

Aleutian Islands (BSAI) king and Tanner crab fisheries through June 3, 2005, consistent with the regulations implementing the program. Any applications received by NMFS after this date will be considered untimely and will be denied.

DATES: Applications to receive QS and PQS under the Crab Rationalization Program will be accepted by NMFS from April 4, 2005, through 5 p.m. Alaska local time (A.l.t) on June 3, 2005.

ADDRESSES: An application to receive crab QS or PQS may be submitted by mail to NMFS, Alaska Region, Restricted Access Management, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802, by facsimile (907-586-7354), or by hand delivery to the NMFS, 709 West 9th Street, room 713, Juneau, AK.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS published a final rule implementing the Crab Rationalization Program (Program) as authorized under Amendments 18 and 19 to the Fishery Management Plan for Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crabs March 2, 2005 (70 FR 10173).

Section 680.20(f)(1)(iii) of the final rule notes that NMFS will specify the application period for crab QS and PQS in the **Federal Register** and any applications received after this date will be considered untimely and denied. This notice specifies a 60-day application period. This 60-day application period was referenced in the proposed rule published on October 29, 2004, to implement the Program (69 FR 63223). This 60-day application period is consistent with the intent of the final rule to provide adequate time for participants in the crab fisheries to review the final rule and prepare materials necessary for the application process specified in § 680.40(f)(2). This application period will provide NMFS with sufficient time to process applications and issue QS and PQS for crab fisheries occurring later in 2005.

Applications to receive QS or PQS may be received by contacting NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**) or by downloading at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov>.

Dated: March 2, 2005.

Alan D. Risenhoover

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 050301050-5050-01]

Proposed NOAA Policy and Process for Creating and Managing Cooperative Institutes

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

ACTION: Notice and request for public comments.

SUMMARY: NOAA publishes this notice to announce the availability of a Proposed NOAA Policy and Process for Creating and Managing Cooperative Institutes for public comment.

DATES: Comments on this draft document must be submitted by April 4, 2005.

ADDRESSES: The Proposed NOAA Policy and Process for Creating and Managing Cooperative Institutes is available at <ftp://www.oarhq.noaa.gov/coopinst.pdf>.

The public is encouraged to submit comments on the Proposed NOAA Policy and Process for Creating and Managing Cooperative Institutes Draft electronically to coop.inst@noaa.gov. For commenters who do not have access to a computer, comments on documents may be submitted in writing to Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, c/o Dr. John Cortinas, Office of Scientific Support, 1315 East-West Highway, R/OSSX5, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. John Cortinas, Office of Scientific Support, OAR, 1315 East West Highway, R/OSSX5, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, Phone (301) 713-2465, ext. 206.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Proposed NOAA Policy and Process for Creating and Managing Cooperative Institutes is being developed in response to a January 2004 recommendation from the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB). The SAB recommended that NOAA develop a NOAA-wide process by which cooperative institutes and other cooperative arrangements with extramural partners are established and maintained. A copy of the SAB report is available at http://www.sab.noaa.gov/Reports/RRT_Report_080604.pdf.

The Proposed NOAA Policy and Process for Creating and Managing Cooperative Institutes defines the policy and process for establishing and managing all new NOAA cooperative institutes. This proposed policy

includes guidelines for the review process, renewal process, and sunset clauses. Upon adoption of a final policy document, NOAA will evaluate all current cooperative institutes and create a plan to transition them to the new cooperative institute policy and process.

The Proposed NOAA Policy and Process for Creating and Managing Cooperative Institutes is being issued for comment only and is not intended for interim use. Suggested changes will be incorporated, where appropriate, in the final version. Upon adoption of the final policy and process, NOAA will issue a NOAA Administrative Order to institute the policy.

NOAA welcomes all comments on the content of the document. We also request comments on any inconsistencies perceived within the document, and possible omissions of important topics or issues. For any shortcoming noted within the draft document, please propose specific remedies.

Please adhere to the instructions detailed herein for preparing and submitting your comments. Using the format guidance described below will facilitate the consideration of all reviewer comments. Please provide background information about yourself on the first page of your comments: Your name(s), organization(s), and area of expertise, mailing address(es), and telephone and fax number, e-mail address(es). Overview comments should follow your background information and should be numbered. Comments that are specific to particular pages and paragraphs should follow any overview comments and should identify the page numbers to which they apply. Please number and print identifying information at the top of all pages.

Dated: March 2, 2005.

Louisa Koch,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Estuarine Research Reserve System

AGENCY: Estuarine Reserves Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.