

manufacturing. The Sebring International Raceway is used for automotive and automotive parts research, testing, and demonstration activities.

The application contains evidence of the need for additional zone services in the Sebring area. Several firms have indicated an interest in using zone procedures within the proposed project for warehousing/distribution of such items as automobiles and automotive parts and accessories, wood, pulp and paper products, caladium tubers, and light aircraft engine parts and accessories. Specific manufacturing approvals are not being sought at this time. Requests would be made to the Board on a case-by-case basis.

In accordance with the Board's regulations (as revised, 56 FR 50790-50808, 10-8-91), a member of the FTZ Staff has been designated examiner to investigate the application and report to the Board.

As part of the investigation, the Commerce examiner will hold a public hearing on March 8, 1995, at 9 a.m., Sebring Regional Airport, Board Room, 128 Authority Lane, Sebring, Florida.

Public comment on the application is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and 3 copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is April 11, 1995. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period (to April 26, 1995).

A copy of the application and accompanying exhibits will be available during this time for public inspection at the following locations:

Sebring Regional Airport,
Administrative Offices, 128 Authority Lane, Sebring, Florida 33870;
Office of the Executive Secretary,
Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Room 3716, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

Dated: February 3, 1995.

John J. Da Ponte, Jr.,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95-3427 Filed 2-9-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

International Trade Administration

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Notice of Decision on Application for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instrument

This decision is made pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Educational,

Scientific, and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651, 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301). Related records can be viewed between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. in Room 4211, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Docket Number: 94-134. *Applicant:* University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706. *Instrument:* Heating and Cooling Stage for Petrographic Microscope, Model THMSG 600. *Manufacturer:* Linkam Scientific Instruments Ltd., United Kingdom. *Intended Use:* See notice at 59 FR 63762, December 9, 1994.

Comments: None received. *Decision:* Approved. No instrument of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument, for such purposes as it is intended to be used, is being manufactured in the United States.

Reasons: The foreign instrument provides: (1) operation without glass in the microscope beam path (no infrared absorption) for FTIR spectroscopy, (2) temperature range from -196°C to 600°C and (3) computer control for precise regulation of temperature and generation of video text overlay on data images. The U.S. Geological Survey advised on January 17, 1995 that (1) this capability is pertinent to the applicant's intended purpose and (2) it knows of no domestic instrument or apparatus of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument for the applicant's intended use.

We know of no other instrument or apparatus of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument which is being manufactured in the United States.

Pamela Woods

Acting Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff

[FR Doc. 95-3435 Filed 2-9-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-F

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 950117016-5016-01; I.D. 010995C]

RIN 0648-ZA13

Financial Assistance for Research and Development Projects to Provide Information for the Full and Wise Use and Enhancement of Fishery Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and off the U.S. South Atlantic Coastal States; MARFIN

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of proposed areas of program emphasis; request for comments.

SUMMARY: Funds are expected to be available for the fiscal year (FY) 1996 Marine Fisheries Initiative (MARFIN) financial assistance program to assist persons in carrying out research projects that optimize the use of the U.S. fishing industry (recreational and commercial), in the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) and South Atlantic (North Carolina to Florida), including fishery biology, resource assessment, social-economic assessment, management and conservation, selective harvesting methods, and fish handling and processing. Emphasis is on research that will enhance social and economic benefits from living marine resources. NMFS issues this notice to solicit public comments on proposed emphasis areas for the FY 1996 financial assistance program. This is not a solicitation for proposals.

DATES: Public comment on the proposed areas of program emphasis for the FY 1996 MARFIN solicitation will be accepted until March 13, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Ms. Ellie Roche, Competitive Programs Manager, Cooperative Programs Division, Southeast Regional Office, National Marine Fisheries Service, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702. For availability of documents referenced in this notice, contact the Southeast Regional Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Ellie Roche, 813-570-5324.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

The Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) is authorized under 15 U.S.C. 713c-3(d) to enter into cooperative agreements for research and development addressed to all aspects of U.S. fisheries. Funding is expected to be available in FY 1996 for financial assistance under the MARFIN program to manage and enhance the use of fishery resources in the Gulf and off the South Atlantic States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. U.S. fisheries include any marine fishery that is or may be engaged in by U.S. citizens and citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands. The phrase "fishing industry" includes both the commercial and recreational sectors of U.S. fisheries. This program is described in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under program number

11.433 Marine Fisheries Initiative. (See ADDRESSES for document availability.)

A notice of availability of financial assistance for the FY 1996 MARFIN program is expected to be published in the **Federal Register** after public comments have been received on the proposed areas of emphasis in this notice.

II. Proposed Areas of Emphasis for the FY 1996 MARFIN Program

Research needs identified in fishery management plans (FMPs) and amendments prepared by the Gulf and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils (Councils) and the Gulf and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commissions (Commissions) are included. For availability of these and other documents referenced here, see ADDRESSES. Proposed areas of special emphasis for FY 1996 include:

A. Bycatch.

The bycatch of biological organisms by various fishing gears can have wide-reaching impacts from a fisheries management and an ecological standpoint, with the following major concerns:

1. *Shrimp trawl bycatch.* Studies are needed to contribute to the regional shrimp trawler bycatch program (including the rock shrimp fishery) being conducted by NMFS in cooperation with state fisheries management agencies, commercial and recreational fishing organizations and interests, environmental organizations, universities, Councils, and Commissions. Specific guidance and research requirements are contained in the Regional Bycatch Plan available from NMFS. In particular, the studies should address:

a. Data collection and analyses to expand and update current bycatch estimates temporally and spatially from offshore, nearshore, and inshore waters, emphasizing areas of greatest impact by shrimping. Sampling effort should include estimates of numbers, weight and random samples of size (age) structure of associated bycatch complex with emphasis on those overfished species under the jurisdiction of the Councils.

b. Assessment of the status and condition of fish stocks significantly impacted by shrimp trawler bycatch, with emphasis given to overfished species under the jurisdiction of the Councils. Other sources of fishing and nonfishing mortality should be considered and quantified as well.

c. Identification, development, and evaluation of gear, non-gear and tactical fishing options to reduce bycatch.

d. Improved methods for communicating with and improving technology and information transfer to the shrimp industry.

e. Social and economic impacts of management options to reduce shrimp fishery bycatch.

2. *Pelagic longline fisheries.* A number of pelagic longline fisheries exist in the Gulf and South Atlantic, targeting highly migratory species such as tunas, sharks, billfish and swordfish. Priority areas include:

a. Development and evaluation of gear and fishing tactics to minimize bycatch of undersized and unwanted species, including sea turtles, marine mammals and overfished finfish species/stocks.

b. Assessment of the impact of longline bycatch on related fisheries, including biological, social, and economic factors and effects.

3. *Reef fish fisheries.* The reef fish complex is exploited by a variety of fishing gear and tactics. The following research on bycatch of reef fish species is needed:

a. Development and evaluation of gear and fishing tactics to minimize the bycatch of undersized and unwanted species, including sea turtles and marine mammals.

b. Characterization and assessment of the impact of longline, bandit gear and trap bycatch of undersized target species, including release mortality.

4. *Finfish trawl fisheries.* Studies are needed on quantification and qualification of the bycatch in finfish trawl fisheries, such as the flounder and fly-net fisheries in the South Atlantic.

5. *Gillnet fisheries.* Studies are needed on quantification and qualification of the bycatch in coastal and shelf gillnet fisheries for sciaenids, scombrids, bluefish, dogfish, clupeids and sharks of the South Atlantic area (particularly interaction with sea turtles and marine mammals), and sea turtle bycatch for the coastal gillnet fishery off Louisiana.

B. Reef Fish.

Some species within the reef fish complex are showing signs of being overfished, either through directed efforts or because they are bycatch of other fisheries. The ecology of reef fish makes them vulnerable to overfishing, because they tend to concentrate over specific types of habitat with patchy distribution. This behavior pattern can make traditional fishery statistics misleading. Priority research areas include:

1. Collection of basic biological data for species in commercially and recreationally important fisheries.

a. Age and growth of reef fish.

(1) Description of age and growth patterns, especially for red, vermilion, gray, and cubera snappers; gray triggerfish; gag; black grouper; spottail pinfish; hogfish; red porgy and other less dominant forms in the management units for which data are lacking.

(2) Contributions to the development of annual age-length keys and description of age structures for exploited populations for all species in the complex addressed in the Reef Fish Management Plans for the Gulf and South Atlantic, prioritized by importance in the total catch.

(3) Design of sampling systems to provide a production-style aging program for the reef fish fishery. Effective dockside sampling programs are needed over a wide geographic range, especially for groupers, to collect information on reproductive state, size, age, and sex. These research needs are discussed in the report of the workshop on grouper reproduction held in Panama City, FL, in November 1993.

b. Reproduction studies of reef fish.

(1) Maturity schedules, fecundity and sex ratios of commercially and recreationally important reef fish, especially gray triggerfish, gag, and red porgy in the Gulf and South Atlantic.

(2) Studies of all species to characterize the actual reproductive contribution of females, by age.

(3) Identification and characterization of spawning aggregations by species, area, size group and season. Information on the effects of fishing on changes of sex ratios for gag, red grouper, and scamp, and disruption of aggregations is especially needed.

(4) Investigations of the reproductive biology of gag, red grouper and other grouper species as addressed in the recommendations of the workshop on grouper reproduction held in Panama City, FL, in November 1993.

c. Recruitment of reef fish.

(1) Source of recruitment in Gulf and South Atlantic waters, especially for snappers, groupers and amberjacks.

(2) Annual estimation of the absolute or relative recruitment of juvenile gag, gray snapper and lane snapper to estuarine habitats off the west coast of Florida and to similar estuarine nursery habitats along the South Atlantic Bight; development of an index of juvenile gag recruitment for the South Atlantic based on historical databases and/or field studies.

(3) Research to evaluate the contribution of live-bottom habitat and the habitat areas of particular concern (*Oculina* banks) off Fort Pierce, FL, to reef fish recruitment.

d. Stock structure of reef fish.

(1) Movement and migration patterns of commercially and recreationally valuable reef fish species, especially gag in the Gulf and South Atlantic and greater amberjack between the South Atlantic and Gulf.

(2) Biochemical/immunological techniques to allow field separation of lesser amberjack, almaco jack, and banded rudderfish from greater amberjack to facilitate accurate reporting of catch.

(3) Stock structure for wreckfish in the South Atlantic, and for greater amberjack in the Gulf and South Atlantic.

2. Population assessment of reef fish.

a. Effect of reproductive mode and sex change (protogynous hermaphroditism) on population size and characteristics, with reference to sizes of fish exploited in the fisheries and the significance to proper management.

b. Source and quantification of natural and human-induced mortalities, including release mortality estimates for charter, headboat and private recreational vessels, especially for red snapper and the grouper complex.

c. Determination of the habitat and limiting factors for important reef fish resources in the Gulf and South Atlantic.

d. Description of habitat and fish populations in the deep reef community and the prey distributions supporting the community.

e. Development of statistically valid indices of abundance for important reef fish species in the South Atlantic and Gulf, especially red grouper, jewfish and Nassau grouper.

f. Assessment of tag performance on reef fish species, primarily snappers and groupers. Characteristics examined should include shedding rate, effects on growth and survival, and ultimately, the effects of these characteristics on estimations of vital population parameters.

g. Stock assessments to establish the status of major recreational and commercial species. Innovative methods are needed for stock assessments of aggregate species, including the effect of fishing on genetic structure and the incorporation of sex change for protogynous hermaphrodites into stock assessment models.

h. Fishery-independent assessments of spawning aggregations of gag, scamp, yellowedge and other groupers, using hydroacoustic and underwater video technology.

i. Assessment of Florida Bay recovery actions on reef fish recruitment and survival.

3. Management of reef fish.

a. Research in direct support of management, including catch-and-release mortalities, by gear and depth.

b. Evaluation of the use of reef fish marine reserves as an alternative or supplement to current fishery management measures and practices, especially in the South Atlantic. Field studies should focus on the Experimental Oculina Reef Reserve and Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary sites and contrast these with control open sites.

c. Characterization and evaluation of the biological, economic, and social impacts.

d. Evaluation of vessel logs and log data for monitoring the fishery; for providing biological, economic, and social information for management; and matching log data to Trip Information Program samples for indices of effort.

C. Sharks.

The Secretarial fishery management plan (FMP) for sharks identifies a number of research needs, including:

1. Characterization of the commercial and recreational fisheries from historical and current databases. Emphasis should be on species composition, bycatch, stock identification, size, sex ratios and catch-per-unit-effort by season, area, and gear type.

2. Collection and analysis of basic biological data on movements, habitats, growth rates, mortality rates, age structure and reproduction parameters. These data are of particular importance for blacktip and sandbar sharks.

3. Determination of baseline cost and returns for commercial fisheries that land sharks, and estimations of demand curves for shark products and recreational shark fisheries.

4. Development of species profiles and stock assessments for sharks taken in significant quantities by commercial, recreational, and bycatch fisheries. Assessments can be species-specific or for species groups, following those identified in the Atlantic Sharks FMP.

5. Identification of coastal sharks using laboratory methodologies.

6. Identification of nursery area and methods to protect young sharks.

7. Evaluation of present regulations and improvement of methods to determine landings.

D. Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fisheries.

The commercial and recreational demand for migratory coastal pelagics has led to overfishing for certain species, including some stocks of king and Spanish mackerel. Additionally, some are transboundary with Mexico and other countries and may ultimately demand international management

attention. Current high priorities include:

1. Recruitment indices for king and Spanish mackerel, cobia, dolphin, and bluefish, primarily from fishery-independent data sources.

2. Assessment and management models for coastal pelagic resources that are dominated by single year classes, such as Spanish mackerel, dolphin, and bluefish.

3. Fishery-independent methods of assessing stock abundance of king and Spanish mackerel.

4. Release mortality data for all coastal pelagic species.

5. Improved catch statistics for all species in Mexican waters, with special emphasis on king mackerel. This includes length-frequency and life history information.

6. Information on populations of coastal pelagics overwintering off Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, especially concerning population size, age and movement patterns.

7. Development of a practical method for aging dolphin.

8. Basic biostatistics for cobia and dolphin to develop age-length keys and maturation schedules for stock assessments.

9. Impact of bag limits on total catch and landings of king and Spanish mackerel.

10. Demand and supply functions for recreational and commercial king mackerel fisheries. Emphasis should be on changes in marginal values of producer and consumer surplus, since the studies would be used in allocation frameworks where total values are not necessarily required.

11. Determination of the stock structure of king mackerel from South Atlantic and Gulf waters.

12. Sociological and anthropological surveys of coastal pelagic fisheries.

13. Economic surveys of coastal pelagic fisheries.

E. Highly Migratory Pelagic Species.

A number of pelagic fisheries exist in the Gulf and South Atlantic that target highly migratory species such as tunas, sharks, and swordfish. Changes in the temporal and spatial components of fishing effort, and fishing gear and tactics need to be characterized and the effects quantified. Priority areas include:

1. Characterization of specific longline fisheries, including targeted species, stock identification, catch-per-unit-effort, and biological parameters (e.g., sex ratios and reproductive state) by gear type, area and season.

2. Evaluation of vessel log data for monitoring the fisheries.

3. Dependence of vessels and persons engaged in pelagic longlining on other fisheries. Particular emphasis should be placed on the extent to which the capital and/or labor engages in other fisheries at particular times of the year and reasons for this switching behavior.

F. Groundfish and Estuarine Fishes.

Substantial stocks of groundfish and estuarine species occur in the Gulf and South Atlantic. Most of the database for assessments comes from studies conducted by NMFS and state fishery management agencies. Because of the historic and current size of these fish stocks, their importance as predator and prey species, and their current or potential use as commercial and recreational fisheries, more information on their biology and life history is needed. General research needs are:

1. Red drum.
 - a. Size and age-structure of the offshore adult stock in the Gulf.
 - b. Life history parameters and stock structure for the Gulf and the South Atlantic. Research should include determination of migratory patterns, long-term changes in abundance, growth rates and age structure. Specific research needs for Atlantic red drum are fecundity estimates, as a function of length and weight, and improved coastwide coverage for age-length keys.
 - c. Catch-and-release mortality rates from inshore and nearshore waters.
2. Life history and stock structure for weakfish, menhaden, spot and croaker in the Gulf and the South Atlantic. Research should include determination of migratory patterns, long-term changes in abundance, growth rates and age structure, and comparisons of the inshore and offshore components of recreational and commercial fisheries.
3. Improved catch and effort statistics from recreational and commercial fisheries, including development of age-length keys for size and age structure of the catch, to develop production models.

G. Coastal Herrings.

Preliminary studies indicate that substantial stocks of coastal herrings occur in the Gulf and South Atlantic. Most of the available data are generated from fishery-independent surveys conducted by NMFS and state fishery management agencies. Because of the size of these stocks; their importance as prey, and in some instances, as predator species; their potential for development as commercial and recreational fisheries needs to be understood. General research needs include:

1. Collection, collation, and analysis of available fishery-independent and

fishery-dependent data from state and Federal surveys, with emphasis on species and size composition, seasonal distribution patterns, biomass, bycatch, and environmental relationships.

2. Description and quantification of predator-prey relationships between coastal herring species and carnivores such as mackerels, tunas, swordfish, billfish, sharks, bluefish, and others in high demand by commercial and recreational fisheries.

H. Crabs and Lobsters.

1. Monitoring of fecundity and sex/size frequencies for examination of spawning potential in relation to overfishing criteria for stone crab and spiny lobster.

2. Development of recruitment, population assessment and management models for stone crab and spiny lobster.

3. Determination of the relationship between the reproductive cycle characteristics of spiny lobster in Florida and those in the Gulf.

4. Re-evaluation of spiny lobster short mortality to determine changes since effort restrictions were implemented.

5. Estimation of stone crab regenerated claw production versus new recruits to the fishery from landings observations.

6. Evaluation of spiny lobster catches from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

I. Sea Turtle Conservation.

The conservation of endangered and threatened sea turtles in the Southeast Region requires further investigation into life history parameters and ecological requirements. The interaction of sea turtles, fishing gear (excluder devices) and inshore/offshore fisheries also needs further refinement.

J. General.

There are many other areas of research that need to be addressed for improved understanding and management of fishery resources. These include methods for data collection, management, analysis, and better conservation. Examples of high-priority research needs include:

1. Assessment of the changes in recreational and commercial values that have resulted from past management practices for red drum, shrimp, mackerel, and reef fish.

2. Development of improved methods and procedures for transferring technology and educating of constituency groups concerning fishery management and conservation programs. Of special importance are programs concerned with controlled

access and introduction of conservation gear.

3. Compilation of baseline socio-demographic data for describing the social and cultural framework of managed fisheries.

4. Design and evaluation of innovative approaches to fishery management with special attention given to those approaches that control access to specific fisheries.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 713C-3(d)

Dated: February 2, 1995.

Gary Matlock,

Program Management Officer, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 95-3331 Filed 2-9-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List Addition

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

ACTION: Addition to the Procurement List.

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 13, 1995.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 16, 1994, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notice (59 F.R. 65026) of proposed addition to the Procurement List. Comments were received from the current contractor for this service in response to a request for sales data. The contractor indicated that addition of the service to the Procurement List would have a severe financial impact on the company and would cause the displacement of several workers.

The Committee has been informed that if the Committee did not add this service to the Procurement List, the Government contracting activity intended to set it aside for performance by a small disadvantaged business under the Small Business Administration's 8(a) program. The