

monitor compliance with its requirements.

## II. Method of Collection

Reports may be made by phone or fax. Information on equipment marks must be made in writing. No form is used.

## III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0311.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; State, Local, or Tribal Governments.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 52.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 30 minutes for reports on whales struck or on recovery of dead whales; 5 minutes for providing the relevant Native American whaling organization with information on the mark and self-identification information; 5 minutes for marking gear; and 5 hours for the relevant Native American whaling organization to consolidate and submit reports.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 48.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$100.

## IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 3, 2008.

### Gwellnar Banks,

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. E8-20791 Filed 9-8-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 080626787-81157-03]

RIN 0648-ZB97

### Availability of Grants Funds for Fiscal Year 2009

**AGENCY:** National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice

**SUMMARY:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service, publishes this notice on the Modeling the Causes of Hypoxia component of the Northern Gulf of Mexico program to provide clarification regarding funding availability.

**DATES:** The deadline for the receipt of proposals is 3 p.m. EST, October 20, 2008, for both electronic and paper applications.

**ADDRESSES:** The address for submitting Proposals electronically is: <http://www.grants.gov/>. (Electronic submission is strongly encouraged). Paper submissions should be sent to the attention of, Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research (N/SCI2), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1305 East-West Highway, SSMC4, 8th Floor Station 8240, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information, contact: Libby Jewett, ([libby.jewett@noaa.gov](mailto:libby.jewett@noaa.gov), 301-713-3338 x 121).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This program was originally solicited in the **Federal Register** on July 11, 2008, as part of the July 2008 NOAA Omnibus solicitation. NOAA is publishing this notice to provide clarification regarding funding availability for the Modeling the Causes of Hypoxia component of the Northern Gulf of Mexico program. Please note that funds for Modeling the Causes of Hypoxia component of the Northern Gulf of Mexico Ecosystems and Hypoxia Assessment program will not exceed \$1,000,000.00 per project per year. It is anticipated that only one project will be awarded for this program with project durations of 3 to 5 years. All other requirements for this solicitation remain the same.

### Award Notices

The notice of award is signed by the NOAA Grants Officer and is the authorizing document. It is provided by postal mail or electronically through the Grants Online system to the appropriate

business office of the recipient organization.

### Administrative and National Policy Requirements

*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 February 11, 2008 (73 FR 7696), are applicable to this solicitation.

### Limitation of Liability

In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if these programs fail to receive funding or are 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.

### 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 website: <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/>, including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA, [http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216\\_6\\_TOC.pdf](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 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

and implementing feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. The failure to do so shall be grounds for the denial of an application.

In conformance with the Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements (15 CFR 14.36), any data collected in projects supported by NCCOS/CSCOR should be delivered to a National Data Center (NDC), such as the National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC), in a format to be determined by the institution, the NDC, and the Program Officer. Information on NOAA NDCs can be found at <http://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/datainfo.html>. It is the responsibility of the institution for the delivery of these data; the DOC will not provide additional support for delivery beyond the award. Additionally, all biological cultures established, molecular probes developed, genetic sequences identified, mathematical models constructed, or other resulting information products established through support provided by NCCOS/CSCOR are encouraged to be made available to the general research community at no or modest handling charge (to be determined by the institution, Program Officer, and DOC).

#### Reporting

All performance (i.e. technical progress) reports shall be submitted electronically through the Grants Online system unless the recipient does not have internet access. In that case, performance reports are to be submitted to the NOAA program manager. All financial reports shall be submitted in the same manner.

#### Agency Contacts

*Technical Information:* Libby Jewett, Program Manager, 301-713-3338/ext 121, Internet: [libby.jewett@noaa.gov](mailto:libby.jewett@noaa.gov).

*Business Management Information:* Laurie Golden, NCCOS/CSCOR Grants Administrator, 301-713-3338/ext 151, Internet: [laurie.golden@noaa.gov](mailto:laurie.golden@noaa.gov).

#### Other Information

##### *Administrative Procedure Act*

Notice and comment are not required under the Administrative Procedure Act, (5 U.S.C. 553), or any other law, for notices relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits or contracts (5 U.S.C. 553(a)). Because notice and comment is not required, a Regulatory Flexibility Analysis is not required and has not been prepared for this notice, (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq).

##### *Paperwork Reduction Act*

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 Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number. This notification involves collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The use of Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, and SF-LLL has been approved by the OMB under control numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040 and 0348-0046, respectively.

Dated: September 2, 2008.

**John Potts,**

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

[FR Doc. E8-20926 Filed 9-8-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-JS-S**

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

##### **Federal Register Notice Calling for Nominations to Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee**

**AGENCY:** Marine Protected Areas (MPA), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC)

**ACTION:** Notice requesting nominations for the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce is seeking nominations for membership on the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee). The Advisory Committee was established to advise the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior in implementing Section 4 of Executive Order 13158, specifically on strategies and priorities for developing the national system of marine protected areas (MPAs) and on practical approaches to further enhance and expand protection of new and existing MPAs.

Nominations are sought for highly qualified non-Federal scientists, resource managers, and people representing other interests or organizations involved with or affected by marine conservation including in the Great Lakes. Fifteen members of the Committee have terms that expire

October 31, 2009, and nominations are sought to fill these vacancies.

Individuals seeking membership on the Advisory Committee should possess demonstrable expertise in a related field or represent a stakeholder interest affected by MPAs. Nominees also will be evaluated based on the following factors: Marine policy experience, leadership and organization skills, region of country represented, and diversity characteristics. The membership reflects the Department's commitment to attaining balance and diversity. The full text of the Advisory Committee Charter and its current membership can be viewed at the Agency's Web page at <http://mpa.gov>.

**DATES:** Nominations must be postmarked on or before November 30, 2008.

**ADDRESS:** Nominations should be sent to: Lauren Wenzel, National Marine Protected Areas Center, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Station 9143, Silver Spring, MD 20910. E-mail: [Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov](mailto:Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov). E-mail nominations are acceptable.

##### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Lauren Wenzel, National Marine Protected Areas Center, 1305 East-West Highway, Building 4, Station 9143, 301-713 3100 ext. 136, [Lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov](mailto:Lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov).

##### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

In Executive Order 13158, the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior were directed to seek the expert advice and recommendations of non-federal scientists, resource managers, and other interested people and organizations through a Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee was established in June 2003 and includes 30 members.

The Committee meets at least once annually. Committee members serve for one, four year nonrenewable term. Members of the Committee will not be compensated, but may, upon request, be allowed travel and per diem expenses.

Each nomination submission should include the proposed member's name and organizational affiliation, a cover letter describing the nominee's qualifications and interest in serving on the Advisory Committee, curriculum vitae or resume of the nominee, and no more than three supporting letters describing the nominee's qualifications and interest in serving on the Committee. Self-nominations are acceptable. The following contact information should accompany each submission: The nominee's name, address, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address if available.