

conducting an environmental assessment. Category C applicants are encouraged to contact the Prescott Grant Program staff as early as possible for guidance on preparing an assessment. This process is intended to assist NMFS' compliance with NEPA.

If proposed activities in Category A, B, or C will take place within National Marine Sanctuaries, National Parks, National Seashores, and other Federally-designated or State-designated protected areas, it is the applicant's responsibility to request and obtain from the appropriate government agencies any necessary permits or letters of agreement.

For further information on permit requirements and applications procedures for Federal scientific research or MMPA enhancement permits, contact the NMFS Office of Protected Resources (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) or see the following website:http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/PR1/Permits/pr1permits_types.html.

If a proposal is selected for funding, any necessary MMPA and/or ESA scientific research and/or enhancement permits must be received prior to receipt of funds. Failure to obtain other Federal, state, and local permits, approvals, letters of agreement, or failure to provide environmental analyses where necessary (i.e., NEPA environmental assessment) will also delay the receipt of funds if a project is otherwise selected for funding.

H. Duration and Terms of Funding

2003/2004 awards under the Prescott Grant Program will have a maximum project period of 3 years. However, the total Federal award cannot exceed \$100,000 regardless of the length of the project period. We will not accept proposals requesting incrementally funded projects exceeding \$100,000 in Federal funds.

If an applicant wishes to continue work on a project funded through this program beyond the project period and obligated award funds have not been expended by the end of this period, the applicant can notify the assigned Federal Program Officer 30 days prior to the end of the period to determine eligibility for a no-cost extension. If, however, the money is expended and funds are needed to continue the project, the applicant should submit another proposal during the next competitive award cycle (FY 2005) or seek an alternate source of funding.

If a proposal is selected for funding, we have no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award. Renewal of an award

to increase funding up to the maximum of \$100,000 in the Federal share or to extend the period of performance is totally at our discretion.

I. Non-Federal Match or Cost Sharing

Legislation under which the Prescott Grant Program operates requires a non-Federal match, or cost share, in order to leverage the limited funds available for this program and to encourage partnerships among government, private organizations, non-profit organizations, the stranding network, and academia to address the needs of marine mammal health and stranding response. All proposals submitted must provide a minimum non-Federal match of 25 percent of the total budget (i.e., .25 x total project costs = total non-Federal share). Therefore, the total Federal share will be 75 percent or less of the total budget. For example, if the proposed total budget was \$133,334, the minimum total non-Federal share would be \$33,334 (.25 x \$133,334 = \$33,334) and the maximum total Federal share would be \$100,000 (.75 x \$133,334 = \$100,000). The applicant can include a non-Federal match for more than 25 percent of the total budget, but this obligation will be binding. In order to reduce calculation error in determining the correct non-Federal match amounts, we urge all applicants to use the cost share calculator on the Prescott Grant Program web page (see section I. L. Electronic Access Addresses).

The Federal Program Officer will determine the appropriateness of all non-Federal match proposals, including the valuation of in-kind contributions, according to the regulations codified at 15 CFR 14.23 and 24.24. An in-kind contribution is a non-cash contribution, donated or loaned, by a third party to the applicant. In general, the value of in-kind services or property used to fulfill a non-Federal match will be the fair market value of the services or property. Thus, the value is determined by the cost of obtaining such services or property if they had not been donated, or of obtaining such services or property for the period of the loan. The applicant must document the in-kind services or property used to fulfill the non-Federal match. If we decide to fund a proposal, we will require strict accounting of the in-kind contributions within the total non-Federal match included in the award document. The Grants Officer (i.e., the Department of Commerce official responsible for all business management and administrative aspects of a grant and with delegated authority to award, amend, administer, close out, suspend, and/or terminate awards) is the final approving authority for the

award, including the budget and any non-Federal match proposals.

J. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

The Prescott Grant Program will be listed in the "Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance" under number 11.439, titled "Marine Mammal Data Program". This information should be included on the Application Form, 424, space 10 (see section III, How to Apply, below).

K. Where to Send Proposals

All proposals for the annual award cycle should be sent to NOAA/NMFS/ Office of Protected Resources, Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program, Attn: Michelle Ordonez, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 12604, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283, phone 301-713-2322 ext 177. Proposals for the emergency assistance component of the Prescott Grant Program should be sent to the NMFS Regional Office that oversees the area of action (see the NMFS Prescott Grant Program web page at:http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/PR2/Health_and_Stranding_Response_Program/Prescott.html for addresses). We cannot accept completed applications via the Internet or facsimile at this time.

L. Electronic Access Addresses

This solicitation, complete proposal packages (including required Federal forms) with instructions, a cost share calculator and addresses for submission are available on the NMFS Prescott Grant Program web page at:http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/PR2/Health_and_Stranding_Response_Program/Prescott.html.

II. Program Goals and Regional Funding Priorities

For each of the proposal categories, national and regional funding priorities have been identified that are either essential to accomplishing the overarching goals of the Prescott Grant Program or address specific needs of each stranding region. The MMHSRP has identified national funding priorities that are nation-wide in scope or that cross regional boundaries in implementation. For the 2003/2004 annual cycle, each NMFS Region identified regional funding priorities that will improve the capabilities of their regional stranding network. These national and regional funding priorities will be reviewed prior to each annual award cycle in order to incorporate new needs that arise and eliminate priorities that have been met in previous award cycles.