

Dated: October 19, 2009.

John A Bricker,

State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Richmond, Virginia.

[FR Doc. E9-25931 Filed 10-27-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Solicitation of Input From Stakeholders on the Tribal Colleges Research Grants Program, Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program and Tribal Colleges Extension Services Program

AGENCY: National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

ACTION: Request for written stakeholder input.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is requesting written stakeholder input on the following NIFA grant programs: (1) Tribal College Research Grants Program, (2) Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program, and (3) Tribal Colleges Extension Services Program. The programs are authorized under Sections 534(a), 534(b), and 536 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994.

Tribal College Research Grants Program

Authority for this program is contained in section 536 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note), as amended (hereinafter "the Act"). In accordance with the statutory authority, subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary of Agriculture may award competitive grants to assist the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions (hereinafter "1994 Institutions") in conducting agricultural research that addresses high priority concerns of Tribal, national or multi-State significance.

Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program

Authority for this program is contained in section 534(a) of the Act. Subject to the availability of appropriations, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), will award grants to the thirty-four 1994 Institutions as defined in section 532 of the Act. This Act, in Section 533(a), requires that each 1994 Institution be accredited or making progress towards accreditation to receive funding under this and the other

programs. The purpose of this program is to enhance educational opportunities for Native Americans by strengthening instructional programs in the food and agricultural sciences at the thirty-four colleges or universities designated as 1994 Institutions.

Tribal Colleges Extension Services Program

Authority for this program is contained in section 534(b) of the Act. This section amends section 3 of the Act of May 8, 1914 (Smith-Lever Act) (7 U.S.C. 343). Under this authority, appropriated funds are to be awarded to the 1994 Institutions for Extension work and funds are to be distributed on the basis of a competitive application process.

By this notice, NIFA is soliciting public comment and stakeholder input from interested parties regarding the future design and implementation of the 1994 Tribal College Grant Programs described above.

DATES: All written comments must be received by November 27, 2009.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by NIFA-2009-0008, through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Include NIFA-2009-0008 in the subject line of the message.

Fax: (202) 401-7752.

Mail: Paper, disk or CD-ROM submissions should be submitted to Office of Extramural Programs Unit, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Mail Stop 2299, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-2299.

Hand Delivery/Courier: Joanna Moore, Office of Extramural Programs Unit, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 2250, Waterfront Centre, 800 9th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20024.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the Title, "1994 Tribal Colleges" and NIFA-2009-0008. All comments received will be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joan Gill, 202-720-6487 (phone), 202-720-2030 (fax), jgill@nifa.usda.gov or Saleia Afele-Faamuli, 202-720-0384 (phone), 202-720-2030 (fax), sfaamuli@nifa.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 1, 2009, all programs and authorities delegated to the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) were

transferred to the NIFA per section 7511 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246).

Background and Summary

Purpose

NIFA is considering releasing the Request for Applications (RFAs) for all three Tribal College Programs on the same day in mid December 2009 with the due date for application submission on the same day in early March 2010. The peer review panel for each of the programs will be conducted during early May 2010. For existing grantees, the RFA will request all applicants provide evidence of a college plan or roadmap showing that active projects funded through any of the three 1994 Tribal Colleges programs are being utilized in a coordinated manner within the college's land grant office or mission area. In addition, existing grantees will be asked to numerically indicate any recruiting, retention, course or degree enrollments, internships, outreach clients or graduation rates, or other indicators of program activity in the food and agriculture initiatives supported by active grants from the aforementioned programs.

The purpose of the grant programs is designed to build the land-grant capability in institutional teaching, research, and extension capacities of the eligible institutions in the following three major goals:

(1) To advance cultural diversity of the food and agricultural scientific and professional work force by attracting and educating more students from underrepresented groups;

(2) To strengthen linkages among the 1994 Institutions, other colleges and universities, USDA, and private industry; and

(3) To enhance the quality of teaching, research, and extension programs at the 1994 Institutions to enable them to better serve their students and communities by building capacity to provide science based information and decision making to solve problems and take advantage of opportunities—thus establishing them as relevant partners in the U.S. food and agricultural sciences higher education system.

In developing the FY 2010 1994 Tribal College RFAs, NIFA plans to consider all stakeholder input and the written comments received in response to this notice.

Done at Washington, DC, this 22nd day of October, 2009.

Ralph Otto,

Associate Administrator, National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

[FR Doc. E9-25854 Filed 10-27-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Fish and Seafood Promotion

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before December 28, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 7845, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to John M. Ward, (301) 713-9504 or John.M.Ward@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Under the authority of the Fish and Seafood Promotion Act of 1986 information collected under this program is used to promote domestically-produced fishery products. The information collection requirements can be broadly divided into two categories: (1) Information required of an individual or organization applying for consideration to form a seafood promotion council, and (2) information required of a formed and operating council, or permitted for its participants. Information required of an individual or organization applying for consideration to form a council, consists of an 'application for charter', composed of three subparts: Petition, proposed

charter, and a list of eligible referendum participants. The information collection required of a formed and operating council, or permitted for its participants, is as follows: Council submission of an annual plan, an annual budget, and an annual financial report; council submissions of semiannual progress reports; notice of assessments once a year; list of council nominations following a favorable referendum once a year; and meeting notices once a year.

II. Method of Collection

Information can be submitted via e-mail.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0556.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions; and business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3.

Estimated Time per Response: 320 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 960 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

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: October 23, 2009.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-25950 Filed 10-27-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XR73

Endangered Species; File No. 14249

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Ronald Smolowitz, Coonamessett Farm Foundation, Inc., 277 Hatchville Road, East Falmouth, MA 02536, has been issued a permit to take loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), leatherback (*Dermocheilus coriacea*), Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), and green (*Chelonia mydas*) sea turtles for purposes of scientific research.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

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)713-0376;

Northeast Region, NMFS, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930; phone (978)281-9300; fax (978)281-9333.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick Opay or Kate Swails, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 24, 2009, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (74 FR 8230) that a request for a scientific research permit to take loggerhead, leatherback, Kemp's ridley, and green sea turtles had been submitted by the above-named individual. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

Researchers will evaluate modifications to scallop dredge gear that may reduce the probability of turtle injuries due to interactions with gear. They will also study sea turtle behavior so that behavior can be factored into bycatch reduction strategies and collect biological and animal health information to improve NMFS' ability to assess stocks and the impact of anthropogenic activities. Up to 23 loggerheads, 1 leatherback, 1 green, and 1 Kemp's ridley would be taken during