

intend to review the HCP and to prepare an EIS. The environmental review will analyze King County's proposed HCP, a "No Action" alternative reflecting the baseline conditions in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties under current wastewater treatment practices, as well as a full range of reasonable alternatives and the associated impacts of each. The Services are currently in the process of developing alternatives for analysis. Additional project alternatives may be developed based on input received from this and future scoping notices during development of the EIS.

Comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties to ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action and all significant issues are identified. The Services request that comments be as specific as possible. In particular, we request information regarding: the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts that implementation of the proposed HCP could have on endangered and threatened and other covered species and their communities and habitats; other possible alternatives; potential adaptive management and/or monitoring provisions; funding issues; baseline environmental conditions in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties; other plans or projects that might be relevant to this proposed project; and minimization and mitigation efforts.

In addition to considering potential impacts on listed and other covered species and their habitats, the EIS could include information on potential impacts resulting from alternatives on other components of the human environment. These other components could include air quality, water quality and quantity, geology and soils, cultural resources, social resources, economic resources, and environmental justice.

Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the environmental review should be directed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or NMFS at the address or telephone numbers provided above. All comments and materials received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be released to the public.

The environmental review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 USC 4321 *et seq.*), National Environmental Policy Act Regulations (40 CFR 1500–1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, and policies and procedures of the Services for compliance with those regulations.

Dated: May 5, 2003.

**David Wesley,**

*Deputy Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Portland, Oregon*

Dated: June 4, 2003.

**Phil Williams,**

*Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**BILLING CODES 3510–22–S, 4310–55–22**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 030528135–3135–01; I.D. 050103F]

#### Financial Assistance for Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Culture and Large Scale Restoration Activities in Chesapeake Bay

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of funds.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this notice is to invite the public to submit proposals for available funding toward research and development projects that address various aspects of Chesapeake Bay Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) culture and large scale restoration projects. Funds are available to State, local and Indian tribal governments, institutions of higher education, other non-profit organizations and commercial organizations. This notice describes the conditions under which project proposals will be accepted and criteria under which proposals will be evaluated for funding consideration. Depending upon the level of Federal involvement in individual projects, selected recipients will enter into either a cooperative agreement or a grant.

**DATES:** Applications must be received by 5 p.m. eastern daylight savings time on July 10, 2003. Applications received after that time will not be considered for funding.

Statements of Intent (*see*

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**) should be submitted by June 30, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** You can obtain an application package from, and send completed proposals to: Peter Bergstrom, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, 410 Severn Avenue, Suite 107A, Annapolis, MD 21403. You can also obtain the application package from the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office Home Page <http://noaa.chesapeakebay.net/>.

Applications will not be accepted electronically nor by facsimile machine submission. The statement of intent (*see* **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**) should be sent to Peter Bergstrom ([peter.bergstrom@noaa.gov](mailto:peter.bergstrom@noaa.gov)).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peter Bergstrom, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, telephone: (410) 267–5660, or e-mail: [peter.bergstrom@noaa.gov](mailto:peter.bergstrom@noaa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Introduction

A statement of intent to submit a full proposal is requested although not required and will assist the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office in setting up technical reviewers. It is requested that this statement provide a project title, associated investigators and approximate budget.

##### A. Authority

The Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended, at 16 U.S.C. 753a, authorizes the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), for the purpose of developing adequate, coordinated, cooperative research and training programs for fish and wildlife resources, to continue to enter into cooperative agreements with colleges and universities, with game and fish departments of the several states, and with non-profit organizations relating to cooperative research units. The Secretary of Commerce is authorized under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. 661–666c, to provide assistance to, and cooperate with, Federal, State, and public or private agencies and organizations in the development, protection, rearing, and stocking of fisheries, resources thereof, and for fisheries habitat restoration.

##### B. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA)

The projects to be funded are in support of the Chesapeake Bay Studies Program (CFDA 11.457).

##### C. Program Description

The Chesapeake Bay Studies Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Program is a new program initiated this year in response to language in the House Report (H.R. Rep. No. 108–10, at 712 (2003)). The main purpose of the program is to enhance and increase this important fisheries habitat in Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries. Funding will be directed to complement existing and future efforts in this area by Federal, State, and local agencies, and community watershed associations.

Principle investigators will be expected to prepare for and attend one