



NOAA Launches 2008-2009 National Marine Aquaculture Competition **Deadline for Pre-Proposals is October 18, 2007**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has announced an open competition for up to \$8 million in competitive grants in 2008-2009 through the National Marine Aquaculture Initiative. The grants will be awarded to demonstration projects and research to develop sustainable marine aquaculture in the United States. The deadline for preliminary proposals is October 18, 2007. The deadline for full proposals is January 24, 2008. Institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, commercial organizations, Federal, State, local and Indian tribal governments, and individuals are eligible to apply.

Coordinated by the NOAA Aquaculture Program and NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, the 2008-2009 competition will consider aquaculture research and demonstration projects in near shore, open water, or terrestrial environments across a range of scientific disciplines. NOAA will fund individual projects ranging from approximately \$200,000 to \$1,000,000 for a two year period. It is anticipated that the agency will make approximately 20 awards, including up to four pilot-scale demonstration projects at or near the \$1,000,000 level, and the remainder of projects at or about the \$200,000 level.

To view the full announcement, including specifics on eligibility and the process for proposals, see the Federal Register notice below, or go to <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html> and search on "NOAA Aquaculture Grant Funds". For questions regarding the 2008 competition, contact Dr. Andy Lazur by e-mail, Andy.Lazur@noaa.gov. For more information on the NOAA Aquaculture Program, including profiles of the 2006 National Marine Aquaculture Initiative awards, go to: www.aquaculture.noaa.gov

2008 Funding Priorities

- Site-specific commercial/pilot scale demonstration projects to establish technical and economic feasibility with special emphasis on hatchery development, land based, near shore and offshore production systems;
- Studies to assess environmental impacts of current marine aquaculture production systems and species including fish and shellfish;
- Nutrition research involving alternative protein based diets and influence of diet on product quality;
- Development of environmental models and Geographical Information System (GIS) tools to aid site selection for new facilities;
- Development of disease diagnostics and controls;
- Development of hands-on training programs in marine hatchery operations and management; and
- Development of synthesis research papers for the following topics: Environmental impacts of marine production systems; alternative protein feeds and potential impacts; disease transmission from aquaculture to wild stocks and vice versa, and status of ecologically acceptable treatments and preventives; and genetic technologies and environmental risk analysis.

Regulations, 15 CFR 325.14(c)). Any person aggrieved by this decision may appeal to an appropriate U.S. District Court within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** “(15 CFR 325.11 of the Regulations).”

Dated: August 20, 2007.

Jeffrey Anspacher,

Director Export Trading Company Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 070817470-7471-01; I.D. 051906D]

RIN 0648-ZB83

Availability of Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2008

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: NOAA publishes this notice to amend the agency's solicitation for applications published on July 2, 2007 in an action entitled "Omnibus Notice Announcing the Availability of Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2008".

DATES: Proposals must be received by the date and time specified under each program listed in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

ADDRESSES: Proposals must be submitted to the program address listed in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document. NOAA's discretionary grant fund notices may be found on the internet at Grants.gov. The URL for Grants.gov is <http://www.grants.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For those without Internet access request a copy of the full funding opportunity announcement and/or application kit, from the person listed as the information contact under each program.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Applicants must comply with all requirements contained in the Federal Funding Opportunity announcement for each of the programs listed in this omnibus notice. These Federal Funding Opportunities are available at <http://www.grants.gov>.

The list of grant opportunities under NOAA Project Competitions (below) describe the basic information and requirements for the competitive grant/

cooperative agreement programs offered by NOAA. These programs are open to anyone who meets the eligibility criteria specified under each grant. To be considered for an award in a competitive grant/cooperative agreement program, eligible applicants must submit a complete and responsive application to the appropriate address by the deadline specified in this notice. An award is made upon conclusion of the evaluation and selection process for the respective program.

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I. Background

In this amendment, NOAA adds eight programs that are making funds available for financial assistance awards. Interested applicants should consult the July 2, 2007, notice for all of the other requirements for submitting an application. Each of the following grant opportunities provide: A description of the program, funding availability, statutory authority, catalog of Federal domestic assistance (CFDA) number, application deadline, address for submitting proposals, information contacts, eligibility requirements, cost sharing requirements, and intergovernmental review under Executive Order 12372.

In addition, this notice announces information related to a non-competitive financial assistance project to be administered by NOAA. This project is titled "NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program—Coral Reef Ecosystem Research Grants". This project will award Federal financial assistance to the National Undersea Research Center at the University of Hawaii to administer competitive coral reef research grant

programs for the Caribbean, Southeastern United States, Florida, the Gulf of Mexico, Hawaii and the Western Pacific. To receive an award for this project, an eligible applicant must submit a complete and responsive application to the appropriate program office. An award is made upon conclusion of the evaluation process for the prospective project.

II. NOAA Project Competitions

Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)

1. NMFS—Sea Grant Fellowships in Marine Resource Economics

Summary Description: The Graduate Fellowship Program generally awards two new Ph.D. fellowships each year to students who are interested in careers related to the development and implementation of quantitative methods for assessing their status or the economics of the conservation and management of living marine resources. Fellows will work on thesis problems of public interest and relevance to NMFS under the guidance of NMFS mentors at participating NMFS Science Centers or Laboratories. This solicitation is responsive to NOAA Mission Goal 1: Protect, restore and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through ecosystem-based management.

Funding Availability: The NMFS Sea Grant Joint Graduate Fellowship Program in Marine Resource Economics expects to support two new Fellows for 2 years beginning in FY 2008. The award for each fellowship will be a cooperative agreement of \$38,500 per year, with an anticipated start date of June 1, 2008.

Statutory Authority: Authority for the Resource Economics Graduate Fellowship Program is provided by the following: 33 U.S.C. 1127(a).

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.417, Sea Grant Support.

Application Deadline: Applications must be received by 4 p.m., Eastern time February 22, 2008 by the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO).

Address for Submitting Proposals: Applications from Sea Grant programs should be submitted through www.grants.gov. Facsimile transmission and electronic mail submission of applications will not be accepted.

Information Contacts: Contact Dr. Terry Smith, National Sea Grant College Program, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; tel: (301) 734-1084; e-mail: Terry.Smith@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Prospective Fellows must be United States citizens. At the time of

application, prospective Marine Resource Economics Fellows must be admitted to a Ph.D. degree program in natural resource economics or a related field at an institution of higher education in the United States or its territories or submit a signed letter from the institution indicating provisional acceptance to a Ph.D. degree program conditional on obtaining financial support such as this fellowship. Applications must be submitted by the institution of higher education, which may be any such institution in the United States or its territories.

Cost Sharing Requirements: Of the \$38,500 award, 50 percent (\$19,250) will be contributed by NMFS, 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ percent (\$12,833) by the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO), and 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ percent (\$6,417) by the institution of higher education as the required 50 percent match of NSGO funds.

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

2. NOAA Marine Aquaculture Program

Summary Description: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is seeking preliminary proposals and full proposals for demonstration projects and innovative research for the development of environmentally and economically sustainable marine aquaculture in nearshore, open water, and terrestrial environments. The Great Lakes are considered marine for this competition. Priorities include: (1) Site-specific commercial/pilot scale demonstration projects to establish technical and economic feasibility with special emphasis on hatchery development, land based, near shore and offshore production systems; (2) studies to assess environmental impacts of current marine aquaculture production systems and species including fish and shellfish; (3) nutrition research involving alternative protein based diets and influence of diet on product quality; (4) development of environmental models and GIS tools to aid site selection for new facilities; (5) disease diagnostics and control; (6) development of technical, hands-on training programs in marine hatchery operations and management; and (7) development of synthesis research papers (i.e., executive summary and journal publication) for the following topics: (a) Environmental impacts of marine production systems; (b) alternative protein feeds and potential impacts; (c) disease transmission from aquaculture to wild stocks and vice

versa, and status of ecologically acceptable treatments and preventives; and (d) genetic technologies and environmental risk analysis. This program supports NOAA's mission to protect, restore and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through ecosystem based management. Projects funded under this competition should support NOAA's overall goals for its marine aquaculture program, which are to: (1) Establish a comprehensive regulatory program for the conduct of marine aquaculture operations; (2) Develop appropriate technologies to support commercial marine aquaculture and enhancement of wild stocks; (3) Establish and implement procedures for the environmental assessment and monitoring of marine aquaculture activities; (4) Conduct education and outreach activities to establish a well informed public on marine aquaculture; and (5) Meet international obligations to promote environmentally sustainable practices for the conduct of marine aquaculture.

Funding Availability: NOAA will hold an open competition for up to \$8 million for FY 2008 and FY 2009, with individual projects ranging from approximately \$200,000 to \$1,000,000 for a two year period. It is anticipated that we will make approximately 20 awards, three or four pilot scale demonstration projects at or near the \$1,000,000 level for the two year period and the remainder at or about the \$200,000 level. In addition, funding for the synthesis research papers (priority # 7 described in Summary Description section) is anticipated to be up to \$50,000 with four awards being made. Some funds in FY 2008 may be used to finish out projects started in FY 2007. We intend to fund projects for the full two year project period (08 and 09) using FY 2008 funds. In addition we will use some FY 2009 funds to start other two year projects identified through this FY 2008 competition. It is not anticipated that a competition will be held in 2009. We reserve the option to use some FY 2010 funds to finish projects started in FY 2009. Only exceptional projects with multiple partners providing significant impact towards the previously mentioned goals will be considered for the higher level of funding. Projects involving industry collaboration and specific resource leveraging are encouraged and will be given higher rank and consideration.

Statutory Authority: 33 D.S.C. 1121 *et seq.*

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.417, Sea Grant Support.

Application Deadline: Preproposals must be received at NOAA by 4 p.m. EDT, on October 18, 2007 and full proposals by 4 p.m. EST on January 24, 2008. Anticipated grant start dates will be June 1, 2008. Anticipated grant start dates will be June 1, 2008.

Address for Submitting Proposals: Full proposals should be submitted through grants.gov. Preliminary proposals from all applicants, and full proposals from those that do not have access to internet should be sent in hardcopy to: Dr. Andy Lazur, NOAA R/SG; 1315 East-West Highway, Bldg SSMC 3, Room 11805, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283, tel. 301-734-1082.

Information Contacts: Dr. Andy Lazur, 301-734-1082; via internet at Andy.Lazur@noaa.gov, facsimile 301-713-0799. For information on past projects contact: NOAA Aquaculture Information Center, Eileen McVey at: Eileen.mcv@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, commercial organizations, Federal, State, local and Indian tribal governments and individuals are eligible.

Please Note: Before non NOAA Federal applicants may be funded, they must demonstrate that they have legal authority to receive funds from another Federal agency in excess of their appropriation. Because this announcement is not proposing to procure goods or services from applicants, the Economy Act (31 D.S.C. 1535) is not an appropriate legal basis. Only those who submit preliminary proposals by the preliminary proposal deadline are eligible to submit full proposals.

Cost Sharing Requirements: Matching funds are not required, however proposals that combine resources from institutions such as private industry, universities, Federal and State agencies, and foundations to address national or regional issues will be considered in relation to Criteria One (Impacts) in this solicitation and factor 6 (partnerships) of the selection factors listed in the Omnibus **Federal Register** notice for this competition.

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

3. National Sea Grant College Program Aquatic Invasive Species Research and Outreach

Summary Description: The National Sea Grant College Program seeks to fund research and outreach projects addressing the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species. The goal of the program is to discover and develop