

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

RIN 0648-XD71

Vessel Monitoring Systems; Announcement of the Enhanced Mobile Transmitter Unit Reimbursement Program for the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery, Open Access Sector

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the availability of grant funds for vessel owners and/or operators who have purchased an Enhanced Mobile Transmitting Unit (E-MTU) for the purpose of complying with fishery regulations requiring the use of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery, Open Access Sector. These funds will be used to reimburse vessel owners and/or operators for the purchase price of the E-MTU.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For current listing information, questions regarding VMS installation or activation checklists, contact the VMS Support Center, NOAA Fisheries Office for Law Enforcement (OLE), 8484 Georgia Avenue, Suite 415, Silver Spring, MD 20910, phone 888-219-9228, fax 301-427-0049.

For questions regarding E-MTU type approval or information regarding the status of VMS systems being evaluated by NOAA for approval, contact Jonathan Pinkerton, National VMS Program Manager, phone 301-427-2300; fax 301-427-2055.

For questions regarding reimbursement applications contact Randy Fisher, Executive Director, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), 205 SE Spokane Street, Suite 100, Portland, OR 97202, phone 503-595-3100, fax 503-595-3232.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Funding Opportunity Description**

This reimbursement opportunity is available to fishing vessel owners and/or operators that have purchased an approved E-MTU device in order to comply with fishery regulations developed in accordance with 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.* Only those vessel owners and/or operators purchasing an E-MTU for compliance with fishery

management regulations applicable to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery, Open Access Sector are eligible for this funding opportunity. The reimbursable expense is the purchase price (as defined below) of an E-MTU type-approved for the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery, Open Access Sector for which the owner and/or operator holds a valid commercial fishing license.

II. Eligibility

To be eligible to receive reimbursement vessel owners and/or operators must first purchase an E-MTU type-approved for the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery, Open Access Sector from an authorized E-MTU dealer and receive a receipt of purchase from the authorized E-MTU dealer. The vessel owner and/or operator must have the E-MTU properly installed by an authorized dealer or installer on the vessel and activated utilizing a type-approved communications provider. Upon completion of the installation and activation process, the vessel owner and/or operator must contact the VMS Support Center by calling 888-219-9228 to ensure the vessel is properly activated and registered in the VMS system. OLE does not consider a vessel in compliance with activation and registration procedures until the E-MTU signal has been received and processed by OLE.

Vessel owners and/or operators must not be in arrears with a payment owed to the Agency for a civil monetary penalty. Affected vessel owners and/or operators may become eligible for the reimbursement if the outstanding penalty is paid in full within 30 days of the denial of the reimbursement. After payment, vessel owners and/or operators must contact the VMS Support Center and provide documentation to support the defrayment of the penalty to receive a confirmation code for reimbursement purposes.

III. Process

Vessel owners and/or operators that have purchased an E-MTU, and have validated their compliance with the applicable regulations through OLE, may contact the PSMFC, 205 SE Spokane Street, Suite 100, Portland, OR 97202, phone 503-595-3100, fax 503-595-3232, for a reimbursement application. Once the application is received and completed by the vessel owner and/or operator, it must be returned to PSMFC along with proof of eligibility in order to qualify for the reimbursement. The required proof of eligibility includes proof of authorized

operation of a commercial fishing vessel in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery, Open Access Sector; purchase receipt from an authorized E-MTU dealer, purchase price of a type-approved E-MTU; and a valid compliance confirmation code issued by OLE.

Vessel owners and/or operators are not restricted as to which type-approved E-MTU device they can purchase. However, the amount of the reimbursement will be limited to the cost of the least expensive E-MTU type-approved for the fishery. Vessel owners and/or operators are encouraged to compare the features of all E-MTU devices type-approved for the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery, Open Access Sector and explore finance options prior to making a purchase decision. Vessel owners/operators are limited to the reimbursement of the cost of purchasing one E-MTU per registered vessel.

Dated: November 7, 2007.

William T. Hogarth,

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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

[Docket No.: 070817470-7647-02]

RIN 0648-ZB83

Availability of Grants Funds for Fiscal Year 2008

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: NOAA publishes this notice to change the full proposal submission deadline for the solicitation "FY 2008 Regional Integrated Ocean Observing Systems," which was originally announced in the **Federal Register** on July 2, 2007. This notice applies to all applicants who have previously submitted a letter of intent to propose.

DATES: Proposals must be submitted no later than 5 pm, Eastern Time, December 3, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Full proposal application packages should be submitted through Grants.gov APPLY. The standard NOAA funding application package is available at www.grants.gov.

If an applicant does not have Internet access, the applicant must submit through surface mail one set of originals (signed) and two copies of the proposals and related forms to the Coastal Services

Center. No e-mail or fax copies will be accepted. Any U.S. Postal Service correspondence should be sent to the attention of James Lewis Free, NOAA Coastal Services Center, 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina, 29405-2413.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For administrative issues, contact James Lewis Free at 843-740-1185 (phone) or by e-mail at James.L.Free@noaa.gov. Technical questions on the IOOS announcement should be directed to the following people: Mary Culver at 843-740-1250 (phone) or by e-mail at Mary.Culver@noaa.gov; or Geno Olmi at 843-740-1230 (phone) or by e-mail at Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NOAA publishes this notice to change the full proposal submission deadline for the solicitation "FY 2008 Regional Integrated Ocean Observing Systems" announced in the **Federal Register** on July 2, 2007 (72 FR 36263). This notice applies to all applicants who have previously submitted a letter of intent to propose. All other requirements for this solicitation remain the same.

Limitation of Liability

In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if this program 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. Applicants are hereby given notice that funding for the Fiscal Year 2008 program is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations.

Universal Identifier

Applicants should be aware they are required to provide a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number during the application process. See the October 30, 2002, **Federal Register**, (67, FR 66177) 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 at <http://www.dunandbradstreet.com>.

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 which are seeking NOAA federal funding opportunities. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with

NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA Web site: <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. Consequently, as part of an applicant's package, and under their description of their program activities, applicants are 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 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 impacts 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 impacts that a project may have on the environment.

The Department of Commerce Preaward 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 this solicitation.

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 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: November 8, 2007.

Elizabeth R. Scheffler,

Associate Assistant Administrator for Management, Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN: 0648-XD86

Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will hold a two-day meeting.

DATES: The SSC meeting will be held on November 29-30, 2007.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Pierre Hotel at Gallery Plaza, De Diego Avenue, Santurce, Puerto Rico.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caribbean Fishery Management Council,