

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

[I.D. 022701A]

**Submission for OMB Review;  
Comment Request**

The Department of Commerce has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

*Agency:* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

*Title:* Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*OMB Approval Number:* None.

*Type of Request:* Emergency.

*Burden Hours:* 725.

*Number of Respondents:* 400.

*Average Hours Per Response:* 5 hours for an application, 45 minutes for a recommendation.

*Needs and Uses:* The Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program recognizes outstanding scholarship by providing financial support to graduate students pursuing masters and doctoral degrees in the areas of marine biology, oceanography, and maritime archaeology. Applicants must submit documentation that NOAA uses to select candidates, including three letters of recommendation.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Require to obtain or retain a benefit.

*OMB Desk Officer:* David Rostker, (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3129, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at MClayton@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: February 23, 2001.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration**

[Docket No. 000411102-1045-03; I.D. 122800E]

RIN 0648-ZA85

**Financial Assistance for Community-  
based Habitat Restoration Projects**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.  
**ACTION:** Notice of availability of funds.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this document is to invite the public to submit proposals for available funding to implement grass-roots habitat restoration projects that will benefit living marine resources, including anadromous fish, under the NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program (CRP or Program). This document describes the conditions under which applications (project proposals) will be accepted under the CRP, and describes criteria under which applications will be evaluated for funding consideration. Projects funded through the CRP will be expected to have strong on-the-ground habitat restoration components that provide educational and social benefits for people and their communities in addition to long-term ecological habitat improvements for NOAA trust resources. Proposals selected for funding through this solicitation will be implemented through a project grant, cooperative agreement, or interagency transfer.

**DATES:** Applications for funding under the CRP will be accepted upon publication of this document in the Federal Register and must be received by or postmarked by May 1, 2001. Applications postmarked after that time will not be considered for funding. Applications submitted via the U.S. Postal Service must have an official postmark; private metered postmarks are not acceptable. Applications delivered by a delivery service after the postmark date will be accepted for review if the applicant can document that the application was provided to the delivery service on or prior to the specified postmark cut-off date. No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted.

**ADDRESSES:** Send applications to James P. Burgess, Director, NOAA Restoration Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway (F/HC3), Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282; ATTN: CRP Project Applications.

See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section under Electronic Access for additional information on the Program and for application form information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christopher D. Doley or Robin J. Bruckner, (301) 713-0174, or by e-mail at Chris.Doley@noaa.gov or Robin.Bruckner@noaa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Program Description**

The CRP, a financial and technical Federal assistance program, promotes strong partnerships at the national, regional and local level to fund grass-roots, community-based activities that restore living marine resources and their habitats and promote stewardship and a conservation ethic for NOAA trust resources. NOAA trust resources are living marine resources that include commercial and recreational fishery resources (marine fish and shellfish and their habitats); anadromous species (fish, such as salmon and striped bass, that spawn in freshwater and then migrate to the sea); endangered and threatened marine species and their habitats; marine mammals, turtles, and their habitats; marshes, mangroves, seagrass beds, coral reefs, and other coastal habitats; and resources associated with National Marine Sanctuaries and National Estuarine Research Reserves.

The CRP's objective is to bring together citizen groups, public and nonprofit organizations, watershed groups, industry, corporations and businesses, youth conservation corps, students, landowners, and local government, state, and Federal agencies to cooperatively implement habitat restoration projects. Partnerships developed at national, regional and local levels contribute funding, land, technical assistance, workforce support or other in-kind services to promote citizen participation in the improvement of locally-important living marine resources, as well as develop local stewardship and monitoring activities to sustain and evaluate the success of the restoration.

The CRP recognizes the significant role that communities can play in habitat restoration, and acknowledges that habitat restoration is often best implemented through technical and monetary support provided at a community level. Community-based restoration projects supported by the CRP are successful because they have significant local backing, depend upon citizens hands-on involvement, and typically involve NOAA technical assistance or oversight. The role of