

an anticipated start date of October 1, 2003.

#### D. Matching Funds

The requirements for matching funds under Section VIII(3) of the Guidance are applicable to Funding Availability under this program. Specific information to be submitted in regard to matching funds can be found in the Application Content and Format Section below.

#### E. Application Content and Format

##### 1. Application Content

Applications should reflect the *National Coral Reef Action Strategy*, the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force *National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs*, and local strategies for coral reef management, such as the 1999, *U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Initiative Strategy*, as modified by the events and activities of the last 3 years. In addition, proposed activities should be coordinated, where appropriate, with ongoing and proposed NOAA coral reef mapping, monitoring, coastal zone and fishery management initiatives, and DOI Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service coral reef activities.

In light of the October 2002 U.S. Coral Reef Task Force resolution to implement a regional process to address six key focus areas, jurisdictions are encouraged to propose funding under this program for local projects and participation in support of this effort. A copy of the Task Force Resolution is available at <http://coralreef.gov/res1cfm/>.

In developing the application, applicants must consult with all relevant State and/or Territory governmental and non-governmental entities involved in coral reef activities in their respective jurisdictions. Those agencies consulted must include coastal zone management, water quality, and wildlife and/or marine resource agencies.

Funding under this award is also intended to support jurisdictional participation in national coral reef planning activities, such as U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meetings. As such, applicants should include in their proposal, anticipated travel costs associated with attendance and participation at U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and other relevant meetings and conferences.

Applicants may submit applications covering up to an 18-month period and must meet all applicable Department of Commerce (DOC) or DOI grant requirements. Initial and final applications must be submitted to NOAA by the due dates established in

the DATES section above. Federal financial assistance forms are not required to be submitted with the initial application; however, all applicable Federal forms must be submitted with the final application. One original and two signed hard/paper copies of the final application, including forms, are required.

Large equipment and/or infrastructure acquisitions are not a priority for funding under this program. Such purchases proposed herein will be reviewed on a case by case basis with respect to the specific management objectives of this and the local coral reef program.

##### 2. Application Format

In developing the proposal, applicants must organize proposed tasks into the following nine key threat management categories (a - i, below), which are based on those found in the threat and management action matrices developed by the All Islands Group:

a. *Climate Change, Coral Bleaching, Diseases and Extreme Biotic and Storm Events*, e.g., applied research, monitoring, or planning to better understand and manage impacts;

b. *Overfishing, Destructive Fishing, and the Harvest and Collection of Marine Ornamentals (Including Coral)*, in FY 2003, NMFS OHC has provided \$350,000 of the total \$2,100,000 to fund priority state and territorial coral reef fishery management activities. Proposed funding for coral reef fishery management tasks should not exceed \$60,000 per jurisdiction, and should be budgeted within the jurisdiction's comprehensive proposal.

The mandate of NMFS is to build sustainable fisheries, recover protected species, and sustain healthy habitats for these species. These tasks should be developed in the same format as the other coral reef management tasks and included and submitted in the comprehensive application. Examples of eligible projects include:

(i) Assessment and monitoring of fish and fishery resources, collection of fishery information;

(ii) Analysis of fishery impacts on reefs and support for the implementation of fishery gear restrictions or other priority regulations;

(iii) Development of fishery reserves;

(iv) Activities to improve management of ornamental reef species for the aquarium industry;

(v) Hiring or training of enforcement officers; and,

(vi) Outreach and education on fishery and endangered species issues.

c. *Increasing Development Pressure, Unmanaged Land Use, and Population*

*Growth*, e.g., tasks to forward the conservation and management of coral reefs through planning, designation, implementation and evaluation of land use and marine protected areas; including personnel training, equipment procurement, management plan development, signage, monitoring and enforcement, etc.;

d. *Tourism and Recreational Overuse, and Vessel Groundings and Anchorings*, e.g., coastal zone management activities, marine and land zoning, vessel grounding prevention and management, mooring buoy installation, recreational signage, etc.;

e. *Alien and Invasive Species*, e.g., policy development, mitigation projects, etc.;

f. *Marine Pollution, Sedimentation, Runoff, Nonpoint Source Pollution, and Marine Debris*, e.g., tasks focused on: (1) Oil-spill prevention and response, e.g., developing response plans, personnel training, interagency coordination, etc.; (2) Marine debris prevention and removal, e.g., developing prevention policies, collection and disposal of debris, etc.; and (3) Reducing impacts from land-based/watershed pollution source, e.g., Best Management Practices (BMP) planning and implementation, watershed restoration projects, etc.;

g. *Lack of General Public Awareness*, e.g., tasks to increase general coral reef awareness including brochures and other informational materials, public meetings and workshops, etc.;

h. *National Security Activities*, e.g., tasks intended to support coordination toward the management of impacts from national security activities; and,

i. *Other*, e.g., activities that address other threats.

The first page of the application should consist of the cover page described in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section at the beginning of this document.

For each category in which one or more task is proposed, the applicant must include the following information:

a. A brief introduction that describes the status of the issue in the jurisdiction as addressed by the proposed task; recent actions undertaken to address the issues, with a focus on the status of previous federally funded tasks; the jurisdiction's strategy to address critical needs over the medium term; and, a justification for the proposed task.

b. A description of each proposed task that must include:

(i) The category of management action from the All Islands Group management action matrix under which the proposed activity falls;

(ii) Clear identification of the work to be completed, who will perform the