

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Federal Agency Name(s): National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce

Funding Opportunity Title: 2011 Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Science

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NMFS-NCBO-2011-2002881

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.457, Chesapeake Bay Studies

Dates: Letters of Intent should be sent directly to Derek Orner, (derek.ornier@noaa.gov) no later than February 11, 2011.

Full proposals must be received and validated by Grants.gov, postmarked, or provided to a delivery service on or before 5:00 p.m. ET, March 4, 2011. Please note: Validation or rejection of your application by Grants.gov may take up to 2 business days after submission. Please consider this process in developing your submission timeline. Applications received after the deadline will be rejected/returned to the sender without further consideration. Use of U.S. mail or another delivery service must be documented with a receipt. No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted.

Funding Opportunity Description: The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office (NCBO) is directed by congressional mandate to provide technical assistance in: (1) identifying science-based management options for restoration and protection of living resources and their habitats; (2) monitoring and assessing the status of living resources and their habitats; and, (3) evaluating the effectiveness of management plan implementation.

For FY 2011, it is anticipated that approximately \$2,000,000 could be made available for projects that address ecosystem-based fisheries management, fisheries monitoring, and applied oyster restoration research as identified in the Program Priority Section (I.B.1 - I.B.4).

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Program Objective

NCBO's Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Science Program is a competitive program that supports vital restoration, research, monitoring, analysis, modeling and assessment activities that will assist NOAA, and other Chesapeake Bay Program partners in reaching the goal of effective ecosystem-based management and integrated restoration.

The objective of the Fisheries Science Program in 2011 is to further advance the understanding and knowledge of fisheries ecosystem dynamics in Chesapeake Bay - specifically addressing fisheries and habitat goals identified by the Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and Fiscal Year 2011 Action Plan pursuant to Chesapeake Bay Executive Order 13508 (<http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net/>).

B. Program Priorities

NCBO proposes to fund applied projects in the following four priority (4) areas:

1. Resident fish and shellfish: The Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team within the Chesapeake Bay Program has been developed to facilitate inter-jurisdictional management of fisheries within Chesapeake Bay. The ability to make informed management decisions requires an understanding of the basic linkages within and among the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Resident fish species are a top priority for the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team and proposals in this area should address the abundance, productivity, distribution, and exploitation patterns of important resident Chesapeake Bay finfish and shellfish resources. Proposals may include research on life history characteristics, stock-recruitment relationships, and schedules of vital rates. Descriptions of stock structure, demographics and spatial distribution would also be appropriate. It is anticipated that proposals will combine analyses of existing fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data. Proposals that address the following are particularly encouraged:

a. Blue Catfish - Population-level effects of an increasing blue catfish population and its ecological consequences.

b. Soft Clam - Population-level effects of a decreasing soft clam population and its ecological consequences. Examine the reasons for the apparent declining population including predator-prey impacts (i.e. blue crab) etc.

c. Retrospective analyses utilizing current and historical data and information with

special emphasis on student development of resource management/decision making products. For example, spatially explicit tools/applications that link land based activities to impacts on fisheries to inform land use decisions and/or targeting of fish/shellfish habitat protection and restoration.

2. Coastal/inter-jurisdictional fisheries: The Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team recognizes that many fish species do not recognize political boundaries and span many regions along the Atlantic Coast throughout their life history. There is a growing need to understand the impacts of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem on the coastal dynamics of many fishery stocks. Proposals addressing the following are particularly encouraged:

a. Atlantic menhaden - Development of biological reference points based upon abundance and the ecosystem role that menhaden play.

b. Comparative studies on the value of nursery areas within Chesapeake Bay to those in nearshore/coastal areas.

c. Retrospective analyses utilizing current and historical data and information with special emphasis on student development of resource management/decision making products. For example, spatially explicit tools/applications that link land based activities to impacts on fisheries to inform land use decisions and/or targeting of fish/shellfish habitat protection and restoration.

3. Fisheries Stock Monitoring: In 2006, the NCBO along with the Chesapeake Research Consortium convened a workshop to review the existing fishery surveys in Chesapeake Bay and to recommend how to best ensure that these surveys support management requirements. Proposals addressing the recommendations from this workshop are encouraged - see workshop report at: <http://chesapeakebay.noaa.gov/fisheries>.

4. Applied Oyster Restoration Research: There have been substantial efforts in recent years to restore the native oyster resource in Chesapeake Bay for both ecological purposes as well as to rebuild the oyster industry. As restoration efforts move toward large scale, tributary specific projects, quantitative evaluation of progress toward management objectives is required. Proposals that address the following objectives are particularly encouraged.

a. Develop Baywide oyster restoration metrics to evaluate success of restoration efforts at multiple scales (e.g., project and tributary scales) that include specific quantitative goals and measures for ecological function and ecosystem services from restored oyster populations.

b. Development of exclusion approaches to guard oyster seed from predation - in

particular from cownose rays.

C. Program Authority

The Secretary is authorized under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended, at 16 U.S.C. 661, to provide assistance to, and cooperate with, Federal, State, and public or private agencies and organizations in the development, protection, rearing, and stocking of all species of wildlife, resources thereof, and their habitat, in controlling losses of the same from disease or other causes, and in minimizing damages from overabundant species.

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

This solicitation announces approximately \$2,000,000 in federal funds that may be available in FY 2011 in award amounts to be determined by the proposals. It is expected that these funds will provide support for 10 - 15 projects at approximately \$50,000 to \$100,000 per project. Funding for subsequent years of work will depend on the performance of grantees to successfully conduct activities as determined by the Federal Program Officer through performance reports, site visits, and compliance with award conditions.

There is no guarantee that sufficient funds will be available to make awards for all qualified projects. The exact amount of funds that may be awarded will be determined in pre-award negotiations between the applicant and NOAA representatives. Publication of this notice does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds. If applicants incur any costs prior to an award being made, they do so at their own risk of not being reimbursed by the government. Notwithstanding verbal or written assurance that may have been received, there is no obligation on the part of NOAA to cover pre-award costs unless approved by the Grants Officer as part of the terms when the award is made.

B. Project/Award Period

Proposals should be submitted for one-year funding support. Proposals should clearly identify objectives and products to be completed during that year of activity. Proposals may be considered eligible for renewal beyond the first project period. However, funds will be made available for only up to a 18-month award period and any continuation of the award will depend on submission of a successful proposal subject to identified review process, adequate progress on previous award(s), and available funding to renew the award. No assurance for a funding renewal exists; funding will be at the complete discretion of NOAA.

Multi-year projects should include in the first-year application a full description of the proposed work and estimated budget by line item as described in this announcement for the first and each subsequent year. Specific products and objectives to be met should be clearly

identified for each year of work.

C. Type of Funding Instrument

Under this solicitation, NCBO will fund Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Science Projects as cooperative agreements. The cooperative agreement has been determined to be the appropriate funding instrument because of the substantial involvement of NCBO in:

1. Developing program research priorities;
2. Evaluating the performance of the program for effectiveness in meeting regional goals for Chesapeake Bay management;
3. Monitoring the progress of each funded project;
4. Holding periodic workshops with investigators; and
5. Working with recipients to prepare annual reports summarizing current accomplishment of the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Science Program.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

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

The Department of Commerce/ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (DOC/NOAA) is strongly committed to broadening the participation of historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic serving institutions, tribal colleges and universities, and institutions that work in underserved areas. The NCBO encourages proposals involving any of the above institutions.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

No cost sharing is required under this program, however, the NCBO strongly encourages applicants to share as much of the project costs 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.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

Electronic application packages are strongly encouraged and are available at: <http://www.grants.gov/>.

If the applicant has difficulty accessing Grants.gov or downloading the required forms from the NCBO website, they should contact

Derek Orner

NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

410 Severn Avenue, Suite 107A

Annapolis, MD 21403

410-267-5676

410-267-5666 _ fax

derek.ornier@noaa.gov

Potential applicants are invited to contact the NCBO Federal Program Officer before submitting an application to discuss project ideas in the context of NCBO program goals and objectives.

B. Content and Form of Application

Application Format

Applicants must submit the following forms during initial submission of the application:

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424),
- Budget Information, Non-construction Programs (SF-424A),
- Assurances, Non-construction Programs (SF424B),

Applicants may submit the information typically included on these documents through the <http://www.grants.gov/> website. The Department of Commerce Form(s) CD 511, Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other responsibility Matters; Drug

Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying, and if applicable Department of Commerce Form CD 346 Applicant for Funding Assistance (Non Profits, For Profits, and Individuals) will be required during the final review process if not initially submitted with the application.

Proposal format must be in at least a 10 point font and double spaced. Brevity will assist reviewers and program staff in dealing effectively with proposals. Therefore, the Project Description may not exceed 15 pages. Data management plans and/or access agreements as well as tables and visual materials, including charts, graphs, maps, photographs, and other pictorial presentations are not included in the 15 page limitation. Appendices may be included but must not exceed a total of 20 pages in length. Appendices may include information such as curriculum, resumes, and/or letters of endorsement. Additional informational material will be disregarded.

In addition to the Federal Forms listed above, proposals must include the following information in the format outlined below.

a. Project summary (1-page limit):

(1) Organization title.

(2) Principal Investigator(s) (PI).

(3) Address, telephone number, and email address of Principal Investigator(s).

(4) Area of interest for which you are applying (see section I. B.).

(5) Project title.

(6) Project duration (1, 2 or 3 year project periods - starting on the first of the month and ending on the last day of the month). Specify whether the project is being submitted with the intention of continuation beyond the first year.

(7) Project objectives for each 12-month project period as well as for the entire anticipated project period.

(8) Summary of work to be performed this fiscal year.

(9) Budget Information

- Total Federal funds requested this fiscal year.

- Cost sharing to be provided from non Federal sources, if any. Specify whether contributions are cash or in kind.

- Total project cost this fiscal year.

b. Project description (15 page limit): Each project must be completely and accurately described. The main body of the proposal should be a clear statement of the work to be undertaken and should include: specific objectives and performance measures for the period of the proposed work and the expected significance; relation to longer-term goals of the PI_s project; and relation to other work planned, anticipated, or underway through Federal assistance.

Each project must be described as follows:

(1) Identification of problem(s): Describe the specific problem(s) or area(s) of interest to be addressed (see section I.B. above).

(2) Project objectives: Objectives should be simple and understandable; as specific and quantitative as possible; clear as to the "what and when," but should avoid the "how and why", and; attainable within the time, money and human resources available. Projects should be accomplishment oriented and identify specific performance measures.

(3) Project narrative: The project narrative is the scientific or technical action plan of activities that are to be accomplished during each budget period of the project. This description must include the specific methodologies, by project job activity, proposed for accomplishing the proposal's objective(s).

Investigators submitting proposals in response to this announcement are strongly encouraged to develop inter-institutional, inter-disciplinary research teams in the form of single, integrated proposals or as individual proposals that are clearly linked together. The project narrative must include a milestone table that summarizes the procedures/objectives that are to be attained in each project month covered. Table format should follow sequential month rather than calendar month (i.e. Project period Month 1, Month 2... versus October, November...).

(4) Data management: (not included in the 15-page limitation _ can be submitted as an appendix.) The proposal must include a plan to make available to the public all data generated from observations, analyses, or model development (primary data) and any secondary (or existing) data used under a cooperative agreement awarded from this solicitation. The data must be available in a format and with documentation such that they may be used by others in the scientific community. Proposals must address plans for sharing data and research products with the community in a timely manner and should lead to development and or support of models for management purposes.

(5) Benefits or results expected: Identify and document the results or benefits to be derived from the proposed activities.

(6) Need for Government financial assistance: Demonstrate the need for assistance. Explain why other funding sources cannot fund all the proposed work. List all other sources of funding that are or have been sought for the project.

(7) Federal, state and local government activities: List any programs (Federal, state, or local government or activities, including Sea Grant, state Coastal Zone Management Programs,

NOAA Oyster Disease Research Program, the state/Federal Chesapeake Bay Program, etc.) this project would affect and describe the relationship between the project and those plans or activities.

(8) Project management: Describe how the project will be organized and managed. Include resumes of principal investigators. List all persons directly employed by the applicant who will be involved with the project. If a consultant and/or subcontractor is selected prior to application submission, include the name and qualifications of the consultant and/or subcontractor and the process used for selection.

(9) Results from prior NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office support: If any PI or co-PI identified on the project has received support from the NCBO in the past 7 years, information on the prior award(s) is required. The following information should be provided:

(a) The NOAA award number, amount and period of support;

(b) The title of the project;

(c) Summary of the results of the completed work, including, for a research project, any contribution to the development of human resources in science/biology;

(d) Publications resulting from the award (Reprints may be submitted, and are requested, for documentation if applicable);

(e) Brief description of available data, samples, physical collections and other related research products not described elsewhere; and

(f) If the proposal is for renewed support, a description of the relation of the completed work to the proposed work.

(10) Monitoring of project performance: Identify who will participate in monitoring the project.

(11) Project impacts: Describe how these products or services will be made available to the fisheries and management communities.

(12) Education and outreach: How will this project provide a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nation's natural resources. This includes the degree to which the potential users of the results, i.e., industry or state resource managers, have been involved in the planning of the activity, will be involved in the execution of the activity and/or are providing funds, and whether there is a plan to disseminate the results to user groups and the public.

(13) Evaluation of project: The applicant is required to provide an evaluation of project accomplishments and progress towards the project objectives and performance measures at the end of each funding period and in the final report. The application must describe the methodology or procedures to be followed to quantify the results of the project.

c. Total project costs and budget narrative: Total project costs are the amount of funds required to accomplish what is proposed in the Project Description, including cost-share contributions and donations.

Provide a detailed table with narrative to support the requested items or activities (personnel/salaries, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contract costs, and indirect costs.) Supplies (<\$5,000/item) and equipment (>= \$5,000/item) should be broken out in as much detail as possible. The budget table and narrative submitted with the application should match the dollar amounts on the SF-424 and SF-424A forms. Additional cost detail may be required prior to a final analysis of overall cost allowability, allocability, and reasonableness.

Please note the following restrictions for salaries and fringe benefits:

Funds for salaries and fringe benefits may be requested only for those personnel who are directly involved in implementing the proposed project and whose salaries and fringe benefits are directly related to specific products or outcomes of the proposed project. Hourly rates and projected hours worked on the project and/or percentage of time and yearly salary should be included for all salary requests. Applicants are strongly encouraged to request reasonable amounts of funding for salaries and fringe benefits to ensure the proposal is competitive.

C. Submission Dates and Times

Letters of Intent should be sent directly to Derek Orner, (derek.ornier@noaa.gov) no later than February 11, 2011.

Full proposals must be received and validated by Grants.gov, postmarked, or provided to a delivery service on or before 5:00 p.m. ET, March 4, 2011. Please note: Validation or rejection of your application by Grants.gov may take up to 2 business days after submission. Please consider this process in developing your submission timeline. Applications received after the deadline will be rejected/returned to the sender without further consideration. Use

of U.S. mail or another delivery service must be documented with a receipt. No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted.

D. Intergovernmental Review

Applications under this program (CFDA 11.457, Chesapeake Bay Studies) are subject to Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs

E. Funding Restrictions

1. Indirect Cost Rates

Regardless of any approved indirect cost rate applicable to the award, the maximum dollar amount of allocable indirect costs for which the Department of Commerce will reimburse the recipient shall be the lesser of the line item amount for the Federal share of indirect costs contained in the approved budget of the award, or the Federal share of the total allocable indirect costs of the award based on the indirect cost rate approved by an oversight or cognizant Federal agency and current at the time the cost was incurred, provided the rate is approved on or before the award end date. If the applicant does not have a current negotiated rate and plans to seek reimbursement for indirect costs, documentation necessary to establish a rate must be submitted within 90 days of receiving an award.

2. Allowable Costs

Funds awarded cannot necessarily pay for all the costs that the recipient might incur in the course of carrying out the project. Allowable costs are determined by reference to the Office of Management and Budget Circulars A 122, "Cost Principles for Nonprofit Organizations"; A 21, "Cost Principles for Education Institutions"; and A 87, "Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments." Generally, costs that are allowable include salaries, equipment, supplies, and training, as long as these are "necessary and reasonable."

F. Other Submission Requirements

All applicants are strongly encouraged to submit applications electronically (through <http://www.grants.gov/>). Facsimile transmissions of proposals will not be accepted. For additional information on application requirements or submission procedures, contact:

Derek Orner

NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

410 Severn Avenue, Suite 107A

Annapolis, MD 21403

(410) 267-5676

derek.orner@noaa.gov

Please refer to important information in submission dates and times above (Section IV.B.4) to help ensure your application is received on time.

Applications submitted in response to this announcement are strongly encouraged to submit via <http://www.grants.gov>. Electronic access to the full funding announcement for this program is also available at this site. If internet access is unavailable, paper applications (a signed original and two copies) may also be submitted to the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, 410 Severn Avenue, Suite 107A, Annapolis, MD 21403. No facsimile applications will be accepted.

Institutions are encouraged to submit Letters of Intent to NCBO by Friday, February 11, 2011 to aid in planning the review processes. Letters of Intent may be submitted via e-mail to derek.orner@noaa.gov. Information should include a general description of the program administration proposal.

All applicants are strongly encouraged to submit applications electronically (through <http://www.grants.gov/>). Facsimile transmissions of proposals will not be accepted. For additional information on application requirements or submission procedures, contact:

Derek Orner

NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

410 Severn Avenue, Suite 107A

Annapolis, MD 21403

(410) 267-5676

derek.orner@noaa.gov

Please refer to important information in submission dates and times above (Section IV.B.4) to help ensure your application is received on time.

Applications submitted in response to this announcement are strongly encouraged to submit via <http://www.grants.gov>. Electronic access to the full funding announcement for this program is also available at this site. If internet access is unavailable, paper applications (a signed original and two copies) may also be submitted to the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, 410 Severn Avenue, Suite 107A, Annapolis, MD 21403. No facsimile applications will be accepted.

V. Application Review Information

A. Evaluation Criteria

1. Importance/relevance and applicability of proposal to the program goals (20 points)

This ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, federal, regional, state, or local activities. For the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Program this includes the following questions: Does the applicant demonstrate a knowledge and comprehension of the problem? Is the applicant familiar with related work that is completed or on-going?

2. Technical merit (40 points)

This assesses whether the approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and objectives. For the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Science Program this includes the following questions: Are the objectives defined in the proposal focused? Does the applicant demonstrate that the objectives are realistic and can be reached within the proposed project period? What is the likelihood of the proposed activities to improving the general understanding of the Bay's ecosystem? Does the project design include a project evaluation that ensures that the goals and objectives of the project will be met?

3. Overall qualifications of applicants (10 points)

This ascertains whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project. For the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Science Program this includes the following question: Does the applicant show the capability and experience in successfully completing similar projects?

4. Project costs (20 points)

This budget is evaluated to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project

needs and time-frame. For the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Science Program this includes the following questions: Does the applicant demonstrate the ability to leverage other resources? Is the nature of the cost share cash or in-kind? Is the budget request reasonable and does the applicant justify the proposed budget request? Are requested funds for salaries and fringe benefits only for those personnel who are directly involved in implementing the proposed project and/or are directly related to specific products or outcomes of the proposed project?

5. Outreach and education (10 points)

This assesses whether the project provides a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nation's natural resources. For the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Science Program this includes the following questions: Does the project involve external sharing and communication through peer-reviewed publication and presentation at scientific symposium and conferences? This includes the degree to which the potential users of the results, i.e., industry or state resource managers, have been involved in the planning of the activity, will be involved in the execution of the activity and/or are providing funds, and whether there is a plan to disseminate the results to user groups and the public.

B. Review and Selection Process

1. Initial Evaluation of Applications

Once a full application has been received by NCBO, an initial administrative review is conducted to determine compliance with requirements and completeness of the application.

2. Technical Review

Applications meeting the requirements of this solicitation will undergo an external technical review. Technical review is conducted by a minimum of three independent reviewers. Each reviewer will individually evaluate and score proposals (1-100 points) using the criteria provided in Section V.A. This review normally will involve experts from both NOAA and non NOAA organizations. The technical reviewers' ratings will be used to produce a rank order of the proposals. No consensus advice will be given by the technical reviewers.

C. Selection Factors

The Federal Program Officer will, in consultation with NCBO staff as appropriate, review the ranking of the proposals and make recommendations to the NCBO Director. The average numerical ranking from the Technical review will be the primary consideration by the NCBO Director in deciding which of the proposals will be recommended for funding to the NOAA Grants Officer. However, the Director of the NCBO will select proposals after

considering the technical reviews and recommendations of the Federal Program Officer. The NCBO Director shall award in rank order unless it is justified that a proposal be selected out of rank order based upon any of the following factors:

1. Availability of funding
2. Balance/distribution of funds
 - a. Geographically
 - b. By type of institutions
 - c. By type of partners
 - d. By research areas
 - e. By project types
3. Duplication of other projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA/federal agencies
4. Program priorities and policy factors as set out in Section I.B. and III.B.
5. Applicant's prior award performance
6. Partnerships with/Participation of targeted group
7. Adequacy of information necessary for NOAA staff to make a NEPA determination and draft necessary documentation before recommendations for funding are made to GMD.

D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Subject to the availability of funds, review of proposals will occur during the 120-days following the date given in this announcement that the proposals are due to the NCBO.

Funding should begin during summer 2010 for most approved projects. Projects should not be expected to begin prior to July 1, 2011, unless otherwise directed by the Federal Program Officer.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

Successful applicants will receive notification from the Federal Program Officer that the application has been recommended for funding to the NOAA Grants Management Division. This notification is not an authorization to begin performance of the project. Official

notification of funding, signed by a NOAA Grants Officer, is the authorizing document that allows the project to begin. This notification will be issued by e-mail from Grants Online to the Authorized Representative of the project. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified that their proposal was not selected for recommendation. Unsuccessful applications will be kept on file in the Program Office for a period of at least 12 months, and then destroyed.

To enable the use of a universal identifier and to enhance the quality of information available to the public as required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to the extent applicable, any proposal awarded in response to this announcement will be required to use the Central Contractor Registration and Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System and be subject to reporting requirements, as identified in OMB guidance published at 2 CFR Parts 25, 170 (2010), http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr25_main_02.tpl, http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr170_main_02.tpl.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The recipients must comply with Executive Order 12906 regarding any and all geospatial data collected or produced under grants or cooperative agreements. This includes documenting all geospatial data in accordance with the Federal Geographic Data Committee Content Standard for digital geospatial data. The Program uses only the existing NOAA Federal financial assistance awards package requirements per 15 CFR parts 14 and 24.

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the Federal Register notice of February 11, 2008 (73 FR 7696), are applicable to this solicitation.

Intergovernmental Review

Applications under this program (CFDA 11.457, Chesapeake Bay Studies) are subject to Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs

Limitation of Liability

In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if these programs fail to receive funding or are cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds. Recipients and sub-recipients are subject to all Federal laws and agency policies, regulations and procedures applicable to Federal financial assistance awards.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for applicant projects or proposals which are seeking NOAA federal funding opportunities.

Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA website: <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/>, including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA, http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216_6_TOC.pdf, and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/toc_ceq.htm.

Consequently, as part of an applicant's package, and under their description of their program activities, applicants are required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to coral reef systems.)

In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting of an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying and implementing feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. The failure to do so shall be grounds for the denial of an application. In some cases if additional information is required after an application is selected, funds can be withheld by the Grants Officer under a special award condition requiring the recipient to submit additional environmental compliance information sufficient to enable NOAA to make an assessment on any impacts that a project may have on the environment.

Prior notice and an opportunity for public comment are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act or any other law for rules concerning public property, loans, grants, benefits, and contracts (5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2)). Because notice and opportunity for comments are not required pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553 or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) are inapplicable. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis has not been prepared. It has been determined that this notice does not contain policies with Federalism implications as that term is defined in Executive Order 13132.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This notification involves collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The use of Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, and SF-LLL and

CD-346 has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under control numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040 and 0348-0046 and 0605-0001.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the PRA unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Executive Order 12866

It has been determined that this notice is not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

Executive Order 13132 (Federalism)

It has been determined that this notice does not contain policies with Federalism implications as that term is defined in Executive Order 13132.

C. Reporting

Award recipients will be required to submit financial and performance (technical) reports. All financial reports and performance reports should be submitted through the

NOAA Grants Online system. Reports will be submitted on a semi-annual schedule and must be submitted no later than 30 days following the end of each 6-month period from the start date of the award. The comprehensive final report is due 90 days after the award expiration. A Data Management Plan must be submitted as part of the proposal application package and submission dates/deadlines agreed to in this plan must be adhered to.

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 includes a requirement for awardees of applicable Federal grants to report information about first-tier subawards and executive compensation under Federal assistance awards issued in FY 2011 or later. All awardees of applicable grants and cooperative agreements are required to report to the Federal Subaward Reporting System (FSRS) available at www.FSRS.gov on all subawards over \$25,000.

VII. Agency Contacts

For further information about the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Science Program, please visit the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office website at: <http://chesapeakebay.noaa.gov/> .

For assistance with forms, application requirements, or submission procedures please contact:

Derek Orner

NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

410 Severn Avenue, Suite 107A

Annapolis, MD 21403

410-267-5676

derek.ornier@noaa.gov .

VIII. Other Information

In addition to producing an annual progress report and a final report, successful applicants will be expected to participate in, and present a report at, the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office Fisheries Science Symposium - held in Laurel, MD during each year that the project is ongoing. Applicants should consider travel costs to these meetings when preparing their budgets.