

copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Hannah Goodale at 508-281-9101, or to *Hannah.F.Goodale@noaa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Owners or operators of vessels that have caught 500 metric tons of herring in the past year, or intend to catch 500 metric tons in the current year, must equip their vessels with an approved Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). The VMS units automatically report the vessel's position at least once per hour when the vessel is underway. Vessel owners must submit proof that the VMS has been installed. Herring carriers may be exempted from this requirement by obtaining a letter of authorization from NOAA.

II. Method of Collection

Position reports are automated and automatic. Proof of installation is mailed to NOAA. A letter of authorization can be requested by phone.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0404.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations, individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 150.

Estimated Time Per Response: 1 hour to install a VMS; 2 minutes for submission of proof of installation; 5 seconds for an automated position report from the VMS or transponder system (10 minutes if an Inmarsat communication unit is used to transmit the data); and 2 minutes for a request for a letter of authorization exemption.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 816.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$298,000.

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: January 17, 2003.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-1787 Filed 1-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 030121015-3015-01; I.D. 120602C]

RIN 0648-AQ66

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council); Request for Research Proposals (RFP)

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

ACTION: Notice of solicitation for applications.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that, for fishing year 2004, up to 3 percent of the total allowable landings (TAL) will be dedicated to research endeavors under a research set-aside (RSA) program. This notice describes how the application and selection process will operate for research projects funded under the RSA by a set-aside from the TAL of selected species. The RSA provides a mechanism to fund research and compensate vessels through the sale of fish harvested under the research quota. The setting of the actual research set-aside quotas will be the subject of future rulemaking. NMFS is soliciting proposals for research activities concerning the summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, *Loligo* squid, *Illex* squid, Atlantic mackerel, butterfish, bluefish, and tilefish fisheries.

DATES: All research proposals to be considered under this solicitation must be received between January 27, 2003, and 5 p.m., EST, on March 28, 2003, in the Northeast Regional Office (see

ADDRESSES. Postmarks prior to the end of the receipt period will not be sufficient. Facsimile applications will not be accepted. For further information related to the timeframe for review and selection of proposals to be conducted with research quota set-asides, see

Section A, Background, under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

ADDRESSES: Proposals must be submitted to Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark proposals "Attention—Mid-Atlantic Research Proposals." Copies of the Standard Forms for submission of research proposals may be found on the Internet in a PDF (Portable Document Format) version at <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/grants>, under the title "Grant Application Forms and Budget Guidelines," or by contacting NMFS (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Daniel Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, (302) 674-2331, fax (302) 674-5399, e-mail cheaton@mafmc.org, or Paul Perra, Fishery Policy Analyst, NMFS, (978) 281-9153, fax 978-281-9135, e-mail paul.perra@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

The award of a set-aside from the TAL of selected species became possible with the approval of Framework Adjustment 1 (Framework 1) to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass; and Bluefish Fishery Management Plans (FMPs); and the RSA provisions of the Tilefish FMP. Framework 1 was approved by the Secretary of Commerce on August 10, 2001. It established a procedure through which research set-aside amounts would be set annually as part of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (Council) quota-setting process. The set-asides may range between 0 and 3 percent of each species' TAL. The set-aside allocated for a given species is to be utilized primarily for research involving that species. However, to promote research in those cases where it would otherwise be infeasible, individual research projects may involve allocations from the set-asides for several of the species listed in this notice. Therefore, in addition to, or in lieu of, applying for part of the set-aside involving a species directly involved in a research project, applicants may also apply for up to 25 percent of the research set-aside quota for species not directly involved in a particular research project.

To be eligible for consideration, a research proposal for work to be conducted using a research set-aside allocation for the 2004 fishing year must be received during the application period identified in the DATES section

of this document. Applicants must submit one signed original and two signed copies of the completed application (including supporting information). Prior to selection, NOAA will convene a panel to review proposals submitted in response to this RFP.

The Council, in consultation with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission), will incorporate the level of research set-aside (amounts or percentages) for each of the set-aside species for the 2004 fishing year into the Council's recommendations for annual quota specifications. NMFS will consider the recommended level of set-aside as part of the associated rulemaking process. It is anticipated that most proposals will request that vessels conducting research be exempt from certain regulations for the relevant fishery. The impacts of such an exemption must be analyzed. To streamline the process for the review and approval of exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications, the Council will prepare, as appropriate, an analysis

of the impacts associated with the anticipated exemptions during the annual quota specification process. This process is intended to satisfy the analytical and public notice provisions of the EFP regulations at 50 CFR 600.745. However, certain conditions may require the applicant to provide additional analysis associated with such exemptions (see section N of this notice).

The actual level of research set-aside quota available to applicants for the 2004 fishing year will depend on the TAL level specified by the Council at its quota-setting meetings in June and August 2003, and on the percentage (0 to 3 percent) of the TAL recommended by the Council and approved by NMFS as the level of research set-aside available for 2004. To help researchers develop proposals for the 2004 fishing year, the table below provides some guidance on the general magnitude of research set-asides and estimated values that a researcher might expect to be available for fishing year 2004. The table is based on TAL levels for these

fisheries for the 2003 fishing year, and assumes that NMFS would approve the maximum set-aside level of 3 percent of the TAL, if requested. The table is intended only as a guide, to be used when developing research proposals for the 2004 fishing year; it does not necessarily reflect the actual RSA quota that will be allocated for fishing year 2004. Based on Council recommendation, NMFS could choose to adopt less than 3 percent of TAL as a set-aside, or could decide not to adopt any set-aside for a given fishery. The estimated values of the set-aside allocations will vary depending on market considerations prevailing at the time the research trips are conducted. In October 2002, the Council voted to set the research set-aside for tilefish at zero until after a stock assessment is complete. However, tilefish RSA projects could be considered upon completion of a stock assessment and/or through utilizing of RSA quota from other species.

TABLE 1. EXAMPLE OF 3-PERCENT RESEARCH SET-ASIDE, USING 2003 SPECIFICATIONS.

Allocation Species	Pounds (000 lb)	Kilograms (000 kg)	Estimated Value (\$000)
Summer Flounder	699	317	1,005,
Scup	480	218	403
Black Sea Bass	204	93	318
<i>Loligo</i> Squid	1,125	510	743
<i>Illex</i> Squid	1,587	720	349
Atlantic Mackerel	11,571	5,249	926
Butterfish	390	177	129
Bluefish	1,191	540	358
Tilefish	0	0	0

B. Authority

Issuing grants is consistent with sections 303(b)(11), 402(e), and 404(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1853(b)(11), 16 U.S.C. 1881a(e), and 16 U.S.C. 1881c(c), respectively.

C. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA)

11.454, Unallied Management Projects

D. Funding Instrument and Project Period

In consultation with NMFS, the NOAA Grants Office will award a grant to successful applicants through the NOAA grant award process. The RSA harvest timeframe must fall within January 1 through December 31, 2004. There may be times when compensation (in terms of the timing in harvest of the RSA) is not concurrent with the timing of the research. In general, under such

situations, no more than 50 percent of the requested RSA should be harvested prior to the conduct of research activities. Proposals requesting RSA harvest prior to or after that timeframe will not be considered.

E. Funding Availability

No Federal funds are provided for research under this notification. The Federal Government may issue an EFP or Letter of Acknowledgment (LOA), as applicable, which may provide special fishing privileges in response to research proposals selected under this program. The Federal Government shall not be liable for any costs incurred in the conduct of the project. Any funds generated from the landings authorized under a RSA grant shall be used to cover the cost of the research, including vessel costs, and to compensate vessel owners for expenses incurred. Therefore, the owner of each fishing vessel selected to

land a species in excess of a trip limit or seasonal quota must use the proceeds of the sale of the excess catch to compensate the researcher for costs associated with the research activities and use of the vessel.

Any additional funds above the cost of the research activities (or excess program income) shall be retained by the vessel owner as compensation for the use of his/her vessel.

F. Scope of Research

Projects funded under a RSA must enhance understanding of the fishery resource or contribute to the body of information on which management decisions are made. Research, as well as additional voyages to obtain fish for compensation, may be conducted, as specified in the EFP or LOA, as applicable, in or outside of a closed area, within the timeframe of a commercial quota closure, and onboard

a fishing or other type of vessel, including recreational and/or commercial vessels.

Funds generated from the RSA landings shall be used to cover the cost of the research activities, including vessel costs, and to compensate boats for expenses incurred during the collection of the set-aside species. For example, the funds could be used to pay for gear modifications, monitoring equipment, additional provisions (e.g., fuel, ice, food for scientists), or the salaries of research personnel. The Federal Government is not liable for any costs incurred by the researcher or vessel owner, should the sale of the excess catch not fully reimburse the researcher or vessel owner for his/her expenses.

G. Eligibility Criteria

All commercial organizations; non-profit organizations; state, local, or tribal governments; institutions of higher education; and individuals are eligible to apply, provided that all proposal requirements are satisfied, and the proposal is received by the date specified in this document.

A person is not eligible to submit an application under this program if he/she is an employee of any Federal agency or a Regional Fishery Management Council. However, Council members who are not Federal employees may submit an application.

H. Proposal Preparation and Requirements

NOAA employees (whether full-time, part-time, or intermittent) are not permitted to assist in the preparation of an application, except that staff may provide information on program goals, funding priorities, application procedures, and completion of application forms. Since this is a competitive program, NMFS and NOAA employees will not provide assistance in conceptualizing, developing, or structuring proposals, or write letters of support for a proposal. However, the Council or NMFS contact person (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) may provide assistance to researchers who are seeking vessels to participate in the collection of set-aside species or directly in research projects. NMFS, in consultation with the Council, may decide to hold a meeting with the public to discuss general topics concerning past RSA program accomplishments and ways to enhance communications on funding priorities and associated potential study methods. Such meetings will be publicized by NMFS through a **Federal Register** notice, and through the public mailing list maintained by the

Council office (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT).**

Proposals must identify the research to be conducted and the total amount of the set-aside species requested for the project, including its approximate cash value. If a waiver of Federal regulations is proposed, a list of the specific regulations to be waived and a brief justification for each regulation to be waived must be included with the proposal.

In addition, each proposal must identify the RSA harvesting activities for the participating vessel(s) that would make a trip to collect the set-aside species. The vessel(s) selected by the applicant must be listed in the proposal, if possible, or specifically identified prior to final approval by NOAA. Proposals may request that the quota set-aside be collected separately from the research trips. The separate compensation trips do not necessarily have to be conducted by the same vessel. In general, compensation (in terms of the value of fish landed) should not exceed 2.5 times the cost of the associated research (See Evaluation Criterion 2 in Section J.).

The researcher's proposal must state the amount of funds required to support the research project, including any costs for participation by project scientists or consultants, as well as the amount required to compensate the vessel owner either for the collection of set-aside species, or for participation in the research project, or both. The proposal should also include the agreement between the applicant and participating vessel operators that shows exactly how the research activity is to be paid for, if possible, or such agreement must be provided prior to final approval by NOAA.

I. Project Funding Priorities

The Council and NOAA will give priority to funding research proposals in the following areas identified as research priorities by the Council and Commission for the 2004 fishing year (not listed in order of priority):

1. Bycatch and discard reduction concerning: (a) distinctions between regulatory discards and bycatch attributed to gear, including mesh selectivity and/or overall gear design in the summer flounder fishery; (b) gear modifications in the *Loligo* squid fishery to reduce scup and other species bycatch; (c) discard studies in the *Loligo* and scup fisheries; (d) better estimates of recreational discards in the summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish fisheries; or (e) ways to decrease discards associated with increases in size limits.

2. Mesh and gear selectivity focusing on: (a) the examination of summer flounder catch composition in small-mesh net fisheries within the summer flounder small-mesh exemption area; (b) summer flounder mesh selectivity studies; (c) scup mesh selectivity; (d) squid mesh selectivity; (e) black sea bass mesh selectivity; (f) the development of threshold triggers based on gear and fishery characteristics; (g) evaluation of various pot vent sizes and shapes for black sea bass and scup; (h) estimation of mortality of black sea bass left in pots during the closed season; and (i) mesh retention studies of 2 1/2-inch (6.35-cm), 2 3/4-inch (6.99-cm), and 3-inch (7.63-cm) mesh for butterfish.

3. Fishing impacts on habitat pertaining to: (a) mobile gear impacts on tilefish burrows; (b) scup spawning areas and scup larval settlement areas in coastal/estuarine waters; (c) benthic habitat of juvenile and adult black sea bass, and scup offshore wintering areas; (d) mapping of spawning areas and egg mop areas for *Loligo* squid; and (e) further delineation of essential fish habitat (EFH), particularly in nursery areas for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass, as well as the potential for possible gear impacts to this EFH.

4. Cooperative stock assessment surveys focusing on: (a) the use of alternative industry assessment methods to determine abundance of Atlantic mackerel; (b) the summer flounder fishery; (c) surveys for summer flounder in areas not traditionally sampled by NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) gear; (d) side-by-side comparisons for summer flounder and scup of commercial and NEFSC survey gear; (e) better survey information for bluefish; (f) tagging studies of bluefish movements; and (g) DNA analysis for stock descriptions of Atlantic bluefish and Atlantic mackerel.

5. Improved recreational fishery data focusing on: (a) research to enhance the overall knowledge of the recreational fishery; (b) statistical models to evaluate the effectiveness of recreational management measures and/or data collection process; (c) studies of bluefish, summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass hooking mortality by size of fish and the compliance with the regulations for these species; and (d) tagging studies with break-away hooks for movement of tilefish.

6. Other: (a) an evaluation of redirection of fishing effort with area closures for black sea bass; (b) an evaluation of whether artificial reefs increase the productivity of black sea bass or simply concentrate the resource; (c) an evaluation of the mixing of *Illex* and *Loligo* squid in September and

October; (d) increased and more representative sea sampling of the various fisheries in which summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass are caught (needed to adequately characterize the length composition of the discards); (e) better estimates of discard mortality for the recreational and commercial fisheries (by gear type) for each species of Council-managed fish; (f) a study of summer flounder fecundity and why recruitment appears low as the resource is being rebuilt; (g) a study to develop optimum sampling levels to estimate discards of summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass; (h) increased and more representative port sampling of the various fisheries in which summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass are caught; (i) development of fishery independent surveys and expansion of existing surveys to capture all sizes and age classes of summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass in order to develop independent catch-at-age and catch per unit effort data; (j) expansion of age sampling of summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass from commercial and recreational catches, with special emphasis on collection of large specimens; (k) quantification of the percentage of commercial fishery trips that had discards but no landings, and evaluation of how such trips contribute to the total commercial fishery discard estimate; and (l) evaluation of fishery management actions, e.g., do closures have a net positive effect on fishing mortality by postponing such mortality, or do they simply allow for concentration of resources such that when the seasons open the consequent fishing effort offsets the mortality reductions that occurred during the closure?

J. Evaluation Criteria

The review panel convened by NOAA to evaluate proposals submitted in response to this RFP (see section L of this notice), will evaluate proposals by assigning scores up to the maximum indicated for each of the following criteria:

1. A clear definition of the problem, need, issue or hypothesis to be addressed. The proposal should describe its relevance to RSA program priorities. If not directly related to priorities listed in this solicitation, provide justification why the proposed project should be considered. (25 points)

2. Cost-effectiveness of the project. The requested value of the anticipated revenue from the RSA should be commensurate with estimated project costs, and generally should not exceed

2.5 times the cost of the associated research. Economic and budget projections should be quantified, to the extent possible. Where appropriate, use of existing equipment (fishing gear) is preferred versus acquisition of new equipment. (25 points)

3. Special emphasis will be given to proposals that foster and improve cooperative interactions with NMFS. A clear definition of the approach to be used, including description of field work, theoretical studies, and laboratory analysis to support the proposed research, and the ability of the applicant to physically complete RSA harvest during the 2004 calendar year in the area and time proposed is important. The time frame for harvesting the RSA catch and conducting the proposed research should be clearly specified. Activities that take place over a wider versus narrower geographical range, where appropriate, are preferred. (25 points)

4. Demonstration of support, cooperation and/or collaboration with the fishing industry, and qualifications/experience of project participants. Where appropriate, unified versus separate stand-alone proposals on related projects involving multiple principal investigators are preferred. (15 points)

5. Identification of anticipated benefits, potential users, likelihood of success, and methods of disseminating results. Where appropriate, data generated from the research must be formatted in a manner consistent with NMFS' and Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistical Program's (ACCSP) databases. A copy of this format is available from NMFS (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). (10 points)

K. Selection Procedures

NOAA will solicit written technical evaluations from the Council members who make up the Research Set-Aside Committee (Committee) and from three or more appropriate private and public sector experts to score proposals using the criteria specified in section J of this notification to determine the technical merit of the proposal. Following completion of the technical evaluation, NOAA will convene a review panel, including the Committee and technical experts, to review and individually critique the scored proposals to enhance NOAA's understanding of the proposals. Initial successful applicants may be required, in consultation with NMFS, to further refine/modify study methodology as a condition of project approval. No consensus recommendations will be made. Based on the results of the technical review's

comments and scores, comments provided by the review panel, and the following program policy factors, NOAA will select the successful proposals and inform the Council of its recommendations. The program policy factors are: (1) The time of year the research activities are to be conducted; (2) the ability of the proposal to meet the experimental fishery requirements discussed under section N of this notice; and (3) redundancy of research projects. Therefore, the highest scoring projects may not necessarily be selected for an award. Subsequent approval by the NOAA Grants Officer will allow NMFS, as applicable, to exempt selected vessel(s) from specific regulations implementing the respective FMPs through written notification to the applicant.

For proposals that request exemptions from existing regulations (e.g., possession limits, closed seasons), the impacts of the proposed exemptions must be analyzed. The Council will analyze these impacts as part of the impacts of the proposed specifications for the upcoming fishing year in the annual quota specification packages it submits to NMFS. However, those individuals with proposals that include vessel activities that extend beyond the scope of the analysis provided by the Council may be required to provide additional analysis before issuance of an EFP (see section N). Any applicants who request regulatory exemptions that are beyond the scope of the Council analysis may be required to adhere to the regulations that govern the issuance of an EFP by NMFS (see section N). If necessary, and as appropriate, NMFS will consult with the Council and successful applicants to secure the information required for granting an exemption, if issuance of an EFP is necessary for the research to be conducted. The final decision on the applicant's proposal for research quota will not be made by NOAA until NMFS advises that the applicant's EFP request is approved.

L. Proposal Format

Proposals should be limited to seven pages, excluding item 6 below. The format may vary, but must include:

1. A project summary.
2. A narrative project description to include: (a) project goals and objectives; (b) the relationship of the proposed project to management needs or priorities identified by the Council; (c) a statement of work (project design and management, including who is responsible, expected products, and participants other than applicant); and (d) a summary of the existing state of

knowledge related to the project and contribution and relevance of the proposed work.

3. A description of all funding sources (including revenues derived from the sale of the species harvested under the research quota set-aside) and funding needs. This element of the proposal must include the amount of research quota set-aside, in pounds, requested for each species and the expected funds to be generated by the sale of those species, as well as the expected funds to be allocated to the researcher and any involved fishing vessel.

4. A budget that includes a breakdown of research costs, including, labor, vessel, permit, equipment, supplies, and overhead, as applicable. Applicants must submit a Standard Form 424 (Application for Federal Assistance), including a detailed budget using Standard Form 424A, (Budget Information-- Non-Construction Programs), Standard Form 424B (Assurances - Non-Construction Programs), Commerce Department Form CD-511, (Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters: Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying), and if applicable, Standard Form SF-LLL (Disclosure of Lobbying Activities). Copies of these Standard Forms may be found on the Internet in a PDF version at <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/grants>.

5. A list of any Federal or state regulations that the applicant needs to have waived and a brief justification for such a waiver. Applicants are urged to discuss with state fisheries agencies any proposed landings in their state(s). Note that requests for waivers of any state regulations will be forwarded to the appropriate state agency(s). NOAA cannot guarantee that state agencies will accede to any particular request.

6. Supporting documents, including resumes, letters of intent for vessels to participate in research activities, and any relevant contracts.

M. Final Reports and Data Submission

NOAA will require project researchers to submit to NOAA, with a copy for the Council, semi-annual progress reports and a final completion report describing their research project results, and other acceptable deliverable(s), in a timeframe that is specific to the type of research conducted. The format of the report may vary, but must contain:

1. A brief summary of the completion report (200-word or less abstract);
2. A description of the issue/problem that was addressed;
3. A detailed description of methods of data collection and analyses;

4. A discussion of results and any relevant conclusions presented in a format that is understandable to a non-technical audience. This should include benefits and/or contributions to management decision-making.

5. A list of entities, firms, or organizations that actually performed the work and a description of how the work was accomplished; and

6. A detailed final accounting of all funds used to conduct research, including generation of project income resulting from sale of research set-aside quota. The financial information must be submitted on Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Standard Form-269 (Financial Status Report). Copies of this Standard Form may be found on the Internet in a PDF version at <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/grants>. Projects designed to collect new data for inclusion in NMFS or ACCSP databases must submit the data in electronic format with appropriate documentation. Certain databases will have highly specific requirements as to required fields and content. Applicants must agree to provide newly collected data in a format acceptable to the administrators of the receiving databases.

N. Other Requirements

The Council staff will bear the primary responsibility for the evaluations of impacts associated with the proposed research, including analysis of any requested regulatory waivers. However, applicants proposing research and/or compensation fishing that goes beyond the scope of analysis provided by the Council staff in the Council's annual specification packages may be required to submit all information necessary for a Supplemental Environmental Assessment to obtain an EFP from NMFS. Should an applicant be required to submit a request for an EFP to NMFS, such submission should be received by NMFS at least 60 days before the requested start date of the proposed research to allow for additional review and analysis. A final decision on the applicant's grant request for research quota will not be made until NMFS has approved the applicant's EFP request.

If any part of the proposed research activities occur in state waters, successful applicants, as a condition of project approval, will be required to provide NMFS with a copy of written documentation to demonstrate that the applicant has contacted the concerned state fishery management agency or agencies for any required state authorization. Also, successful applicants will be required to provide

NMFS with a copy of written documentation to demonstrate that the applicant has contacted the concerned state(s) fishery management agency or agencies with respect to the need for any required state authorization(s) for any planned commercial landings. Information on identity of state fishery management agencies is available from NMFS (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

O. Other Requirements of Recipients

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification of 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), is applicable to this solicitation.

P. Disposition of Unsuccessful Applications

If an application is not selected, NOAA will return the proposal and related documents to the applicant.

Q. Other

DOC/NOAA supports cultural and gender diversity in our programs and encourages women and minority individuals and groups to submit applications.

DOC/NOAA encourages applications from members of the fishing community, and applications that involve fishing community cooperation and participation.

Classification

Prior notice and opportunity for public comments are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act or any other law for this notice concerning grants, benefits, and contracts (5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2)).

Because a general notice of proposed rulemaking as specified in 5 U.S.C. 553, or any other law, was not required for this action, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, are not applicable.

Applications under this program are subject to the provisions of Executive Order "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

This document contains collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). The use of Standard Forms 269, 424, 424A, 424B, and SF-LLL have been approved by OMB under the respective control numbers 0348-0039, 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040, and 0348-0046.

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 PRA, unless that collection displays a currently valid OMB control number.

This action has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

Dated: January 21, 2003.

Rebecca Lent,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service

[FR Doc. 03-1781 Filed 1-22-03; 4:29 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Committee Meeting of the Defense Department Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS)

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Advisory Committee on Women in the Services.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: On December 27, 2002, the Department of Defense published a notice concerning the committee meeting of the Defense Department Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS)(67 FR 79063). The Deputy Secretary of Defense will make remarks on January 17, 2002 at 4:15. All other information remains unchanged.

Dated: January 9, 2003.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 03-1694 Filed 1-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Availability for Non-Exclusive, Exclusive, or Partially Exclusive Licensing of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Concerning Battlefield Medical Information System-Telemedicine

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with 37 CFR 404.6 and 404.7, announcement is made of the availability for licensing of the invention described in U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/381,058 entitled "Battlefield Medical Information System-Telemedicine (BMIST)," filed May 15, 2002. The United States Government, as

represented by the Secretary of the Army, has rights in this invention.

ADDRESSES: Commander, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, Attn: Command Judge Advocate, MCMR-JA, 504 Scott Street, Fort Detrick, Frederick, MD 21702-5012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For patent issues, Ms. Elizabeth Arwine, Patent Attorney, (301) 619-7808. For licensing issues, Dr. Paul Mele, Office of Research & Technology Assessment, (301) 619-6664, both at telefax (301) 619-5034.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BMIST is a point-of-care First Responder Medic digital medical record, diagnostic tool that allows input, storage and provides preliminary assessment and output of medical information at the point of care.

Luz D. Ortiz,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-1763 Filed 1-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Availability for Non-Exclusive, Exclusive, or Partially Exclusive Licensing of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Concerning Digital Healthcare Documentation System

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with 37 CFR 404.6 and 404.7, announcement is made of the availability for licensing of the invention described in U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/378,455 entitled "Digital Healthcare Documentation System," filed May 6, 2002. The United States Government, as represented by the Secretary of the Army, has rights in this invention.

ADDRESSES: Commander, U.S. Army medical Research and Materiel Command, Attn: Command Judge Advocate, MCMR-JA, 504 Scott Street, Fort Detrick, Frederick, MD 21702-5012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For patent issues, Ms. Elizabeth Arwine, Patent Attorney, (301) 619-7808. For licensing issues, Dr. Paul Mele, Office of Research & Technology Assessment, (301) 619-6664, both at telefax (301) 619-5034.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Digital Healthcare Documentation System (DHDS) is a multi-level

computer-based patient record (CPR) that allows for the input, storage and output of healthcare information at various echelons of care. The system can be set up for use by one individual using a single computer or by a large medical treatment facility on a network.

Luz D. Ortiz,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-1762 Filed 1-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Intent To Grant an Exclusive License of a U.S. Government-Owned Patent

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with 35 U.S.C. 209(e) and 37 CFR 404.7(a)(I)(i), announcement is made of the intent to grant an exclusive, royalty-bearing, revocable license to U.S. patent number 6,419,629 issued July 16, 2002 entitled "Method for Predicting Human Cognitive Performance," to Precision Control Design, Inc. with its principal place of business at 135 Eglin Parkway S.E., Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548-5518.

DATES: File written objections by February 11, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Commander, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, ATTN: Command Judge Advocate, MCMR-JA, 504 Scott Street, Fort Detrick, Frederick, MD 21702-5012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For patent issues, Ms. Elizabeth Arwine, Patent Attorney, (301) 619-7808. For licensing issues, Dr. Paul Mele, Office of Research & Technology Assessment, (301) 619-6664, both at telefax (301) 619-5034.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Anyone wishing to object to the grant of this license can file written objections along with supporting evidence, if any, within 15 days from the date of this publication. Written objections are to be filed with the Command Judge Advocate (see **ADDRESSES**).

Luz D. Ortiz,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-1761 Filed 1-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M