

use of Standards Forms 424B and SF-LLL has been approved by OMB under the respective control numbers 0348-0040 and 0348-0046. The use of Form NIST-1262 (pp.1-4) and Form NIST-1263 (pp.1-5) has been approved by OMB under the control number 0693-0009. The use of Commerce Department Form CD-346 has been approved by OMB under the control number 0605-0001. 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 PRA, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

(l) *Executive Order Statement.* This funding notice was determined to be "not significant" for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

(m) ATP is not accepting pre-proposals during fiscal year 2002.

(n) 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), are applicable to this solicitation. However, please note that the Department of Commerce will not implement the requirements of Executive Order 13202 (66 FR 49921), pursuant to guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget in light of a court opinion which found that the Executive Order was not legally authorized. *See Building and Construction Trades Department v. Allbaugh*, 172 F. Supp. 138 (D.D.C. 2001). This decision is currently on appeal. When the case has been finally resolved, the Department will provide further information on implementation of Executive Order 13202.

(o) The Program will retain one copy of each unsuccessful application for recordkeeping purposes. The remaining copies will be destroyed.

(p) NIST requires each recipient, whether receiving Federal funds or only providing matching funds, to have a functioning financial management system that meets the provisions of 15 CFR 14.21, to ensure proper accountability of funds. In cases where a recipient has had no prior Federal support or NIST has reason to question whether the recipient's financial management standards meet Federal requirements, the recipient will be required to submit an accounting system certification issued by an Independent Certified Public Accountant to the NIST Grants Officer within 90 days from the date of award.

(q) *Classification.* Because notice and comment are not required under 5

U.S.C. 553(a)(2), or any other law, for notices relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts, a Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, is not required and has not been prepared for this notice.

Public Meeting

A public meeting (Proposers' Conference) for potential proposers and other interested parties will be held:

- 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Thursday, May 2, 2002. Gaithersburg Hilton, 620 Perry Parkway, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877. Telephone: (301) 977-8900. Facsimile: (301) 977-3450.

The meeting will provide general information regarding the ATP, tips on preparing good proposals, and an opportunity for audience questions. Attendance at this public meeting is not required. No registration fee will be charged. To register for the public meeting or for further information, contact ATP at 1-800-ATP-FUND (1-800-287-3863), or register via the NIST Web site: www.atp.nist.gov/atp/reg_form.htm.

Dated: April 17, 2002.

Arden L. Bement,

Director

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041002C]

Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001)

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

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The NMFS announces the availability of the Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001). The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA) requires the Secretary of Commerce to develop, triennially, a strategic plan for fisheries research for the subsequent 5 years.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the NMFS Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001) should be directed to Mark Chandler, Research, Analysis, and Coordination Division, Office of Science and Technology, NMFS, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Phone: (301) 713-2363. Fax:

(301) 713-1875. This document may be viewed in its entirety at <http://www.st.nmfs.gov/st2/index.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Mark Chandler at 301-713-2363 ext. 152.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 404 of the MSFCMA requires the Secretary of Commerce to publish in the **Federal Register** a strategic plan for fisheries research for the 5 years immediately following its publication. The MSFCMA requires that the plan address four major areas of research: (1) Research to support fishery conservation and management; (2) conservation engineering research; (3) research on the fisheries; and (4) information management research. The MSFCMA specifies that the plan shall contain a limited number of priority objectives for each of these research areas; indicate goals and timetables; provide a role for commercial fishermen in such research; provide for collection and dissemination of complete and accurate information concerning fishing activities; and be developed in cooperation with the Councils and affected states.

In 1997, the NOAA Fisheries Strategic Plan (FSP) was published. The FSP was developed in a comprehensive manner, with significant public involvement, including 16 public meetings. The following year, NMFS released the Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (1998). Both the original (1998) and the updated (2001) Strategic Plans for Fisheries Research are based upon and entirely consistent with the FSP. Many of the objectives found under the "Major Fishery Research Objectives and Goals" section of the subject document can be matched with those in the FSP.

The scope of the NMFS Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research (2001) is solely fisheries research to support the MSFCMA. It does not include the regulatory and enforcement components of the NMFS' mission. The NMFS currently conducts a comprehensive program of fisheries research and involves industry and others interested in fisheries in planning and implementing its objectives.

Dated: April 11, 2002.

William Fox, Jr.,

Director, Office of Science and Technology, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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