

Sanctuary Program strongly encourages applicants to share as much of the costs of the award as possible. Funds from other Federal awards may not be considered matching funds. The nature of the contribution (cash versus in-kind) and the amount of matching funds will be taken into consideration in the review process.

#### Intergovernmental Review

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

#### Proposal Review and Selection Process for Projects

NOAA published its agency-wide solicitation entitled "Omnibus Notice Announcing the Availability of Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2006" for projects for Fiscal Year 2006 in the **Federal Register** on June 30, 2005 (70 FR 37766). The evaluation and selection criteria and procedures for projects contained in that omnibus notice are applicable to this notice. Copies of this notice are available on the Internet at <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/%7Eamd/SOLINDEX.HTML>. Further details on evaluation and selection criteria and procedures applicable to this notice can be found in the full funding opportunity announcement. Applicants must comply with all requirements contained in the full funding opportunity announcement.

#### National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for applicant projects or proposals that are seeking NOAA Federal funding opportunities. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA website: <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/>, including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA, <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216-6-TOC.pdf>, and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, [http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/toc\\_ceq.htm](http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/toc_ceq.htm). Consequently, as part of an applicant's package and under the description of his or her program activities, an applicant is required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non-indigenous species, impacts to

endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to coral reef systems). In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in the drafting of an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impact of their proposal. The failure to do so shall be grounds for not selecting an application. In some cases, if additional information is required after an application is selected, funds can be withheld by the Grants Officer under a special award condition requiring the recipient to submit additional environmental compliance information sufficient to enable NOAA to make an assessment on any impact that a project may have on the environment.

#### 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 December 30, 2004 (69 FR 78389) are applicable to this solicitation.

#### Limitation of Liability

Funding for the program listed in this notice is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2007 appropriations. In no event will NOAA 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 to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

#### Paperwork Reduction Act

This document contains collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). The use of Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, SF-LLL, and CD-346 has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (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 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 comments 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: March 7, 2006.

**Mitchell A. Luxenberg,**

*Acting Chief Financial Officer, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. E6-3635 Filed 3-13-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-NK-S

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 030706C]

#### Marine Mammals; File No. 1093-1834

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

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Susan Shaw, Ph.D., Executive Director, Marine Environmental Research Institute, 55 Main Street, P.O. Box 1652, Blue Hill, ME, 04614, has applied in due form for a permit to conduct research on harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina concolor*).

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before April 13, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room

13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)427-2521; and Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978)281-9200; fax (978)281-9371.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301)427-2521, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing email comments is [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 1093-1834.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kate Swails or Tammy Adams, (301)713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant requests a 5-year permit to investigate the utility of free-ranging harbor seals as a mammalian sentinel species for coastal contamination and associated health risks for top consumers in the marine food chain. Harbor seal pups tend to accumulate high body burdens of persistent organic pollutants. The applicant proposes to capture up to 280 harbor seal pups at six locations from Maine to Massachusetts over the course of the permit. The animals would be captured using seine nets or hand held hoop nets, measured, weighed, blood sampled, blubber/skin biopsied, swabbed for fecal and nasal samples, and released. The applicant also requests authorization for the research-related mortality of up to two seals over the course of the permit.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: March 8, 2006.

**Stephen L. Leathery**,  
Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education  
Division, Office of Protected Resources,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E6-3629 Filed 3-13-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021306A]

#### Vessel Monitoring Systems; Approval of Mobile Transceiver Unit Reseller

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

**ACTION:** Notice; addition of an authorized reseller.

**SUMMARY:** This document provides notice of the addition of an authorized reseller for the previously type approved ST2500G-NMFS Mobile Transceiver Unit (MTU).

**ADDRESSES:** To obtain copies of the list of NOAA-approved Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) MTU and VMS MCSPs, or to obtain information regarding the status of VMS systems being evaluated by NOAA, write to NOAA Fisheries, Office for Law Enforcement (OLE), 8484 Georgia Avenue, Suite 415, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For current listing information contact Mark Oswell, Outreach Specialist, or for questions regarding VMS installation and status of evaluations contact Jonathan Pinkerton, National VMS Program Manager by phone: 301-427-2300 or by fax: 301-427-2055.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The reseller listed below is authorized to sell the Stellar ST2500G-NMFS MTU for use on vessels operating in fisheries that require the use of a VMS and listed within the approved sales area of this notice.

#### A. Additional Approved Reseller

METOCEAN Data Systems; 21 Thornhill Drive; Dartmouth, Nova Scotia Canada B3B 1R9. telephone (902) 468-2505, fax (902) 468-4442. For additional information METOCEAN Data Systems can be found on the Internet at [www.metocean.com](http://www.metocean.com).

#### B. Approved Sales Areas

METOCEAN Data Systems is approved to resell the Stellar ST2500G-NMFS MTU to fishers operating in the Alaska Fisheries Requiring VMS, Pacific

Coast Groundfish Fishery, South Atlantic Rock Shrimp Fishery, and the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery.

Dated: March 8, 2006.

**William T. Hogarth**,  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E6-3631 Filed 3-13-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

#### Event Planning

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on this new information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before May 15, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- E-mail: [Susan.Brown@uspto.gov](mailto:Susan.Brown@uspto.gov). Include "0651-00xx Event Planning comment" in the subject line of the message.
- Fax: 571-273-0112, marked to the attention of Susan Brown.
- Mail: Susan K. Brown, Records Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Architecture, Engineering and Technical Services, Data Architecture and Services Division, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
- Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to Elizabeth Shaw, Office of External Affairs, United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), P.O. Box 1451, Alexandria, VA 22313-1451; by telephone at 571-272-9300; or by e-mail at [elizabeth.shaw2@uspto.gov](mailto:elizabeth.shaw2@uspto.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is responsible under 35 U.S.C. 2(A)(2) for the dissemination of patent and trademark information to the public. This information can include planning for long-term goals, outreach to