

### B. Eligibility Criteria

Eligible applicants are limited to the natural resource management agency in each U.S. State or Territory, or Freely Associated State, with jurisdiction over coral reefs, as designated by the respective governors or other applicable senior jurisdictional official. NOAA is requesting proposals from Puerto Rico, Florida, U.S. Virgin Islands, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Federal agencies are not eligible for funding under this Program.

Furthermore, to be eligible for FY 2003 funding, applicants previously receiving funds under this Program must have made significant progress implementing those tasks and met data submission deadlines, including all performance and fiscal reporting requirements and data transfers.

### C. Funding Availability and Mechanisms

#### 1. Funding Availability

Approximately \$840,000 will be available in FY 2003 for coral reef ecosystem monitoring activities under this program. FY 2003 awards to Puerto Rico, Florida, U.S. Virgin Islands, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are expected to range from \$50,000 to \$100,000. FY 2003 awards to the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands are expected to be approximately \$10,000 to \$20,000 per year. Funding will be subject to the availability of federal appropriations.

#### 2. Funding Mechanism

Funds will be administered through cooperative agreements between eligible organizations and NCCOS. FY 2003 awards to Puerto Rico, Florida, U.S. Virgin Islands, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands may submit proposals up to 3 years in duration, at funding levels between \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year (e.g., up to \$300,000 for 3-year continuation proposal). FY 2003 awards to the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands may submit proposals up to three years in duration, at funding levels between \$10,000 - \$20,000 per year (i.e., \$60,000 for three year continuation proposal). FY 2003 awards, however, will only provide funding for the monitoring activities

proposed for FY 2003, and funding for out years is contingent on subsequent years' appropriations. Multiple-year proposals must specify the budget and activities for each year. Annual projects should follow the Federal fiscal year, beginning on October 1 and ending September 30.

### 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. Content

Application Content should be developed and submitted according to the following guidelines:

a. *First time applicants for monitoring awards:* Eligible activities for the first year of proposed funding (i.e., FY 2003) include an initial characterization of baseline ecosystem condition, an inventory/mapping of biotic resources, and an assessment of anthropogenic stressors (e.g., contaminants in lagoon sediments, sedimentation conditions, eutrophication, etc.) if these studies are prerequisite to establishing new long-term monitoring sites. Activities can also include database development and training of field crew. Proposed second and third year work should follow the guidelines for previous recipients below.

b. *Previous recipients of NCCOS monitoring awards:* Proposals from previous recipients should detail the monitoring design, sampling parameters and protocols, data management, and the need/context for establishing new long-term monitoring sites. Proposals should describe how the proposed monitoring meets local coral conservation needs and fits into ongoing long-term assessments, inventories, and monitoring within the jurisdiction and/or region. Each proposal must provide enough specificity on the parameters to be monitored, the design and frequency of sampling, methods used, data management and quality assurance, and other information for peer-reviewers to judge the quality of proposed work. Of particular importance to creating a National Coral Reef Monitoring Network, each proposal should also address (1) how compatible the proposed data (e.g., data confidence limits, standardized protocols) will be with other jurisdictional and regional databases, and (2) when and in what

format the data will be available to NOAA. The information produced through these awards is intended to fill gaps in knowledge of coral reef ecosystems nationwide, track and predict changes in coral reef ecosystems nationwide, and serve as the foundation for biennial reporting in the *Report of the Health of U.S. Coral Reef Ecosystems*.

In addition, each jurisdiction's proposal for FY 2003 must include the preparation of a comprehensive assessment of coral reef ecosystem health. This will be each jurisdiction's contribution to the *Report on the Health of U.S. Coral Reef Ecosystems: 2004*. Toward this end, FY 2003 proposals may budget for travel to at least one national workshop, costs for preparing and printing a jurisdictional report on the condition of coral reef ecosystems, and related expenses.

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.

#### 2. Application Format

Applicants must submit initial applications, inclusive of elements a-e below, by the date established in the DATES section above. Applications are limited to 15 standard letter size pages, including attachments, and font should be Times New Roman, 12 point or larger.

a. *A Cover Page* as described in the SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION section at the beginning of this Guidance;

b. *A Project Description* (i.e., narrative description) for each proposed task that includes: the specific priority management questions that are driving the effort, how data collected will be translated and transferred to the local management community, project objectives, and a timetable with project milestones;

c. *A Summary Budget* that includes a detailed breakdown of costs by category and a description of the amount of matching funds available to the applicant, as described in Section VIII of the Guidelines. Each subcontract or subgrant should be listed as a separate item. Describe the products or services to be obtained and indicate the applicability or necessity of each to the project. Provide separate budgets for each subcontract or subgrant and indicate the basis for the cost estimates. More detailed budget instructions are available at [http://biogeo.nos.noaa.gov/~jchristensen/mon\\_web/](http://biogeo.nos.noaa.gov/~jchristensen/mon_web/). Intended