

c. Encourage a common vision and collaboration among firms, universities, and training centers to implement a cluster strategy;

d. Establish research and industrial parks that encourage innovation-based competition;

e. Implement cluster-focused and innovation-focused business development efforts; and

f. Develop or implement coordinated economic and workforce development strategies.

2. Upgrade core business infrastructure such as:

a. Transportation infrastructure; and
b. Communications infrastructure;

c. Specialized training program infrastructure.

3. Help communities plan and implement economic adjustment strategies in response to sudden and severe economic dislocation. Specifically, EDA will give highest priority to support manufacturing-impacted communities by:

a. Helping communities that experience manufacturing job losses (e.g., major layoffs, plant closures or trade impacts); and

b. Supporting innovation and competitiveness in American manufacturing.

4. Support technology-led economic development, for example, proposals that:

a. Reflect the important role of research and development capacity of universities in regional development; and

b. Create and support technology transfers.

5. Advance community and faith-based social entrepreneurship in redevelopment strategies for areas of chronic economic distress.

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** notice of October 1, 2001 (66 FR 49917), as amended by the **Federal Register** notice published on October 30, 2002 (67 FR 66109), are applicable to this solicitation, and are available on EDA's Web site, www.eda.gov.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This document contains collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). The use of Form ED-900P has been approved by OMB under the control

number 0610-0094. 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 PRA unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Executive Order 12866

This notice has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

Executive Order 13132 (Federalism)

It has been determined that this notice does not contain policies with Federalism implications as that term is defined in Executive Order 13132.

Administrative Procedure Act/Regulatory Flexibility Act

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 (5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2)). Because notice and opportunity for comment are not required pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553 or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) are inapplicable. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis has not been prepared.

Dated: April 22, 2004.

David A. Sampson,

Assistant Secretary for Economic Development.

[FR Doc. 04-9810 Filed 4-29-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-24-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Economic Development Administration

[Docket No. 991215339-4132-11]

National Technical Assistance, Training, Research, and Evaluation

AGENCY: Economic Development Administration (EDA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice and request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Economic Development Administration (EDA) announces general policies and application procedures for grant-based research and technical assistance investments that aim to increase prosperity by advancing comprehensive, entrepreneurial, and innovation-based economic development efforts. The research and technical assistance contemplated are intended to enhance the

competitiveness of regional business environments resulting in increased private investment and higher-skill, higher-wage jobs.

DATES: Proposals for funding under this program will be accepted through May 28, 2004. Proposals received after 4 p.m. e.d.t., on May 28, 2004, will not be considered for funding. By June 16, 2004, EDA will notify proposers whether they will be given further funding consideration. The projects will be funded as soon as possible, but no later than September 30, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Research and Evaluation proposals may be e-mailed to klim1@eda.doc.gov; National Technical Assistance proposals may be e-mailed to jmcnamee@eda.doc.gov. Alternatively, Research and Evaluation proposals may be hand-delivered to: W. Kent Lim, U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Room 1874, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230. National Technical Assistance proposals may be hand-delivered to: Dr. John J. McNamee, U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Room 1874, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230; or Research and Evaluation proposals may be mailed to: W. Kent Lim, U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Room 7015, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230; National Technical Assistance proposals may be mailed to: Dr. John J. McNamee, U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Room 7816, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For a copy of the full Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) announcement for this request for proposals, contact the appropriate EDA officer listed above. The text of the full FFO announcement can also be accessed at EDA's Web site, <http://www.eda.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access: The full FFO announcement for the FY 2004 Economic Development Assistance Programs competition is available through EDA's Web site, <http://www.eda.gov>, and through Grants.gov at <http://www.grants.gov>.

Funding Availability: Funds in the amount of \$805,000 have been appropriated for the National Technical Assistance (NTA) program and shall remain available until expended. Funds in the amount of \$495,000 have been appropriated for the Research and Evaluation program for FY 2004 and shall remain available until expended.

Statutory Authority: Pub. L. 89-136, and as further amended by Pub. L. 105-393, 42 U.S.C. 3121 *et seq.*

CFDA: 11.303 Economic Development—Technical Assistance; 11.312 Economic Development—Research and Evaluation.

Eligibility: Eligible recipients of EDA financial assistance are defined at 13 CFR 300.2.

Cost Sharing Requirements: Ordinarily the amount of the EDA grant may not exceed 50 percent of the cost of the project. While cash contributions are preferred, in-kind contributions, fairly evaluated by EDA, may include contributions of space, equipment, and services, may provide the non-Federal share of the project cost. In-kind contributions must be eligible project costs and meet applicable Federal cost principles and uniform administrative requirements.

EDA may supplement the Federal share of a grant project where the applicant is able to demonstrate that the non-Federal share that would otherwise be required cannot be provided because of the overall economic situation. Potential applicants should contact the appropriate EDA office to make this determination.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

Evaluation and Selection Procedures and Criteria:

A. Application

To apply for an award under this request, an eligible recipient must submit a proposal to EDA during the specified timeframe, at the address specified above. Proposals that do not meet all items required or that exceed the page limitations of the FFO will be considered nonresponsive, and will not be considered. Proposals that meet all the requirements will be evaluated by a review panel comprised of at least three members, all of whom will be full-time Federal employees. The panel first evaluates the proposals using the general evaluation criteria set forth in 13 CFR 304.1 and 304.2 and the supplemental evaluation criteria (Investment Policy Guidelines) set forth below. Proposals that meet these threshold criteria listed below will then be evaluated by the panel using the following criteria of approximate equal weight:

1. The quality of a proposal's response to the Scope of Work;
2. The ability of the applicant to successfully carry out the proposed activities; and

3. Cost to the Federal Government.

B. Supplemental Evaluation Criteria: Investment Policy Guidelines

EDA's mission is to increase prosperity by advancing comprehensive, entrepreneurial, and innovation-based economic development efforts to enhance the competitiveness of regional business environments resulting in increased private investment and higher-skill, higher-wage jobs.

All potential EDA investments will be analyzed using the following five Investment Policy Guidelines, which constitute supplemental evaluation criteria of approximate equal weight and which further define the criteria provided at 13 CFR 304.2.

1. *Be market-based and results driven.* An investment will capitalize on a region's competitive strengths and will positively move a regional economic indicator measured on EDA's Balanced Scorecard, such as: an increased number of higher-skill, higher-wage jobs; increased tax revenue; or increased private sector investment.

2. *Have strong organizational leadership.* An investment will have strong leadership, relevant project management experience, and a significant commitment of human resources talent to ensure a project's successful execution.

3. *Advance productivity, innovation, and entrepreneurship.* An investment will embrace the principles of entrepreneurship, enhance regional clusters, and leverage and link technology innovators and local universities to the private sector to create the conditions for greater productivity, innovation, and job creation.

4. *Look beyond the immediate economic horizon, anticipate economic changes, and diversify the local and regional economy.* An investment will be part of an overarching, long term comprehensive economic development strategy that enhances a region's success in achieving a rising standard of living by supporting existing industry clusters, developing emerging new clusters, or attracting new regional economic drivers.

5. *Demonstrate a high degree of commitment by exhibiting:*

- High levels of local government or non-profit matching funds and private sector leverage.
- Clear and unified leadership and support by local elected officials.
- Strong cooperation between the business sector, relevant regional partners and local, state and federal governments.

Selection Factors: The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development is the Selecting Official, and will in the normal course follow the recommendation of the review panel. However, the Assistant Secretary may not make any selection, or he may substitute one of the lower rated proposals, if he determines that it better meets the overall objectives of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended (Pub. L. 89-136, 42 U.S.C. 3121 *et seq.*), and as further amended by Pub. L. 105-393.

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** notice of October 1, 2001 (66 FR 49917), as amended by the **Federal Register** notice published on October 30, 2002 (67 FR 66109), are applicable to this solicitation.

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Executive Order 12866

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Executive Order 13132 (Federalism)

It has been determined that this notice does not contain policies with Federalism implications as that term is defined in Executive Order 13132.

Administrative Procedure Act/Regulatory Flexibility Act

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 (5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2)). Because notice and opportunity for comment are not required pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553 or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) are inapplicable. Therefore,

a regulatory flexibility analysis has not been prepared.

Dated: April 26, 2004.

David A. Sampson,

Assistant Secretary for Economic Development.

[FR Doc. 04-9811 Filed 4-29-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-24-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 042204E]

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Shrimp Fishery off the Southern Atlantic States; Amendment 6

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

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS), supplemental notice.

SUMMARY: The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) has added Federal permitting, bycatch reporting, and bycatch reduction actions to Amendment 6 of the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Shrimp Amendment 6). Shrimp Amendment 6 also includes actions to evaluate and redefine, as needed, biological reference points and status determination criteria, and actions to modify the bycatch reduction protocol.

ADDRESSES: Comments and requests for copies of the scoping documents should be sent to Robert K. Mahood, Executive Director, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407-4699, fax: 843-769-4520. Comments may also be submitted by e-mail to shrimpcments@safmc.net. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: Shrimp Amendment 6.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Iverson, Public Information Office; phone: 866-SAFMC-10 or 843-571-4366; e-mail: kim.iverson@safmc.net.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice supplements the notice of intent to prepare a draft SEIS to support Shrimp Amendment 6 (February 19, 2002, 67 FR 7344) by adding the following actions: (1) require Federal permits in the penaeid (white, pink, and brown shrimp) shrimp fishery; (2) regularly monitor and assess bycatch in

the penaeid and rock shrimp fisheries; and (3) reduce bycatch in the rock shrimp fishery. These actions will be evaluated in the draft SEIS.

The purpose of the permit action is to identify and quantify the number of vessels participating in the South Atlantic penaeid shrimp fishery. Alternatives evaluated under the action would not limit access to the fishery at this time. However, the Council might consider a limited access program in the future and could use the control date of December 10, 2003, as a qualifying criterion for participation in the fishery. The Council notified the public of this control date through an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking published in the **Federal Register** on March 4, 2004 (69 FR 10189).

The purpose of the bycatch reporting and reduction actions is to improve the accounting and management of bycatch in the penaeid and rock shrimp fisheries, consistent with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Other actions in Shrimp Amendment 6 previously noticed in the **Federal Register** include evaluating and redefining, as needed, biological reference points and status determination criteria and modifying the bycatch reduction protocol.

The Environmental Protection Agency will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** when the draft SEIS is available for public comment. Comments received by the Council and NMFS during the 45-day comment period on the draft SEIS will be considered in developing the final SEIS.

Dated: April 27, 2004.

John H. Dunnigan,

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

[FR Doc. 04-9856 Filed 4-29-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 011204A]

RIN 0648-AN16

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery; Amendment 10

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

ACTION: Notice of partial approval of a fishery management plan amendment.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (Amendment 10) has been partially approved by NMFS, acting on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce. Amendment 10 was developed by the New England Fishery Management Council to establish a long-term, comprehensive program to maximize scallop yield and implement a suite of management measures intended to make the management program more effective and flexible. The intent of this announcement is to inform the public of the partial approval of Amendment 10 and of the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendment 10 in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

DATES: Amendment 10 was partially approved on April 14, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the ROD may be obtained from the Patricia Kurkul, Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930 or from the Northeast Regional Office's website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peter Christopher, Fishery Policy Analyst, 978-281-9288, fax: 978-281-9135; email: peter.christopher@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A Notice of Availability for Amendment 10 was published on January 16, 2004 (69 FR 2561) that announced NMFS review of Amendment 10 under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The public comment period on the NOA ended on March 15, 2004. Thirteen comments in response to the NOA were received. A proposed rule to implement Amendment 10 was published in the **Federal Register** on February 26, 2004 (69 FR 8915), with public comment ending on March 29, 2004. A total of 27 comments were received on the proposed rule. A summary of the comments received and NMFS's responses to those comments will be published in the final rule.

On April 14, 2004, NMFS approved all measures in Amendment 10 with the exception of the following proposed measures, which have been disapproved: (1) Possession restriction on Limited Access scallop vessels fishing outside of scallop days at sea; and a (2) cooperative industry resource survey program. A full explanation of the reasons for disapproval will be included in the final rule implementing Amendment 10. Regulatory provisions