

program that supports research, monitoring, modeling and management addressing various aspects of Chesapeake Bay fisheries. The Chesapeake Bay is a complex and dynamic ecosystem that supports many fisheries that are economically important both regionally and nationally. The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office (NCBO) established the Fisheries Steering Committee in 2001 to guide various Chesapeake Bay fisheries' issues including management and research in an ecosystem context. Funded projects foster our knowledge and understanding of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem by: (1) providing biological information and life history characteristics for many individual Chesapeake Bay fisheries stocks, and (2) broadening the multispecies knowledge base for development of Fisheries Ecosystem Planning. All projects supported through this program will address recommendations of the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Ecosystem Plan (<http://noaa.chesapeakebay.net/fisheries>) and provide timely (real-time) information for making resource management decisions in an ecosystem context.

Funding Availability: This solicitation announces that approximately \$1.5M may be available in FY 2004 for cooperative agreements in amounts to be determined by the proposals and available funds. Proposals may be submitted for up to 3 years. However, funds will be made available for only a 12-month award period and any renewal of the award period will depend on submission of a successful proposal subject to merit review, adequate progress on previous award(s), and available funding to renew the award. It is the intent of the NCBO to renew funding for several projects currently being supported and to make awards with funding through this notice to these programs pending successful review of a new application package, and adequate progress reports and/or site visits.

Statutory Authority: 16 U.S.C. 661.

CFDA: 11.457, Chesapeake Bay Studies, Fisheries Research.

Application Deadline: Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit applications electronically through <http://www.grants.gov>, however, you may also submit your application to NOAA in paper format.

For electronic submission - Proposals must be received by 5 p.m. eastern time on December 1, 2003. Proposals received after that time will not be considered for funding. Users of Grants.gov will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it off line, and then upload

and submit the application package and associated proposal information via the Grants.gov website.

For paper submission - proposals must be received by 5 p.m. eastern time on December 1, 2003. Proposals received after that time will not be considered for funding. NCBO determines whether an application has been submitted before the deadline by date/time stamping the applications as they are physically received in the NCBO office.

Address for submitting Proposals: Electronic submission online: <http://www.grants.gov/>

Paper submission: Derek M. Orner, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, 410 Severn Avenue, Suite 107A, Annapolis, MD 21403.

Information Contact(s): Derek M. Orner, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, 410 Severn Avenue, Suite 107A, Annapolis, MD 21403, or by phone at 410-267-5676, or fax to 410-267-5666, or via internet at derek.ornor@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, other nonprofits, commercial organizations, foreign governments, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, international organizations, state, local and Indian tribal governments. Federal agencies or institutions are not eligible to receive Federal assistance under this notice.

Cost Sharing Requirements: No cost sharing is required under this program, however, the NCBO strongly encourages applicants applying for either area of interest to share as much of the costs of the award as possible. Funds from other Federal awards may not be considered matching funds. The nature of the contribution (cash versus in-kind) and the amount of matching funds will be taken into consideration in the review process. Priority selection will be given to proposals that propose cash rather than in-kind contributions.

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

National Ocean Service

1. Geodetic Science and Applied Research (GSAR) Program

Summary Description: The GSAR Program represents an NOAA/NGS effort to conduct basic and applied research in the geodetic sciences that advances positioning operations and services in support of transportation and commerce on a national basis. This initial opportunity is focused on a specific problem: Three-Frequency Real-

Time Kinematic (RTK) Positioning by Different Support Architectures. There are at least 8 additional priorities that will be addressed in the future in the GSAR Program.

Funding Availability: One award of no more than \$65,000 is expected to be made through this announcement, depending on availability of funds.

Statutory Authority: Authority for the GSAR program is provided by the following: Coast and Geodetic Survey Act, Public Law 80-373, 33 U.S.C. 883d.

CFDA: 11.400, Applied Geodetic Research.

Application Deadline: Proposals must be received by the NGS no later than 5 p.m., EDT, November 17, 2003.

Address for submitting Proposals: Geodetic Services Division; NOAA National Geodetic Survey; N/NGS1; 1315 East-West Highway, Room 9356; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3282.

Information Contact(s): Gilbert J. Mitchell: 301-713-3228 ext. 114, or fax to 301-713-4176, or via internet at Gilbert.Mitchell@noaa.gov.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education and federally funded educational institutions such as the Naval Postgraduate School.

Cost Sharing Requirements: No cost sharing is required under this program.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

Oceans and Atmospheric Research

1. The Gulf of Mexico Oyster Industry Program

Summary Description: It is the goal of the Gulf Oyster Industry Program to encourage multi-disciplinary research and extension projects that contribute directly to the efficiency and profitability of oyster-related businesses and to the safety of oyster products. It encourages multi-disciplinary approaches to meet the challenges faced by the oyster industry in producing wholesome seafood products. Oyster businesses seek innovative solutions at all producing and processing levels, including: production (landings), oyster disease diagnostics, harvesting, post-harvest treatment, processing, distribution, marketing, consumer education, and food safety.

Funding Availability: Approximately \$1 million is available for the Gulf Oyster Industry competition in 2004 and a similar amount is expected but not assured for FY-2005, therefore, two-year projects will be considered. Proposals are limited to a total of