

Coastal Zone Management Programs, NOAA Oyster Disease Research Program, the state/Federal Chesapeake Bay Program, etc.) this project would affect and describe the relationship between the project and those plans or activities.

(7) *Project management*: Describe how the project will be organized and managed. Include resumes of principal investigators. List all persons directly employed by the applicant who will be involved with the project. If a consultant and/or subcontractor is selected prior to application submission, include the name and qualifications of the consultant and/or subcontractor and the process used for selection.

(8) *Results from prior Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Research support*: If any PI or co-PI identified on the project has received Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Research or Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC) support in the past 5 years, information on the prior award(s) is required. The following information must be provided:

(a) The NOAA award number, amount and period of support;

(b) The title of the project;

(c) Summary of the results of the completed work, including, for a research project, any contribution to the development of human resources in science/biology;

(d) Publications resulting from the award (Reprints may be submitted, and are requested, for documentation if applicable);

(e) Brief description of available data, samples, physical collections and other related research products not described elsewhere; and

(f) If the proposal is for renewed support, a description of the relation of the completed work to the proposed work.

(9) *Monitoring of project performance*: Identify who will participate in monitoring the project.

(10) *Project impacts*: Describe how these products or services will be made available to the fisheries and management communities.

(11) *Education and outreach*: How will this project provide a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nations' natural resources?

(12) *Evaluation of project*: The applicant is required to provide an evaluation of project accomplishments and progress towards the project objectives and performance measures at the end of each budget period and in the final report. The application must describe the methodology or procedures

to be followed to determine technical feasibility, or to quantify the results of the project in promoting increased production, product quality and safety, management effectiveness, or other measurable factors.

(13) *Total project costs and budget narrative*: Total project costs are the amount of funds required to accomplish what is proposed in the Project Description, and includes contributions and donations. A standard budget form (SF-424A) is available from the offices listed and on the internet (see **ADDRESSES**). NMFS will not consider fees or profits as allowable costs for grantees.

All costs must be shown in a detailed budget narrative. Explain the calculations and provide a narrative to support specific items or activities, such as personnel/salaries, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contract costs, and indirect costs. Additional cost detail may be required prior to a final analysis of overall cost allowability, allocability, and reasonableness. The date, period covered, and findings for the most recent financial audit performed, as well as the name of the audit firm, the contact person, and phone number and address, must be also provided.

(h) *Supporting documentation*: Provide any required documents and any additional information necessary or useful to the description of the project. The amount of information given in this section will depend on the type of project proposed, but should be no more than 20 pages. The applicant should present any information that would emphasize the value of the project in terms of the significance of the problems addressed. Without such information, the merits of the project may not be fully understood, or the value of the project may be underestimated. The absence of adequate supporting documentation may cause reviewers to question assertions made in describing the project and may result in lower ranking of the project. Information presented in this section should be clearly referenced in the project description.

IV. Review Process, Criteria and Selection Procedures

A. *Initial Evaluation of Applications*. Applications will be reviewed by NCBO to assure that they meet all requirements of this announcement, including eligibility and relevance to the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Research Program. Proposals that do not support the technical and management priorities of the Chesapeake Bay, as defined in

section II. above will not be considered for funding.

B. *Consultation with Experts in the Field of Stock Assessment and Fisheries Research*. For applications meeting the requirements of this solicitation, NCBO will conduct an individual technical evaluation (via mail/electronic mail) of each project. This review normally will involve experts from both NOAA and non-NOAA organizations. All comments submitted to NCBO will be taken into consideration in the evaluation of projects. Reviewers will be asked to review independently and to provide a score and comments based on the following four criteria (total of 50 possible points):

1. Problem description and conceptual approach for resolution, especially the applicant's comprehension of the problem(s), familiarity with related work that is completed or ongoing, and the overall concept proposed to resolve the problem(s) (15 points).

2. Soundness of project design/technical approach, especially whether the applicant provided sufficient information to technically evaluate the project and, if so, the strengths and weaknesses of the technical design proposed for problem resolution (20 points).

3. Project management and experience and qualifications of personnel, including organization and management of the project, and the personnel experience and qualifications (5 points).

4. Justification and allocation of the budget in terms of the work to be performed (10 points).

C. *Review Panel*. NCBO will convene a review panel consisting of at least three regional experts (both NOAA and non-NOAA panelists) in the scientific and management aspects of fisheries research.

1. Projects considered for continuation. The review panel will collectively discuss existing proposals that were awarded with the possibility of continuation. Review panel members will take into consideration the technical reviewer's comments, the successful completion of the project within the previously defined project period, whether the goals of the projects were achieved, and the cost effectiveness of the project. Review panel members will then independently determine whether the projects should be considered for continuation. No consensus advice will be given by the review panel members.

2. New proposals. The review panel will then collectively discuss new proposals as a panel, incorporating the evaluation provided by the technical