

g. Supervision of the Recipient's Researchers on the NIST Site: The Recipient shall control the means and manner of its researcher(s)' activities, including research conducted on the NIST campus. The Recipient shall provide a salary, stipend, or other funding to the researcher(s), and shall establish the researcher(s)' work schedule and tenure. The Recipient is the supervisor of record for the researcher(s), and shall coordinate with NIST as needed to ensure that the research remains consistent with NIST program objectives. Staff and affiliates of the Recipient conducting research on a NIST site shall sign and abide by the terms of the NIST Guest Researcher Agreement.

NIST shall collaborate on the research as described in a Special Award Condition, titled NIST Participation, (that will change accordingly per award), and shall coordinate with the Recipient as needed regarding progress on the research. NIST shall have no firing or other terminating authority over the employment or affiliation status of the Recipient's researcher(s). Any issues related to performance or conduct in the laboratory involving researcher(s) shall be immediately reported to the Recipient. Any suspension or termination action on this award will comply with 15 CFR 14.60-.62 and the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions, B.02 and B.05.

h. The Recipient shall comply with the requirements found in the Notice of Funding Availability published in the **Federal Register** and incorporated by reference into this award.

i. NIST Implementation of Department of Commerce, Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions, Dated October 2001, Section A.02, Award Payments.

(1) The advance method of payment shall be authorized unless otherwise specified in a special award condition.

(2) Payments will be made through electronic funds transfers, using the Department of Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payment (ASAP) system, and in accordance with the requirements of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996. The following information is required when making withdrawals for this award (1) ASAP account identification (id) = award number found on the cover sheet of this award; (2) Agency Location Code (ALC) = 13060001; and (3) Region Code = 01. Recipients do not need to submit a "Request for Advance or Reimbursement" (SF-270) for payments relating to this award. If you are not enrolled as an ASAP Recipient

Organization you must complete the enrollment process with your Federal Reserve Bank, Regional Finance Center. Enrollment applications and information can be found at <http://www.fms.treas.gov/asap/handbook.html>. If you need a paper copy of the enrollment documentation please contact the Grant Specialist responsible for this award.

(3) Advances taken through the ASAP shall be limited to the minimum amounts necessary to meet immediate disbursement needs. Advanced funds not disbursed in a timely manner must be promptly returned, via an ASAP credit, to the account from which the advanced funding was withdrawn. Advances shall be for periods not to exceed 30 days.

(4) This award has the following control or withdraw limits set in ASAP:

_____ None
 _____ Agency Review required for all withdrawals (see explanation below)
 _____ Agency Review required for all withdrawal requests over \$ _____ (see explanation below)
 _____ Maximum Draw Amount controls (see explanation below)
 \$ _____ each month
 \$ _____ each quarter
 \$ _____ each year

3. Reporting

a. The Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions dated October, 2001 provides policy guidelines for recipients. Financial and Programmatic Reporting Requirements for grants and cooperative agreements are outlined below. Please see the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions dated October, 2001 which can be found on the Internet at <http://www.osec.doc.gov/oebam/standards.htm>.

b. Financial Requirements—Financial Reports

1. The Recipient shall submit a "Financial Status Report" (SF-269) on a semi-annual basis for the periods ending March 31 and September 30, or any portion thereof, unless otherwise specified in a special award condition. Reports are due no later than 30 days following the end of each reporting period. A final SF-269 shall be submitted within 90 days after the expiration date of the award.

2. The Recipient shall submit a "Federal Cash Transactions Report" (SF-272) for each award where funds are advanced to Recipients. The SF-272 should be submitted on a quarterly basis for periods ending March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31. The

SF-272 is due 15 working days following the end of each reporting period unless otherwise specified in a special award condition.

3. All financial reports shall be submitted in triplicate (one original and two copies) to the Grants Officer.

c. Programmatic Requirements—Performance (Technical) Reports

1. For SURF Gaithersburg and Boulder Programs—Deviation to the DoC, Standard Term and Condition B.01, entitled, "Performance (Technical) Reports."

The technical abstract prepared by the student at the end of the SURF program shall constitute and fulfill the requirement for a final technical report. The abstract is the only required report that shall be submitted by the recipient. In addition, the Recipient must submit a SF-269 at the end of the program.

Dated: January 12, 2004.

Arden L. Bement, Jr.,
 Director, NIST.

[FR Doc. 04-975 Filed 1-15-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-33-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 020418091-3272-02]

Ballast Water Technology Demonstration Program: Request for Proposals for Fiscal Year 2004

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

ACTION: Notice of request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD), publishes this notice to solicit proposals to conduct ballast water treatment technology testing and demonstration projects. The Ballast Water Technology Demonstration Program supports projects to develop, test, and demonstrate technologies that treat ships' ballast water in order to reduce the threat of introduction of aquatic invasive species to U.S. waters through the discharge of ballast water. The technologies being proposed for investigation should have promise of being effective at removing, inactivating, or preventing the transfer of aquatic organisms in the ballast water, should be practicable from the standpoint of ship operations, safety, environmental protection, and the ability to meet all

regulatory requirements, and should have the potential to be developed into commercially viable product.

DATES: Preliminary proposals must be received by 5 p.m. e.s.t. February 13, 2004. Full proposals must be received by 5 p.m. e.s.t. on February 17, 2004. Only those who submit preliminary proposals by the preliminary proposal deadline are eligible to submit full proposals.

ADDRESSES: Proposals must be submitted to: National Sea Grant College Program, R/SG, Attn: Ballast Water Competition, Room 11841, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Phone number for express mail applications is 301-713-2435.

Electronic Access: The full funding announcement is available via the Ballast Water Program Web site noted below or NOAA's grant opportunities Web site: <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/~amd/SOLINDEX.HTML> or through the FedGrants Web site: <http://www.fedgrants.gov> or by contacting the program officials identified above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Information Contact(s): Dorn Carlson at the above address, 301-713-2435; via Internet at Dorn.Carlson@noaa.gov; or Pamela Thibodeaux, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 703-358-2493; via Internet at Pamela.Thibodeaux@fws.gov; or Deborah Aheron, U.S. Maritime Administration, 202-366-8887; via Internet at Deborah.Aheron@marad.dot.gov. Further information can be obtained from the above information contacts, or on the Ballast Water Program Web site: <http://www.nsgo.seagrant.org/research/nonindigenous/ballast>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NOAA published an omnibus notice announcing the availability of grant funds for both projects and fellowships/scholarships/internships for Fiscal Year 2004 in the **Federal Register** on June 30, 2003 (68 FR 38678). That notice indicated that additional program initiatives, such as the Ballast Water Technology Demonstration Program, might be announced in subsequent **Federal Register** notices. The evaluation criteria and selection factors for projects contained in the June 30, 2003, Omnibus notice are applicable to this solicitation. For a copy of the June 30, 2003, omnibus notice, please go to: <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/amd/~SOLINDEX.HTML>.

Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 4701 *et seq.*; 33 U.S.C. 1121-1131; 46 U.S.C. App 1211 (2000); 50 U.S.C. App 1744 (2000).

CFDA: 11.417, Sea Grant Support; 15.FFA Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance

Program Description

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), and the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) expect to entertain proposals to conduct ballast water treatment technology testing and demonstration projects. The Ballast Water Technology Demonstration Program supports projects to develop, test, and demonstrate technologies that treat ships' ballast water in order to reduce the threat of introduction of aquatic invasive species to U.S. waters through the discharge of ballast water. The technologies being proposed for investigation should have promise of being effective at removing, inactivating, or preventing the transfer of aquatic organisms in the ballast water, should be practicable from the standpoint of ship operations, safety, environmental protection, and the ability to meet all regulatory requirements, and should have the potential to be developed into commercially viable product. Technology demonstration proposals must include a long-term development plan that outlines how the technology will be developed from its current state into an effective, commercially viable ballast water treatment system, and how the proposed project is an essential part of this development.

Funding Availability

Depending on 2004 appropriations, NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service expect to make available up to about \$2 million in FY 2004, and MARAD expects to make available several vessels for use as test platforms, to support ballast water treatment technology demonstration projects. The maximum amount of award will vary with the scale of the proposed project. Anticipated maximum awards for laboratory-scale experiments will be \$200,000; for full-scale demonstration projects, \$400,000. If \$2 million is made available, approximately 10 grants with a median value of about \$160,000 are anticipated to be awarded. Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

Eligibility

Individuals, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, commercial organizations, Federal, State, local and Indian tribal governments, foreign governments, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, and international organizations are eligible. Only those

who submit preliminary proposals by the preliminary proposal deadline are eligible to submit full proposals.

Proposal Review and Selection Process for Projects

An initial administrative review is conducted at both the preliminary and full proposal stages to determine compliance with requirements and completeness of the application. This program includes a pre-application process that provides an initial review and feedback to the applicants. Preliminary proposals will not be subjected to a selection process. They will be used to assess the nature of full applications to be expected, to select appropriate technical reviewers for full applications, and to develop technical and formatting guidance that will be supplied to all applicants who submitted preliminary applications, to assist them in writing their full applications. All those (and only those) who submitted preliminary proposals meeting the deadline and other requirements of this notice are eligible to submit full proposals.

Full proposals are subject to merit review which is conducted by mail reviewers and/or peer panels consisting of government, academic, and industry experts. Each reviewer will individually evaluate and rank proposals using the evaluation criteria. There will be no consensus advice given by the mail reviewers or review panel. A minimum of three merit reviewers will review each proposal. The merit reviewers' ratings are used to produce a rank order of the proposals. Their recommendations and evaluations will be considered by the Federal Program Officers for NOAA, the Service, and MARAD who will award in rank order of the merit review ratings unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based upon the appropriate selection factors.

Federal Program Officers from NOAA, the Service, and MARAD will make the final recommendations concerning proposals for funding and will work together to reach decisions, but the final responsibility for making decisions regarding disposition of funds and other resources rests with the agency that is providing that resource. Applicants may be asked to respond to questions or modify objectives, work plans, or budgets prior to final approval of the award. Subsequent grant administration procedures will be in accordance with current DOC or DOI grants procedures. Grants officers from each of the respective agencies are the officials authorized to make awards and obligate funds.

Intergovernmental Review

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

Limitation of Liability

Funding for the program listed in this notice is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2004 appropriations. NOAA issues this notice subject to the appropriations made available under the current continuing resolution, H.J. Res. 69, "Making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes," Public Law 108-84, as amended by H.J. Res. 75, Public Law 108-104, H.J. Res. 76, Public Law 108-107, and H.J. Res. 79, Public Law 108-135. NOAA, the Service, and MARAD anticipate making awards for the program listed in this notice provided that funding for the program is continued beyond January 31, 2004, the expiration of the current continuing resolution. In no event will NOAA, the Service, or MARAD be responsible for proposal preparation costs if this program fails to receive funding or is cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA, the Service, or MARAD to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

Universal Identifier

Applicants should be aware that, for programs that have deadline dates on or after October 1, 2003, they will be required to provide a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number during the application process. See the June 27, 2003 (68 FR 38402) **Federal Register** notice for additional information. Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711 or via the Internet (<http://www.dunandbradstreet.com>).

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 the awards made by NOAA.

Paperwork Reduction Act

Applications involve collection-of-information requirements subject to the

Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). The use of Standard Forms 424 and 424A, 424B, SF-LLL, and CD-346 has been approved by OMB under the respective control numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040, 0348-0046, and 0605-0001. 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 comment are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act or any other law for rules concerning public property, loans, 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: January 12, 2004.

Louisa Koch,

Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 04-950 Filed 1-15-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-KA-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 011204B]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its

advisory committees will hold public meetings.

DATES: The meetings will be held from February 2 through February 10, 2004. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 500 W 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, AK.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Council staff, Phone: 907-271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council's Advisory Panel will begin at 8 a.m., Monday, February 2, and continue through Saturday, February 7, 2004. The Scientific and Statistical Committee will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, February 2, and continue through Wednesday, February 4, 2004.

The Council will begin its plenary session at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, February 4 continuing through Tuesday February 10. All meetings are open to the public except executive sessions. The Enforcement Committee will meet Tuesday, February 3, at 4:30 pm in the Aleutian Room.

Council Plenary Session: The agenda for the Council's plenary session will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

1. Reports

- (a) Executive Director's Report
- (b) NMFS Report
- (c) United States Coast Guard Report
- (d) Alaska Department Fish & Game

Reports

- (e) United States Fish & Wildlife Report
- (f) International Pacific Halibut Commission Report

2. Gulf of Alaska Rationalization (GOA): (a) Receive Board of Fisheries Workgroup Report; (b) Review and refine alternatives and options; (c) Review GOA salmon/crab bycatch discussion paper.

3. Observer Program: (a) Program overview (Alaska Fishery Science Center); (b) Receive progress report on Program Restructuring Analysis.

4. Improved Retention/Improved Utilization (IR/IU): (a) Receive update on Amendment 79; (b) Review Progress report on Amendments 80a and 80b.

5. Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC): Receive report on proposals received.

6. Crab Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): Initial review and release for public comment.

7. Congressional legislative (T): Discuss and provide direction on