

Secretary of Commerce, and adhered to the terms of financial assistance awards funded under the CZMA.

The evaluation will include a site visit, consideration of public comments, and consultations with interested Federal, State, and local agencies and members of the public. Public meetings will be held as part of the site visit.

Notice is hereby given of the dates of the site visits for these evaluations, and the dates, local times, and locations of the public meetings during the site visit.

The North Carolina Coastal Management Program evaluation site visit will be held March 10–14, 2003. Three public meetings will be held during the week. The public meetings will be: On Monday, March 10, 2003, at 6 p.m., at the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources/Wilmington Regional Office, Conference Room, 127 Cardinal Drive Ext., Wilmington, North Carolina; on Tuesday, March 11, 2003, at 6 p.m., at the Carteret County Courthouse, District Courtroom, Courthouse Square, Beaufort, North Carolina; and Wednesday, March 12, 2003, at 6 p.m., at Manteo Town Hall, Board of Commissioners Meeting Room, 407 Budleigh Street, Manteo, North Carolina.

The Connecticut Coastal Management Program evaluation site visit will be held March 31–April 4, 2003. One public meeting will be held during the week. The public meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2003, at 7 p.m., at the Department of Environmental Protection Marine Headquarters, Training Room, Building #3, 333 Ferry Road, Old Lyme, Connecticut.

Copies of North Carolina's and Connecticut's most recent performance reports, as well as OCRM's notification and supplemental request letters to the states, are available upon request from OCRM. Written comments from interested parties regarding these Programs are encouraged and will be accepted until 15 days after the last public meeting. Please direct written comments to Ralph Cantral, Chief, National Policy and Evaluation Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, 10th floor, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. When each evaluation is completed, OCRM will place a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the final evaluation findings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ralph Cantral, Chief, National Policy and Evaluation Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-

West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, (301) 713–3155, Extension 118.

Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog 11.419, Coastal Zone Management Program Administration

Dated: January 14, 2003.

Alan Neuschatz,

Chief Financial Officer/Chief, Administrative Officer for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 001214351–3009–04]

Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program; Financial Assistance for Graduate Students

AGENCY: National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is announcing funding availability for graduate students pursuing masters or doctoral level degrees in oceanography, marine biology, or maritime archaeology through the Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program and is inviting applications for such scholarships. The intent of this program is to recognize outstanding scholarship and encourage independent graduate level research in the above mentioned fields.

DATES: Applications must be received by March 10, 2003 no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Scholarship awards will be announced in July 2003.

ADDRESSES: Applications should be sent to the Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program, Attention: Office of the Assistant Administrator, 13th Floor, National Ocean Service, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Information on the scholarship program may be obtained from the Web site: <http://fosterscholars.noaa.gov>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program, Office of the Assistant Administrator, 13th Floor, National Ocean Service, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301–713–3074).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: The Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program is authorized at 16 U.S.C. 1445c–1 to recognize outstanding scholarship in oceanography, marine biology, or maritime archaeology,

particularly by women and members of minority groups, and encourage independent graduate-level research through financial support of graduate studies in such fields.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: This program is listed under CFDA #11.460, titled Special Oceanic and Atmospheric Projects.

Program Description: The Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program provides support for independent graduate-level studies in oceanography, marine biology, or maritime archaeology, particularly by women and members of minority groups. Gender and minority status is not considered when selecting award recipients. However, special outreach efforts are employed to solicit applications from women and minorities. Scholarship selections are based on financial need, academic excellence, recommendations, and research and career goals. The program is administered through NOAA's National Ocean Service and is funded annually with 1% of the amount appropriated each fiscal year to carry out the National Marine Sanctuaries Act.

Funding Availability: For the 2003–2004 academic year, Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarships may provide, subject to appropriations, support of up to \$32,000 per student: a 12-month stipend of \$20,000 in addition to a tuition allowance of up to \$12,000. A maximum of \$64,000 may be provided to masters students (up to two years of support) and up to \$128,000 may be provided to doctoral students (up to four years of support). For the 2003–2004 academic year, NOAA expects to award up to five scholarships.

The annual stipend will be paid directly to the scholar. The stipend is intended to defray cost-of-living expenses, and not to support research costs. NOAA anticipates the student and their faculty advisor will secure research funds independent of the scholarship. Tuition and academic fees will be negotiated between the academic institution and the Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship program manager at NOAA prior to the receipt of funds. This negotiation is intended to leverage scholarship funds and enhance opportunities for scholarship recipients. In those instances in which tuition and academic fees are not totally waived by the academic institution, the tuition allowance in an amount equal to the tuition and fees not waived (but not to exceed \$12,000) will be paid directly to the scholar for remittance to the academic institution. If tuition and fees are reduced or waived by the academic institution, then that portion of the