:
steve.freese@noaa.gov

Alaska Fisheries Science Center
Resource Ecology and Fisheries
Management Division, Seattle, WA;
Contact person: Joseph Terry; Tel:
(206) 526-4253; E-mail:
joe.terry@noaa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

National Sea Grant College Program— National Marine Fisheries Service Joint Graduate Fellowship Programs in Population Dynamics and Marine Resource Economics

I. Program Authority

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1127. (Catalog of
Federal Domestic Assistance Number:
11.417, Sea Grant Support.)

II. Introduction

The National Sea Grant College
Program Office (NSGO) and the National
Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have
established a new Population Dynamics
Fellowship Program and a new Marine
Resource Economics Fellowship
Program.

Beginning in the summer of 2000,
each program will support two students
interested in careers related to (1) the
population dynamics of living marine
resources and the development and

implementation of quantitative methods
for assessing their status, and (2) the
economics of the conservation and
management of living marine resources.
Two additional students will be
supported by each program in each
subsequent year up to a maximum of six
students per program at a given time.

The Population Dynamics Program
will provide support for up to three
years for two highly qualified graduate
students working towards a PhD in
population dynamics or related fields of
study. The Marine Resource Economics
Program will provide support for up to
two years for two highly qualified
graduate students working towards a
PhD in marine resource economics,
natural resource economics, or
environmental economics. In addition
to their major professor, Fellows are
required to work closely with an expert
(mentor) from NMFS who will provide
data for their theses, serve on each
Fellow's committee, and host an annual
summer internship at the participating
NMFS facility.

The goals of these fellowships are to
(1) encourage qualified applicants to
pursue careers in (a) population
dynamics and stock assessment
methodology or (b) marine resource
economics; (2) increase available
expertise related to (a) the population
dynamics and assessment of stock status
of living marine resources or (b)
economic analysis of living marine
resource conservation and management
decisions; (3) foster closer relationships
between academic scientists and NMFS;
and (4) provide real-world experience to
graduate students and accelerate their
career development.

III. Eligibility

Any student may apply who is a
United States citizen or lawfully
admitted to the United States for
permanent residence. At the time of
application, prospective Population
Dynamics Fellows must be admitted to
a PhD degree program in population
dynamics or a related field such as
applied mathematics, statistics, or
quantitative ecology at a university in
the United States, and prospective
Marine Resource Economics Fellows
must be in the process of completing at
least two years of course work in a PhD
degree program in natural resource
economics or a related field at a
university in the United States.

IV. Application

An application must be received by
February 15, 2000 by the director of the
state Sea Grant program nearest to the
university in which the student is
enrolled. The state Sea Grant director

then forwards the application to the
NSGO. Applicants are strongly
encouraged to contact participating
NMFS facilities before submitting their
application. Each application must
include: (1) Complete curriculum vitae
from both student and major professor;
(2) an education and career goal
statement from the applicant with
emphasis on the applicant's interest in
(a) marine population dynamics or the
development and implementation of
quantitative methods for assessing stock
status of living marine resources, or (b)
in marine resource economics (not to
exceed two pages); (3) three letters of
recommendation, with at least one from
the student's major professor (a
summary of the proposed thesis may be
included if available); (4) official copies
of all undergraduate and graduate
student transcripts; and (5) (only for the
Population Dynamics Program) proof of
application, acceptance, and enrollment
in the case of students entering graduate
school (i.e., who have not yet completed
one semester of graduate work) if they
are selected for a fellowship.

Each application must be
accompanied by a written matching
commitment, equal to half of the NSGO
amount (see below), from the university
to support the budget for the period of
the award. Allocation of matching funds
must be specified in the budget. In
addition to stipend and tuition for the
applicant, the budget should include
funds for equipment, supplies, and
travel necessary to carry out the
proposed thesis research. Funds should
also be allocated for one trip per year to
the NOAA offices in Silver Spring, MD,
for a meeting of all Fellows, mentors,
and NSGO/NMFS Fellowship Program
Managers.

V. Award

The award for each fellowship will be
in the form of a grant of \$38,000 per
year, 50% (\$19,000) of which will be
contributed by NMFS, 33⅓% (\$12,667)
by the NSGO, and 16⅔% (\$6,333) by
the university as the required 50%
match of NSGO funds. The portion of
the award provided to each Fellow for
salary (stipend), living expenses (per
diem), tuition, and travel necessary to
carry out the proposed thesis research
and to attend the annual Fellows
meeting in Silver Spring, MD, will be
determined and distributed by the state
Sea Grant program/university in
accordance with its guidelines. Indirect
costs are not allowable for either the
fellowship or for any costs associated
with the fellowship, according to 15
CFR 917.11(e), Guidelines for Sea Grant
Fellowships.

VI. Selection Criteria

Selection criteria will include (1) academic ability (25%), (2) demonstrated research ability and interest in the field (25%), (3) diversity and appropriateness of academic background (particularly quantitative skills in the case of the Population Dynamics Program) (25%), (4) additional qualifying experience such as work (15%), (5) expertise of major professor (5%), and (6) ability to work well with others (5%).

VII. Selection

Selection is competitive. A selection team for each program consisting of experts in that discipline and representatives from the NSGO and NMFS will evaluate and rank the candidates using the above criteria. Two Fellows will be selected for each program by the NSGO/NMFS Fellowship Program Managers based in part on rankings provided by the selection teams. In addition, Program Managers will base the selections on: (a) ascertaining which candidates best meet the program goals and whose proposed work will not substantially duplicate other projects currently funded or approved for funding by NOAA, and (b) ensuring that an appropriate NMFS mentor is available to work with the candidate. Accordingly, awards may not necessarily be made to the two highest-scoring candidates in each program.

VIII. Timetable

Applications must be received by February 15, 2000, by the state Sea Grant Program, and must be received by February 21, 2000, by the NSGO. Successful Fellows may expect to be notified by April 1, 2000. Fellowships, when initially awarded, will commence on or about June 1, 2000, pending completion of the Fellow's spring semester.

IX. Participating NMFS Facilities

Mentors will be from participating NMFS Science Centers, Laboratories, or Regional Offices. Each Fellow will be required to work as a summer intern at the participating NMFS facility either on his/her thesis or on appropriate related problems. Remuneration for the summer internship will be part of the annual award. Population Dynamics Fellows will also be expected to spend 10–20 days at sea per year learning about sampling techniques and problems, commercial fishing, fishery biology, and local and regional issues of importance to fisheries management. Fellows may also work, as necessary, at the participating NMFS facility during some or all of the academic year at the

mutual discretion of mentor, major professor, and Fellow. After selection, but before the fellowship is awarded, each Fellow will be required to provide a one-page description of his/her assignment based on discussions among mentor, major professor, and Fellow. These discussions will be facilitated by the NSGO/NMFS Fellowship Program Managers and will be completed by April 30, 2000. The assignment description will reflect a clear mutual understanding of the substantive dimensions of the project and its expected results.

X. Reporting Requirements

Fellows will, for each year of their fellowship, provide a written annual summary of their accomplishments and activities during the preceding year to the NSGO/NMFS Fellowship Program Managers. This summary is due no later than one month following the anniversary of the start of the fellowship. Fellows will be expected to present a review of their research during the annual Fellows meeting in Silver Spring, MD.

XI. Other Requirements

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

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

(C) 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.

(D) No Obligation for Future Funding—If an 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.

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

- (1) The delinquent account is paid in full,
- (2) A negotiated repayment schedule is established and at least one payment is received, or

(3) Other arrangements satisfactory to DOC are made.

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

(G) 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:

(1) Non-Procurement Debarment and Suspension. Prospective participants (as defined at 15 CFR part 26, section 105) are subject to 15 CFR part 26, "Non-Procurement 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 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

(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.

(H) 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 sub-recipient should be submitted to DOC in accordance with the instructions contained in the award document.

(I) 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.

(J) Intergovernmental Review—Applications for support from the National Sea Grant College Program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs".

(K) 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.

(L) 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. Institutions eligible to be considered HBCU/MSIs are listed at the following Internet website: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCR/99minin.html>.

Classification

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

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

This notice contains a collection of information requirements subject to the

Paperwork Reduction Act. The Sea Grant Budget Form has been approved under control number 0648-0362 with an average response estimated to take 15 minutes. This estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments on this estimate or any other aspect of this collection to National Sea Grant College Program, R/SG, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (Attention: Francis S. Schuler) and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 (Attention: NOAA Desk Officer). Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Dated: October 27, 1999.

Louisa Koch,

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

Dated: October 27, 1999.

Lamarr B. Trott,

Deputy Director, Office of Science and Technology, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 99-28572 Filed 10-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-KA-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 990927267-9267-01]

RIN 0648-ZA71

National Fisheries Habitat Program: Request for Proposals for FY 2000

AGENCY: Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that the National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) is entertaining preliminary proposals and subsequently full proposals for innovative research, education, and outreach projects that address critical

and high priority problems related to Fisheries Habitat in U.S. coastal and Great Lakes waters. Preference will be given to proposals that involve collaboration with multiple investigators and various Federal agencies and focus on regional and national issues with broad application. Proposals with narrow focus from single investigators are not encouraged and will have a minimal likelihood of being funded. In FY 2000 and 2001, Sea Grant expects to make available about \$1,500,000 per year to support such projects. Proposals may request up to \$300,000 per year for a maximum of two years, and each proposal must include additional matching funds equivalent to at least 50% of the Federal funds requested. Successful projects will be selected through national competitions.

DATES: Preliminary proposals must be received before 5 pm (local time) on December 1, 1999 by the nearest state Sea Grant College Program or the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO). After evaluation at the NSGO, some proposers will be encouraged to prepare full proposals, which must be received before 5 pm (local time) on February 15, 2000 by the nearest state Sea Grant College Program or the NSGO.

ADDRESSES: Preliminary proposals and full proposals must be submitted through the nearest state Sea Grant Program. The addresses of the Sea Grant College Program directors may be found at the following Internet website: (<http://www.nsgo.seagrant.org/SGDirectors.html>) or may be obtained by contacting the Program Manager at the NSGO (see below). Investigators from non-Sea Grant states may submit their preliminary proposals and proposals directly to the National Sea Grant Office at: National Sea Grant College Program, R/SG, Attn: Mrs. Geraldine Taylor, Fisheries Habitat Competition, Room 11732, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Emory D. Anderson, Program Director for Fisheries, National Sea Grant College Program, R/SG, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Tel. (301) 713-2435 ext. 144, facsimile (301) 713-0799, e-mail: (emory.anderson@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Program Authority

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1121-1131. (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 11.417, Sea Grant Support.)