

The earliest start date of awards is about 300 days after the date of publication of this notice.

Address for submitting Proposals: You can obtain an application package from, and send your completed application(s) to: National Marine Fisheries Service, State/Federal Liaison Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive, N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702. You may also obtain the application package from the CRP homepage at: <http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov/grants/programs/crp.htm>

Information Contact(s): Ellie Francisco Roche, Chief, State/Federal Liaison Office, (727)570-5324.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include institutions of higher education, other nonprofits, commercial organizations, state governments, and private citizens. Federal agencies or institutions are not eligible. Foreign governments, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, and international organizations are excluded for purposes of this solicitation since the objective of the CRP is to optimize research and development benefits from U.S. marine fishery resources.

Cost Sharing Requirements: Cost-sharing is not required for the CRP.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

5. General Coral Reef Conservation

Summary Description: Funding will support efforts by educational and non-governmental institutions to conserve the coral reef ecosystems of the United States and the Freely Associated States in the Pacific (Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia). The objective of this program is to support programs and projects to help preserve, sustain and restore the condition of coral reef ecosystems, promote the wise management and sustainable use of coral reef resources, and increase public knowledge and awareness of coral reef ecosystems and issues regarding their conservation. NMFS will accept preapplications for peer review. Applications for research activities will not be eligible under this category. This program is part of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 which provides matching grants of financial assistance for coral reef conservation projects. Selected applicants may be asked to revise award objectives, work plans or budgets prior to submittal of a final application, including required Federal financial assistance forms, to NMFS.

Funding Availability: NMFS will provide approximately \$400,000 in funding in FY 2004 for awards. It is expected that most awards will range from a minimum of \$15,000 to a maximum of \$50,000. Funding will be subject to the availability of federal appropriations.

Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 6403.

CFDA: 11.463 Habitat Conservation.

Preapplication/Application Deadline: Preapplications are due to NOAA before midnight, EDT, on March 12, 2004. Final applications are due to NOAA before midnight, EDT on June 4, 2004.

Address for submitting Proposals: David Kennedy, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, Office of Response and Restoration, N/ORR, Room 10102, NOAA National Ocean Service, 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Information Contact(s): Andy Bruckner, Office of Habitat Conservation, F/HC1, Room 14717, NOAA Fisheries, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, phone 301-713-3459 extension 190, e-mail at andy.bruckner@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, commercial organizations, and local and Indian tribal governments. U.S. State, Territory, and Commonwealth and Freely Associated State Government Agencies are not eligible under this program. Federal agencies are eligible under this program; however, such applications will be a low priority unless they are an essential part of a cooperative project with other eligible educational or non-governmental institutions.

Cost Sharing Requirements: Any coral conservation project funded under this program requires a 1:1 match. Matching funds must be from non-Federal sources and can include in-kind contributions and other non-cash support. The NOAA Administrator may waive all or part of the matching requirement if the Administrator determines that the project meets the following two requirements: (1) No reasonable means are available through which an applicant can meet the matching requirement, and (2) The probable benefit of such project outweighs the public interest in such matching requirement.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

6. Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans

Summary Description: The object of this program is support value-added studies or projects that will enhance the conservation of coral reef fishery resources by the Regional Fishery Management Councils with responsibilities for Fishery Management Plans that include coral reefs or fishery resources that depend on these reef ecosystems. It is not intended to support normal Council activities or responsibilities. While first priority will be given to proposals for coral reef activities in the Council's jurisdiction, proposals for complementary activities of high conservation value within state waters that are fully coordinated with appropriate state, territory or commonwealth management authorities will also be accepted. This program is part of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 which provides matching grants of financial assistance for coral reef conservation projects. NMFS will accept preapplications for peer review. Selected applicants may be asked to revise award objectives, work plans or budgets prior to submittal of a final application, including required Federal financial assistance forms, to NMFS.

Funding Availability: NMFS will provide approximately \$1,050,000 in funding in FY 2004. In order to ensure regional balance, a maximum of \$525,000 will be available for activities in the Western Pacific, and a maximum of \$525,000 will be available for activities in the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean. Funding will be subject to the availability of federal appropriations.

Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 6403.

CFDA: 11.441 Regional Fishery Management Councils.

Preapplication/Application Deadline: Preapplications are due to NOAA before midnight, EST, on March 12, 2004. Final applications are due to NOAA before midnight, EDT on June 4, 2004.

Address for submitting Proposals: David Kennedy, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, Office of Response and Restoration, N/ORR, Room 10102, NOAA National Ocean Service, 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Information Contact(s): Andy Bruckner, Office of Habitat Conservation, F/HC1, Room 14717, NOAA Fisheries, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, phone 301-713-3459 extension 190, e-mail at andy.bruckner@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Applicants are limited to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, South Atlantic