2020 Pacific Islands Region Marine Turtle Management and Conservation Program

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Funding Opportunity Description 4
A. Program Objective 4
B. Program Priorities 4
C. Program Authority 7
II. Award Information 7
A. Funding Availability 7
B. Project/Award Period 8
C. Type of Funding Instrument 8
III. Eligibility Information 8
A. Eligible Applicants 8
B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement 9
C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility 9
IV. Application and Submission Information 9
A. Address to Request Application Package 9
B. Content and Form of Application 9
C. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM) 15
D. Submission Dates and Times 15
E. Intergovernmental Review 16
F. Funding Restrictions 16
G. Other Submission Requirements 16
V. Application Review Information 18
A. Evaluation Criteria 18
B. Review and Selection Process 20
C. Selection Factors 21
D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates 22
VI. Award Administration Information 22
A. Award Notices 22
B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements 23
C. Reporting 26
VII. Agency Contacts 28
VIII. Other Information 28

NOTICE OF 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: 2020 Pacific Islands Region Marine Turtle Management and Conservation Program

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NMFS-PIRO-2020-2006311

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.454, Unallied Management Projects

Dates: Proposals must be received by http://www.Grants.gov, postmarked, or provided to a delivery service by 5:00 p.m., Hawaii Standard Time, on January 31, 2020. Use of Grants.gov is preferred. If Grants.gov cannot reasonably be used, use of U.S. mail or another delivery service must be documented with a receipt; private metered postmarks are not acceptable.
Postmarked applications received more than 8 business days following the closing date will not be accepted. No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted.
When developing your application submission timeline, please keep in mind that you are encouraged to apply through the www.grants.gov website. This electronic submission system is relatively complex for first time users and involves several preliminary registrations to be completed before your application can be submitted. If you have already used the grants.gov website, the required registrations may have already been completed. Please allow sufficient time for the application to be submitted electronically and for possible computer delays.
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 not adhering to postmark or submission deadlines will be rejected without further consideration.

Funding Opportunity Description: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA/NMFS) Pacific Islands Regional Office (hereinafter, "PIRO") is soliciting competitive applications for the FY2020 Pacific Islands Region Marine Turtle Management and Conservation Program (MTMCP). This program supports conservation, protection, or management actions supporting recovery of Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed sea turtle species occurring within the Pacific Islands Region (PIR) or of aggregations (or species) with linkages to the PIR. Such species may migrate through, nest or forage within the PIR, or are impacted by PIR federally managed activities and relevant to NOAA/NMFS management and recovery obligations.

For the FY2020 funding competition, we are soliciting projects located in: 1) Hawai’i and US territories; and 2) Internationally in projects located in the Philippines (for, Central West Pacific Green Turtle Distinct Population Segment), Japan (for, North Pacific Loggerhead Turtle Distinct Population Segment), and Indonesia and Solomon Islands (for, West Pacific leatherback turtles).

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Program Objective

NOAA/NMFS is soliciting competitive proposals for grants and cooperative agreements that will support NMFS' mission for stewardship of living marine resources through conservation, protection, and recovery of ESA-listed sea turtle species located within the PIR (Hawai'i and US territories), Philippines, Japan, and Indonesia and the Solomon Islands. Internationally based projects are intended to benefit aggregations of sea turtles that have documented linkages to the PIR, or are impacted by PIR federally managed activities and address NOAA/NMFS management and ESA recovery obligations.

B. Program Priorities

The MTMCP seeks projects that enhance, inform, build capacity for conservation, protect, or implement management actions in support of ESA-listed sea turtle species. Projects must use standardized monitoring, research, or conservation approaches consistent with published literature and NOAA directed methodologies (to be confirmed or revised if needed prior to onset of award). All projects will make data publicly available as required within the NOAA data management policy. NOAA is seeking projects that produce data that may be used in conservation and management initiatives, agency population assessments, and NOAA ESA Biological Opinions. Projects must strive to provide a high conservation value for low expenditure of resources.

All proposals should identify how proposed activities relate to recovery criteria listed in U.S. Sea Turtle Recovery Plans. Internationally-based sea turtle projects must demonstrate relevance or species connectivity to the PIR. Such relevance can be established through satellite telemetry or genetics, or by describing how the project is applicable to NOAA/NMFS fishery management or sea turtle recovery obligations. Projects that can link objectives to NMFS management needs expressed in current Biological Opinions, Recovery Plans, or action plans (e.g., Leatherback Turtle Species in the Spotlight) should reference those materials. Applicants must demonstrate proven capacity and expertise to operate within or implement programs for the islands/locations of interest.
Projects must fall into one of the following MTMCP priorities:

PRIORITY 1: Management to address anthropogenic threats within the Pacific Islands Region. Under this priority, NOAA is soliciting projects designed to:

(a) Reduce and manage human harassment and disturbance of green turtles basking at

Laniakea beach, Oahu;

(b) Raise community awareness or implement strategies to mitigate sea turtle boat strikes state-wide, with a focus on priority harbors of or within: Kaneohe, Haleiwa, Hawai'i kai, Waianae, Nawiliwili, or Honokohau;

(c) Manage or reduce threats to foraging or nesting habitats (e.g., marine debris, erosion, lighting impacts, invasive algae, entrapments, etc.) to help increase sea turtle resiliency, or assist in making habitats "climate ready" given sea level rise or other anticipated climate induced impacts (e.g., study, identify or implement management strategies).

PRIORITY 2: Sea turtle stranding response in Hawai'i.

(a) Sea turtle stranding response program on the Island of O'ahu

(b) Sea turtle stranding response program on the Island of Maui

(c) Sea turtle stranding response program on the Island of Hawai'i

Applicants must implement and maintain a sea turtle stranding response program on either Oahu, Maui, or Hawai'i Islands (via a network of volunteers, interns, staff, and community collaboration) to respond to dead, injured, or otherwise compromised sea turtles. Programs may also provide outreach or other strategies to improve sea turtle/human interactions by reducing "take" or other negative impacts or threats to turtles in Hawaii (e.g., promote responsible public viewing, responsible fishing, or boating). Projects should be able to demonstrate their ability to respond, receive, process, and manage information, data, and reports; provide fully-trained and vetted volunteers to respond to strandings; ensure volunteers have appropriate training, equipment, and protective gear; and be able to communicate with cultural sensitivity and effectively with the public. Due to the nature of activities and sensitive management consideration, the program must work in close collaboration with NOAA. This includes open communication between and among programs, and coordination on data collection, response protocols, outreach, and media (including social media).

PRIORITY 3: Research to support recovery and management needs.

Sea turtle research projects are designed to monitor populations, identify threats, and implement actions to address threats for the protection and conservation of the following species:

- Hawksbill sea turtles,
- Central West Pacific Green Turtle Distinct Population Segment (DPS),
- North Pacific Loggerhead Turtle DPS, or
- West Pacific leatherback turtles.

(a) Molokai, Hawaii - Under this priority, NOAA is soliciting projects designed to

monitor nesting activity to collect reproductive information and protect nests from environmental or anthropogenic impacts of hawksbill sea turtles nesting on Molokai Island, Hawaii. Projects should also include educational outreach to promote awareness of the species and actions the public can to do help protect nests, nesting females and nesting habitats, and have proven capacity to work with local communities on Molokai.

(b) Philippines - Green sea turtles of the Central West Pacific DPS nesting in the U.S. territories of the Mariana Archipelago have a strong connectivity to the Southeast Asian region and the Philippines in particular. Priority activities for funding consideration include:

i) Monitoring of turtles in their foraging and nesting habitats to gather important population demographic data to help inform population status and trends relative to understanding habitat use, nesting trends, foraging ecology, regional connectivity, growth rates, survivorship, and threats;

ii) Assessing or mitigating fishery bycatch through surveys or rapid assessments, or implement proven bycatch reduction technologies in operating coastal fisheries (such bycatch assessment activities may benefit multiple species as numerous endangered populations forage within marine waters of the Philippines); and

iii) Investigating, understanding, and monitoring wildlife trafficking of sea turtles (including obtaining morphometric data and genetic samples, and analysis) to help identify management strategies to address this primary threat to turtles in the region. Projects may include capacity building of staff to acquire training in NOAA standards of genetic sample collection, archiving or laboratory analysis.

(c) Japan - The North Pacific loggerhead turtle DPS nests only in Japan. Priority activities for funding consideration may include:

i) Nesting beach monitoring at key index sites to assess nesting trends and/or implement mitigation measures to bolster hatchling production by addressing environmental impacts from beach erosion, predation, or high beach temperatures;

ii) Developing best practice nesting beach handling guidelines (translated into Japanese) for programs to ensure nests and hatchlings are handled via biologically relevant and scientifically proven protocols; and

iii) Implementing activities to assess or reduce interactions in coastal or pelagic fisheries through bycatch mitigation projects or population demographic research in the marine environment (foraging ecology, migratory movements, habitat use, etc.).

(d) Indonesia - The West Pacific leatherback sea turtle population is declining at an alarming rate and key nesting and foraging habitats occurs in Indonesia. Priority activities for funding consideration may include:

i) Conducting nesting beach surveys to monitor nesting activity and assess reproductive

output, and implement measures to manage threats at nesting beaches;

ii) Conducting marine surveys and/or fishery bycatch assessment in foraging habitats or migratory areas;

iii) Promoting efforts to understand, quantify, and develop strategies to manage human take (i.e., harvest) of leatherback turtles in their foraging habitats; and

iv) Genetic sample collecting and laboratory analysis. Projects may include capacity building of staff to acquire training in NOAA standards of sample collection, archiving or laboratory analysis.

(e) Solomon Islands - The West Pacific leatherback sea turtle population is declining at an alarming rate and key nesting and foraging habitats occur in the Solomon Islands. Under this priority activities for funding consideration includes performing nesting beach surveys to monitor nesting activity and assess reproductive output, and implementing measures to manage threats at nesting beaches. Given that other data-poor sea turtle populations also occur in the Solomon Islands (e.g., green, hawksbill, olive ridley sea turtles), projects that can incorporate multiple species in monitoring and conservation activities are encouraged. Projects may include capacity building of staff to acquire training in NOAA standards in sample collection, archiving or laboratory analysis.

C. Program Authority

16 U.S.C. §661; 16 U.S.C. §742f

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

Total funding available under this notice is anticipated to be approximately $450,000. Approximately 5-10 awards are anticipated to be granted for FY 2020 under this competition (Priority 1: 1-3 awards; Priority 2: 1-3 awards; Priority 3: 4-6 awards).

Proposals for Priority 1 and 3 must be between $10,000 to $100,000 per project year. If a multi-year project is proposed, funding can be no more than $100,000 per project year.

Proposals for Priority 2 must be between $10,000 to $45,000, with multi-year project funding no more than $45,000 per funding year.

Actual funding availability for this program is contingent upon FY 2020 Federal appropriations. Award amounts will be determined by the proposals and available funds. There is no limit on the number of applications that can be submitted by the same applicant;

however, multiple applications submitted by the same applicant must clearly identify different projects. If an application for a financial assistance award is selected for funding, NOAA/NMFS has no obligation to provide any additional funding in connection with that award in subsequent years. Notwithstanding verbal or written assurance that may have been received, pre-award costs are not allowed under the award unless approved by the NOAA Grants Officer.

B. Project/Award Period

Priority 1 and 3 projects: Projects may apply for up to three (3) years in length, (multi-year applications), with funding increments of 12 months. Funding beyond year one is contingent upon the availability of funds, satisfactory performance, and is at the sole discretion of the agency. Applications must include project details and a budget for each year of the project. September 1, 2020 is the earliest recommended start date to be used on proposals, unless otherwise directed by the NOAA Program Officer.

Priority 2 projects: Projects may apply for up to 52 months in length (4 years, 4 months), (multi-year applications), with funding increments up to 13 months. Funding beyond the first funding period is contingent upon the availability of funds, satisfactory performance, and is at the sole discretion of the agency. Applications must include project details and a budget for each year of the project. July 1, August 1, or September 1, 2020 is the earliest recommended start date to be used on proposals, unless otherwise directed by the NOAA Program Officer.

C. Type of Funding Instrument

NOAA/NMFS will fund the projects under the Pacific Islands Region Marine Turtle Management and Conservation Program as grants and/or cooperative agreements. The government will be substantially involved in the management and/or operation of the program if a project is funded through a cooperative agreement. This substantial involvement may include but is not limited to partnering in collaborative efforts and/or alignment of activities to meet program priorities. Substantial involvement may also include assisting in the development of educational materials, analysis of samples or data, or providing research supplies (flipper tags, satellite tags, sample vials, etc.).

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are individuals, institutions of higher education, nonprofits, commercial organizations, foreign institutions, foreign organizations, State, local, and Indian

tribal governments. Federal agencies, Federal instrumentalities, or employees of these Federal entities, are not eligible to apply.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

No cost sharing or matching is required under this program.

C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility

In certain instances, research permits, authorizations or letters of endorsement to handle sea turtles or undertake proposed activities must be required. This documentation should either be submitted with the proposal or referenced as available upon request. Any projects that include turtle capture and handling will be required to collect morphometric data, tag turtles, and collect DNA genetic samples for regional connectivity studies currently supported by NOAA Fisheries Service. Given this, internationally-based applicants must therefore demonstrate possession of active CITES export permits or the capacity to acquire them, or have a plan to store and analyze samples in-country. Scientific information and data collected as a result of a NOAA/NMFS funded projects shall be provided to NOAA/NMFS for data archiving and for use in development of conservation initiatives, agency population assessments, and ESA Biological Opinions for the conservation of sea turtles. This includes GPS position data of any and all captured turtles.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

The standard application package, consisting of the standard forms, i.e., SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, SF-LLL, and the CD-511, is available at http://www.grants.gov.
If an applicant has problems downloading the application forms from Grants.gov, contact Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or support@Grants.gov. If you do not have Internet access, an application package may be received by contacting: Penny Larin, NOAA Federal Program Officer, Pacific Islands Regional Office, 1845 Wasp Blvd, Building 176, Honolulu, HI 96818, Phone: (808)-725-5057.

B. Content and Form of Application

Application Format:
All application materials should be submitted in Adobe PDF (recommended) or a common word processing format, and when printed out should meet all format requirements. All pages must be no less than double-spaced, 12-point font, on 8.5-inch x 11-inch paper, with 1-inch margins. Failure to follow these requirements will result in the rejection of the application.

A complete standard NOAA grant application package is required in accordance with the guidelines in this document. Applications that are not complete on the closing date of this announcement will not be reviewed. Your application must contain all required forms; if these forms are not signed via the www.Grants.gov application process, they MUST be signed and dated in ink. Paper applications without inked signatures on their forms will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed.

Each application must include:

- SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance
- SF-424A, Budget Information, Non-construction Programs must be completed, and also include all matching funds.
- SF-424B, Assurances, Non-construction Programs must be completed for each submitted non- construction application.
- CD-511, Certification Regarding Lobbying
- SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable).
- Title page (Proposal cover sheet, limit 1 page)
- Narrative Project Description (described below page limit does not include Title page, Budget, Attachments, or Appendices)
  - Single year applications: 10 page limit
  - Multi-year applications: 15 page limit (inclusive of all years)
- Budget Justification: (described below; limit 2 pages per year)
- NEPA Questionnaire. The NOAA National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) questionnaire must be completed for each application. The questionnaire can be downloaded from the NOAA NEPA website at: https://www.nepa.noaa.gov/docs/NOAA-Grants-Questionnaire-final.pdf. For more information on this requirement, see section "VI B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements". This questionnaire does not count towards any page limits.
- Data Sharing or Management Plan (up to 2 pages, if the project collects environmental data).
- Attachments: (up to 25 pages total for all appendices items) Other supporting documentation and relevant attachments the applicant deems important to the overall understanding and evaluation of the proposed project (combined into one PDF document).

If an applicant does not have internet access or if Grants.gov is inaccessible, paper applications will be accepted. Paper applications must be submitted with completed, signed, inked signature, original forms in hard copy (SF-424, SF-424B, CD-511 and other required forms) and an electronic copy of the entire application on CD, including scanned, signed forms. The authorized representative MUST sign and date these forms over the printed signature that will appear in the signature box. Paper applications should not be bound in any manner.

Application Content Requirements:
A. Title Page (Proposal Cover Sheet, 1 page maximum)

a. Project title
b. Principal Investigator (or Project Manager) and Financial Representative with complete contact information (address, fax, email, and phone number)
c. Any co-investigators (or Co-managers) with contact information
d. Start and end dates of proposed project, starting on the first day of the month and ending on the last day of the month
e. Identification of programmatic priority applicable to the project
f. Funding type request (grant or cooperative agreement)
g. Total cost of the project, including federal and non-federal funding requested
h. If requesting more than 1 year, breakdown of requested funding by year
g. Abstract of one paragraph or less. This abstract will be posted online if the project is funded.

B. Narrative Project Description (limit: 10 pages (single year); 15 pages (multi-yr))
Each application must include a project narrative that details the project. Please also review the Evaluation Criteria to ensure your application has all of the pieces that will be reviewed. Applicants should not assume that reviewers already know about their proposed project. For projects longer than one year (multi-year applications), the narrative must include specific project objectives and activities for each proposed year within one inclusive project narrative (i.e., do not duplicate or provide additional project narratives per year).

Narratives should include the following information:

(a) Project Background: Provide information on the species, geographic area, community, or situation(s) being addressed by the proposed project. Applications must include detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, community or environmental profiles, and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist. Describe the problem being addressed and why action is necessary . Include a summary of information that exists for the project to help put the projects' objectives and merit into context (e.g., nesting trends). Projects historically funded by NOAA should include a brief summary of results to date.
Include how the project relates to tasks outlined in the U.S. Sea Turtle Recovery Plans or other relevant Action Plans. International projects must also articulate the linkage of turtle stocks to the PIR (e.g., genetic or satellite telemetry) or relevance to NOAA/NMFS management and recovery obligations, such as (for example) activities that implement Conservation Recommendations provided by NMFS in a Biological Opinion or related

management initiative (e.g., Species in the Spotlight).

(b) Project goals, objectives and anticipated results: Identify how the project's goals are designed to address the problem described in the previous section. Objectives intended to achieve each project goal should be articulated in simple, understandable terms but should be as specific and quantitative as possible. Objectives should be attainable within timeframe, budgetary, and human resource considerations. Applicants should describe how anticipated results and expected outcomes will contribute to progress NOAA/NMFS' mission for the stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management and the promotion of healthy ecosystems. Describe how results will be evaluated for success and how outcomes or products will be applied to future action or made available to appropriate user groups. For projects longer than one year (multi-year applications) each years' work must be clearly identified and delineated.

(c) Project methods: Describe the scientific-based technical plan of research, monitoring or conservation activities to achieve expected results and benefits. For non-research based proposals, provide a detailed description of methods that will be employed to achieve program objectives. Project milestones and timelines (e.g. the number of months) to meet objectives should be established. Projects with objectives to "reduce" or "eliminate" certain impacts should incorporate metrics of performance to evaluate project success. Outline how data will be recorded and managed (include a copy of data collection forms in appendix). Describe any educational outreach and how the project will disseminate information and results to the public or stakeholders. Describe how local government agencies or potential users of the results (i.e., industry, resource managers, or community) are involved in the activity. For projects longer than one year (multi-year applications) each years' work must be clearly identified and delineated.

(d) Need for Government financial assistance: Demonstrate the need for government financial assistance. List all other sources of funding that are or have been sought for the project.

(e) Federal, State and local government activities: List any plans or activities (Federal, State, or local government activities) this project would affect, and describe the relationship between the proposed project and those plans or activities.

(f) Project management: Describe how the project will be organized and managed and who will be responsible for carrying out project activities. The lead organization/individual and person listed as the technical contact should be identified as the Project Manager (PM) or Principal Investigator (PI). Use of sub-contractors or volunteer staff time to complete project

activities and oversight of those individuals should be discussed. The PM/PI is responsible for all technical oversight and implementation of the approved work plan as delineated in the proposal. However, if the applicant is not the PM/PI, there must be an explanation of the relationship between the applicant and PM/PI (e.g., applicant will be responsible for managing the grant funds and the PM will be responsible for completing the project milestones on time and within budget). Project participants or organizations that will have a significant role in conducting the project should be listed as Co-investigators or Co-Managers. Organizations or individuals that support the project, for example, researchers contributing data, analysis, or materials, should be referred to as Cooperators. An abbreviated (one page) copy of the PM's or PI's and all Co-investigator's/Co-Manager's current resumes or curricula vitae must be included as appendices.

C. Budget Justification (not to exceed 2 pages in length, per year)
Each application must include clear and concise budget information/spreadsheet covering total project costs for each year of the project. The budget information should be located on both the required Federal forms and in a detailed budget narrative. If the project is including matching funds, the budget information must include both the non-federal (matching funds) and the federal funds requested.

(a) Applications must include OMB standard form 424A, "Budget information – Non Construction Programs." All instructions should be read before completing the form, and the amounts per category and total amounts indicated on the form should correspond with amounts indicated in the budget narrative and justification. If requesting more than a 1 year project, each year should be broken out in separate columns in “Section B – Budget Categories” (e.g., year 1 on column 1; year 2 on column 2). If you need more space, one SF-424A for each year can be submitted.

(b) The budget narrative or justification should include a table of costs and written justification that supports the table. We strongly encourage all applicants to follow the NOAA Grant Management Budget Narrative guidance that can be found at https://go.usa.gov/xPjNf.
The narrative should be broken out by the categories listed in “Section B- Budget Categories” of the SF-424A. Each section should have a detailed table and then a written justification to describe and justify the listed costs. The costs should be formatted in a way so that it is clear how much is being requested each year and broken into federal and non-federal share (if applicable, matching or in-kind funds). If in-kind contributions are included, describe briefly the basis for estimating the value of these contributions. This narrative should be 2 pages. If requesting a project longer than 1 year, a separate 2-page narrative can be included for each year. Scalable projects are encouraged with budgets and objectives

drafted such that specific components can be funded independently of other project components.

(c) If an applicant has not previously established an indirect cost rate with a Federal agency, they may choose to negotiate a rate with the Department of Commerce or use the de minimis indirect cost rate of 10% of MTDC (as allowable under 2 C.F.R. §200.414). The negotiation and approval of a rate is subject to the procedures required by NOAA and the Department of Commerce Standard Terms and Conditions, Section B.06. The NOAA contact for indirect or facilities and administrative costs is:

Lamar Revis, Grants Officer
NOAA Grants Management Division 1325 East West Highway
9th Floor
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
lamar.revis@noaa.gov

D. Data Sharing or Management Plan (up to 2 pages, if the project collects environmental data. The data sharing plan will not count towards any other page limits).

(a) Environmental data and information collected or created under NOAA grants or cooperative agreements must be made discoverable by and accessible to the general public, in a timely fashion (typically within two years), free of charge or at no more than the cost of reproduction, unless an exemption is granted by the NOAA Program. Data should be available in at least one machine-readable format, preferably a widely-used or open-standard format, and should also be accompanied by machine-readable documentation (metadata), preferably based on widely used or international standards.

(b) If projects submitted in response to this announcement collect or manage environmental data, then applications must include a Data Management Plan of up to two pages describing how these requirements will be satisfied. The Data Management Plan should be aligned with the Data Management Guidance provided by NOAA in the Announcement. The contents of the Data Management Plan (or absence thereof), and past performance regarding such plans, will be considered as part of proposal review. A typical plan should include descriptions of the types of environmental data and information expected to be created during the course of the project; the tentative date by which data will be shared; the standards to be used for data/metadata format and content; methods for providing data access; approximate total volume of data to be collected; and prior experience in making such data accessible. The costs of data preparation, accessibility, or archiving may be included in the proposal budget unless otherwise stated in the Guidance. Accepted submission of data to the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) is one way to satisfy data sharing requirements; however, NCEI is not obligated to accept all

submissions and may charge a fee, particularly for large or unusual datasets.

(c) NOAA may, at its own discretion, make publicly visible the Data Management Plan from funded proposals, or use information from the Data Management Plan to produce a formal metadata record and include that metadata in a Catalog to indicate the pending availability of new data.

(d) Proposal submitters are hereby advised that the final prepublication manuscripts of scholarly articles produced entirely or primarily with NOAA funding will be required to acknowledge grant numbers, and be submitted to the NOAA Institutional Repository after acceptance, and no later than upon publication. Such manuscripts shall be made publicly available by NOAA one year after publication by the journal.

E. Appendices (limit of 25 pages)

Attachment information can include: charts, graphs, maps, photographs, and other pictorial presentations; abbreviated CVs of key personnel; letters of endorsement, support, or collaboration; an indirect cost rate agreement; permit and authorization information; data collection forms; or any other supporting information vital to the review of the project application. An abbreviated curriculum vitae or resume of the primary PM/PI should be included with the application. Applicants requiring CITES export permits or scientific research permits must also include evidence of such a permit (e.g., by providing copy of cover page with permit number – full permit must be available upon request) or evidence they have submitted a permit application. Letters of commitment or collaboration are strongly recommended. Include data collection forms if relevant (e.g., nesting data collection form, stranding data collection form, etc.).

C. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

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, 31 U.S.C. 6101 note, to the extent applicable, any proposal awarded in response to this announcement will be required to use the System for Award Management (SAM), which may be accessed online at https://www.sam.gov/SAM/. Applicants are also required to use the Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System, as identified in OMB guidance published at 2 CFR Part 25, which may be accessed at https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=edc335f8786c55058518a8d024fc9989&mc=true&node=pt2.1.25&rgn=div5.

D. Submission Dates and Times

Proposals must be received by http://www.Grants.gov, postmarked, or provided to a delivery service by 5:00 p.m., Hawaii Standard Time, on January 31, 2020. Use of Grants.gov is preferred. If Grants.gov cannot reasonably be used, use of U.S. mail or another delivery service must be documented with a receipt; private metered postmarks are not

acceptable. Postmarked applications received more than 7 business days following the closing date will not be accepted. No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted.

When developing your application submission timeline, please keep in mind that you are encouraged to apply through the www.grants.gov website. This electronic submission system is relatively complex for first time users and involves several preliminary registrations to be completed before your application can be submitted. If you have already used the grants.gov website, the required registrations may have already been completed. Please allow sufficient time for the application to be submitted electronically and for possible computer delays.

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 not adhering to postmark or submission deadlines will be rejected without further consideration.

E. Intergovernmental Review

Applications submitted by state and local governments are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." Any applicant submitting an application for funding is required to complete item 19 on SF-424 regarding clearance by the State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) established as a result of EO 12372.

F. Funding Restrictions

NOAA will not consider expenses associated with fees, fund-raising activities, travel for activities not directly related to project implementation, travel or salaries for Federal employees, or profit as allowable costs in the proposed budget. The total costs of a project consist of all allowable costs incurred in accomplishing project activities during the project period. Project costs can only include support for activities conducted between the effective start date and end date of the award, and cannot include activities undertaken either before or after the agreed upon dates. Applicants will not be reimbursed for time expended or costs incurred in developing a project or in preparing an application, or in any discussions or negotiations with the agency prior to the award. Such expenditures may not be considered as part of the applicant's cost share or matching contribution.

G. Other Submission Requirements

Full Applications should be submitted through www.grants.gov. If you do not have Internet access, an application package may submitted to Penny Larin, Federal Programs

Officer, NOAA/NMFS/PIRO; 1845 Wasp Blvd., Building 176, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96818.

Registration Process
1. Required registrations: You must complete and maintain the following registrations to be eligible to submit an application using the Grants.Gov website. All registrations must be completed prior to the application being submitted. Registration can take between 3 days to 4 weeks or more, and applicants should begin the registration process as soon as possible.

(a) Grants.Gov: The first step in submitting an application online is to complete a onetime registration process. Individuals wishing to submit a grant application, using Grants.Gov, are required to complete this one time registration process. Neither a Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number nor the System for Award Management (SAM) registration is necessary for Individual Registration.

(b) Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) - All Applicant Organizations (optional for Individual Applicants) must be issued a DUNS number. A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit identification number provided by Dun and Bradstreet. It will be used as the Universal Identifier when applying for Federal awards or cooperative agreements. You may request a DUNS number by calling 1-866-705-5711 (toll free) or through the Internet at http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform. Your DUNS Number assignment is free.

(c) System for Award Management (SAM) – All Applicant Organizations (optional for Individual Applicants) must complete and maintain an active registration. New registrations take an average of fourteen (14) business days. The renewal process may require as much time as the initial registration. SAM registration includes the assignment of a Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) Code for domestic organizations which have not already been assigned a CAGE Code. To register, go to: http://www.SAM.gov.

Registration is free.

You must renew and re-validate your entity’s registration at least every 12 months from the date you last certified to and submitted the registration in SAM - and sooner, if your entity’s information changes. The email address provided for the primary point of contact will receive a message alerting that designee to the entity’s/entities’ renewal requirements at 60 days, 30 days and 15 days prior to expiration. If you do not renew your registration, it will expire. You must have an active SAM registration in order to be eligible to receive contract awards or payments, submit assistance award applications via Grants.gov, or receive certain payments from some federal government agencies.

2. Only authorized individual(s) will be able to submit the application, and the system may need time to process a submitted application. After you electronically submit your

application, you will receive from Grants.gov an automatic acknowledgment of receipt that contains a Grants.gov tracking number. (This notification indicates receipt by Grants.gov only, not receipt by NOAA.) Applications submitted through Grants.gov will be accompanied by THREE automated responses (the first confirming receipt; the second confirming there are no errors with an application submission; and the third validating the application has been forwarded to NOAA for further processing). You should save and print the proof of submission. If all notifications are not received, applicants should follow up with both the Grants.gov help desk and the NOAA Pacific Islands Regional Office, Federal Programs Office staff to confirm NOAA receipt of the complete submission. You must obtain a Grants.gov support number.

3. Federal employees are not allowed to assist in the preparation of an application or proposal, except that these individuals may provide you with information on program goals, funding priorities, application procedures, and completion of application forms. Because this is a competitive program, Federal employees will not provide assistance in conceptualizing, developing, or structuring proposals, or write letters of support for an application or proposal.

V. Application Review Information

A. Evaluation Criteria

Reviewers will assign scores to applications ranging from 0-100 points based on the following five standard NOAA evaluation criteria. The maximum score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses. Each criterion also includes the factors that the reviewers will consider to determine how well an application meets the criterion. We encourage applicants to make explicit connections to the evaluation criteria and factors in their applications. Written comments are required to justify provided scores in each section of the review. Applications that best address these criteria will be most competitive.

One technical and merit review panel will be convened for each priority (1, 2, and 3). The panel will evaluate proposals by assigning scores up to the maximum indicated for each of the criteria below.

1. Relevance and Applicability of Proposal to the Program’s Priorities as outlined in Section I.B. (25 points). This criterion ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and is relevant to NOAA/NMFS fishery management or recovery obligations, and is coordinated with other Federal, regional, State, or local activities. Will the project support, inform, or build capacity for the conservation, protection, or management of ESA-listed sea turtle species outlined in the Program’s Priority areas as outlined in section I.B? Will the

project contribute to progress NOAA/NMFS mission for the stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management? Will the project operate at an index nesting beach or important foraging habitat? Will the project collect information from a previously unmonitored or understudied area? Is there community engagement or participation, and does the project adequately incorporate local government agencies and community leaders (or local land owners)? Is the project already established, recognized, and have necessary connections (government or local community)? If not, is there certainty that the project can implement objectives while becoming established?

2. Technical/Scientific Merit (25 points). This criterion assesses whether the approach is technically sound or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, whether there are clear project goals and objectives, and whether the project's anticipated benefits or outcomes can be achieved within the proposed performance period. Is the project design appropriate for addressing the research, monitoring, or conservation objectives? Does the project design include an evaluation component to ensure that project goals and objectives are met? Does the project utilize innovative research techniques, or apply social science (e.g., social marketing) strategies for long-term community engagement? Reviewers will consider if the project will secure productive results. Does the project have the necessary technical expertise, or access to technical support if needed to achieve objectives? Is there certainty that the project will be able to capture turtles if they propose to do so? If so, will the project collect GPS location data, morphometric data, tag turtles, and collect DNA genetic samples? Does the project have objectives to "reduce" or "eliminate" certain impacts or threats and incorporate metrics of performance to evaluate such success? Is the project designed to work with local governments, institutions or communities to build local capacity for conservation or management? For multi-year proposals, is there a development plan outlined that describes progress over time to maximize benefits? Will the project generate data critical to advance NOAA/NMFS mission and management obligations? Per the NOAA Data Sharing and Management Directive (see IV.B.D), does the proposal have an appropriate data management plan?

3. Overall Qualifications of the Applicants (15 points). This criterion ascertains whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, facilities, permits (if necessary) and administrative resources to accomplish the project. Reviewers will consider previous related experience and qualifications of the project's PM or PI, Co-Manager(s) or Co-Investigator(s) and other personnel, including designated contractors, consultants, and cooperators. Reviewers will also consider past award performance of the applicant(s) and PM/PI, and their proven ability to produce high quality and timely work. Does the applicant demonstrate a proven capacity, expertise, and connections (approval) to implement programs within the island or areas of interest? Does the applicant have necessary research permits,

authorizations, or letters of endorsement (or permission) to handle sea turtles or undertake proposed activities? Do international projects have a CITES export permits (or the capacity to acquire them), or have a plan to analyze samples in-country?

4. Project Costs (25 points). This criterion evaluates the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time-frame. Reviewers will consider if costs are reasonable with the required tasks to be performed, determine if the budget is sufficiently detailed and adequately justified, and costs are effective for successfully completing the project. Does the project provide a high conservation value for low expenditure of resources? Scalable projects are encouraged with budgets and objectives drafted such that specific components can be funded independently of other project components. Reviewers may recommend specific components of projects be funded based on merit of proposed activities.

5. Outreach and Education (10 points). This criterion assesses whether the project provides educational outreach or includes community participatory elements, as per NOAA's mission to protect the Nation's natural resources. Projects that can reach beyond traditional outreach methods (e.g., brochures, fliers) and utilize proven yet innovative social science strategies to build community-based capacity that can support meaningful and long-term conservation or management outcomes are encouraged. Are the methods and target audiences adequately described, and is there a strategy to the outreach methodology or proposed products? Depending on the nature of the project, peer review publication of research/outreach can be substituted for public outreach but will receive a partial score not to exceed 5 points. In this case, reviewers will consider how reliable or timely is the PI in publishing results of other projects? What is the certainty of publishing?

B. Review and Selection Process

Screening, review, and selection procedures will take place in 3 steps: initial screening; technical review and panel meeting; and final selection by the Selecting Official (the NOAA/NMFS Regional Administrator).

1. Initial Screening - An initial administrative review is conducted on each application to determine compliance with application requirements and completeness of application materials. Applications determined to be ineligible, incomplete or non-responsive will be eliminated from further review. When applications are received, they will be screened to ensure that they were received by the deadline date (see Section IV. C. Submission Dates and Times); the applicant is eligible to apply; the proposed project addresses one of the funding priorities; and that the application includes a title page, project description, budget, and supporting documentation, as outlined in Section IV.B. Content and Form of

Application. We do not have to screen applications before the submission deadline in order to identify deficiencies that would cause your application to be rejected so that you would have an opportunity to correct them. However, should we do so and provide you information about deficiencies, or should you independently decide it is desirable to do so, you may correct any deficiencies in your application before the deadline. After the deadline, the application must remain as submitted; no changes can be made. If your application does not conform to the requirements listed above, and the deadline for submission has passed, the application will be returned and rejected without further consideration.

2. Technical Review and Panel Meeting - After the initial screening, each application will be reviewed by three or more appropriate federal, private or public sector experts (e.g. industry, academia, or governmental experts) with subject matter expertise. The reviewers will meet and evaluate each proposal individually based on its own merit against the evaluation criteria described in Section V. A. Evaluation Criteria. All applications, regardless of priority, will be reviewed in this manner. There will be a total of three panel meetings or webinars, one for each program priority (1, 2, and 3). Prior to the meeting or webinar, each reviewer will independently evaluate each project and provide an individual score prior to the panel meeting or webinar. During the panel meeting or webinar, reviewers may revise their scores and comments. Reviewers will submit their final proposal scores to the Federal Program Officer by the end of the panel meeting or Webinar. After the panel scores are submitted, three separate application rankings will be developed, one for each panel (e.g., program priority). The three rankings will be provided to the Selecting Official. These rankings are the averages reviewer scores from each of the panel meetings.

No consensus advice will be developed at the meetings, nor given to NOAA. These reviewers will be required to certify that they do not have a conflict of interest concerning the application(s) they are reviewing. NOAA will protect the identity of each reviewer to the maximum extent permitted by law.

3. Selection. After applications have undergone technical review and panel meeting, the Selecting Official will make the final decision regarding which applications will be recommended for funded. The Selecting Official will receive the results of the three panel rankings, and use the selection factors described below to select the applications recommended for funding.

C. Selection Factors

The NOAA PIRO Regional Administrator, as the Selecting Official, will review the funding recommendation and comments of the reviewers to determine which applications will be recommended to the NOAA Grants Officer. The Selecting Official shall recommend

proposals to the Grants Officer for funding in the rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based on one or more of the following factors listed in no order of significance:

1. Availability of funds;
2. Balance/distribution of funds;
   a. By research area;
   b. By project type;
   c. By type of Applicant;
   d. By type of partners;
   e. Geographic distribution;
3. Duplication of other projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA/federal agencies;
4. Program priorities as noted in Section I A. and B.
5. Applicant's prior award performance in conducting a previous award, such as the applicant’s use of funds, achievement of project objectives, and compliance with grant conditions. The Selecting Official may also consider whether the applicant failed to submit a timely performance report or submitted a report of unacceptable quality:
6. Partnerships with/Participation of targeted groups; and
7. Adequacy of information necessary for NOAA staff to make a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) determination and draft necessary documentation before recommendations for funding are made to the NOAA Grants Officer

D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

The competitive selection process and subsequent notification of applications being considered for funding are expected to be complete by July 2020. The earliest start date for projects will be October 1, 2020, dependent upon availability of Federal funding, acceptable completion of all NOAA/applicant negotiations including NEPA analysis and permit requirements, and the provision of other supporting documentation as requested.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

Upon completion of the review and selection process, successful applicants will receive notification from a NMFS Regional representative that the application has been recommended for funding selection to the NOAA Grants Management Division. This notification is not an authorization to begin performance of the project, and it is not a guarantee of funding. Official notification of funding, signed by the NOAA Grants Officer,

is the authorizing document that allows the project to begin. This notification will be issued to the Authorizing Representative of the project either electronically through use of Grants Online or in hard copy. Projects should not be initiated in expectation of Federal funding until the Applicant's Authorized Representative has received official notice of the award from the NOAA Grants Officer and has reviewed and accepted the terms of the award.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified their proposal was not recommended for funding or was not reviewed because it did not meet the minimum requirements described in IV.B (Content and Form of Applications). Unsuccessful paper applications will not be returned to the applicant. Successful applicants may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets prior to final approval of an award. The exact amount of funds to be awarded, the final scope of activities, the project duration, and specific NOAA cooperative involvement with the activities of each project will be determined in pre-award negotiations among the applicant, the NOAA Grants Office, and NOAA program staff.

Award documents provided by the Grants Officer may contain special award conditions limiting the use of funds for activities that have outstanding environmental compliance requirements. These special award conditions may also include other compliance requirements for the award, as applicable, and will be applied on a case-by-case basis. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review award documents carefully before accepting a Federal award so they are fully aware of the relevant Standard Terms and Conditions as well as any Special Award Conditions that have been placed on the award.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

1. Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the Federal Register notice of December 30, 2014 (79 FR 78390) are applicable to this solicitation and may be accessed online at https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-30/pdf/2014-30297.pdf

2. Department of Commerce Terms and Conditions

Successful applicants who accept a NOAA award under this solicitation will be bound by Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions. This document will be provided in the award package in NOAA's Grants Online system at http://www.osec.doc.gov/oam/grants_management/policy/documents/Department%20of%20Commerce%20Standard%20Terms%20Conditions%2030%20April%202019.pdf.

3. NEPA Requirements

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 216-6A for NEPA, https://www.corporateservices.noaa.gov/ames/administrative_orders/chapter_216/216-6A.html, and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/NEPA-40CFR1500_1508.pdf. 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 an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. Failure to do so shall be grounds for not selecting 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.

4. Limitation of Liability

Funding for programs listed in this notice is contingent upon the availability of appropriations. Applicants are hereby given notice that funds may not have been appropriated yet for the programs listed in this notice. In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

5. Paperwork Reduction Act

This collection of information contains requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The use of Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, and SFLLL and CD-346 has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under control numbers 0348-0040, 0348-0044, 0348-0043, 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.

6. Administrative Procedure Act/Regulatory Flexibility Act
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.

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

8. Unpaid or Delinquent Tax Liability
In accordance with Section 523 of Division B and Sections 744 and 745 of Division E of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Pub. L. 113-235) or a future public law, an authorized representative of the selected applicant(s) will be required to provide certain pre-award representations regarding federal felony and federal criminal tax convictions, unpaid federal tax assessments, and delinquent federal tax returns. The form must be completed and submitted with grant applications for: (a) all for-profit and non-profit organization applicants (Part I, and if required, Part II); and (b) all non-Federal entity applicants anticipating receipt of $5 million or more in the current Federal Fiscal Year appropriated funding (Part II only). The form can be found at http://www.ago.noaa.gov/grants/forms.html.

9. Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements
Through 2 C.F.R. § 1327.101, the Department of Commerce adopted Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, which apply to awards in this program. Refer to https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl.

10. Review of Risk
After applications are proposed for funding by the Selecting Official, the Grants Office will perform administrative reviews, including an assessment of risk posed by the applicant under 2 C.F.R. 200.205. These may include assessments of the financial stability of an applicant and the quality of the applicant’s management systems, history of performance, and the

applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities. Special conditions that address any risks determined to exist may be applied. Applicants may submit comments to the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS) about any information included in the system about their organization for consideration by the awarding agency.

11. Minority Serving Institutions
The Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (DOC/NOAA) is strongly committed to increasing the participation of Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), i.e., Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal colleges and universities, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian institutions, and institutions that work in underserved communities.

C. Reporting

1. Award recipients will be required to submit financial and performance (technical) reports. Financial Status Reports (SF-425) are required to be submitted to the Grants Officer semi-annually, or as outlined in the award conditions. Financial Status Reports should be entered directly into the Grants Online system.

2. The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006
The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act, 31 U.S.C. 6101 note, includes a requirement for awardees of applicable Federal grants to report information about first-tier subawards and executive compensation under Federal assistance awards. All awardees of applicable grants and cooperative agreements are required to report to the Federal Sub-award Reporting System (FSRS) available at https://www.fsrs.gov/ on all sub-awards over $25,000. Refer to 2 CFR Parts 170.

3. Performance Progress Reports
Basic information that should be in all report submissions includes the project title, award number, dates of the award period, dates of the reporting period, and the name(s) of the grantee and the principal investigator. Inclusion of media such as photography and statistics (tables, graphs, etc.) to help document programmatic activities in report submissions is also encouraged. Pertinent, captioned photographs of project activities are requested, and may be included within the progress report document submitted via Grants Online. Semi-annual progress reports should describe the tasks accomplished within the reporting period (from the proposal and amendments) and the tasks that were actually accomplished in the period, using the evaluation criteria (metrics) for each objective as outlined in your Project Description (see section IV.B.3.c).

The report should also explain any special problems or differences between the scheduled and accomplished work.

(a) Report title, reporting period, organization, project manager/investigator, grant number, date.

(b) Executive Summary: A brief and succinct summary of the project.

(c) Purpose:

- Detailed description of problem or impediment that was addressed by the project.
- Objectives of the project.

(d) Approach: Detailed description of the work that was performed.

(e) Project Management: List individuals and/or organizations actually performing the work and how it was done.

(f) Findings/Results:

- Actual accomplishments and findings.
- If significant problems developed which resulted in less than satisfactory or negative results, these should be discussed.
- Description of need for additional work, if any.
- Collected data during the course of the performance period should be included in tabular format (e.g., spreadsheet). Final reports must include a complete dataset of data collected during performance period.

(g) Evaluation:

- Describe the extent to which the project goals and objectives were attained. This description should address the following: Were the goals and objectives attained? How? If not, why? Were modifications made to the goals and objectives? If so, explain.

(h) Dissemination of project results:

-Explain, in detail, how the project’s results have been and will be disseminated.

4. Publications, Videos, and Acknowledgement of Sponsorship

Publication of the results or findings of the funded award activities in appropriate professional journals, outreach materials, or press releases, and production of video or other media is encouraged as an important method of recording and reporting scientific information. These are also constructive means to expand access to Federally funded research. The recipient is required to submit a copy of any publication to the funding agency, and when releasing information related to a funded project, include a statement that the project or effort undertaken was or is sponsored by NOAA Fisheries Service. The recipient is also responsible for assuring that every publication of material (including Internet sites and videos) based on or developed under an award, except scientific articles or papers appearing in scientific, technical or professional journals, contains the following acknowledgement and disclaimer: “This project received funding under award [number] from NOAA Fisheries PIRO. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations

are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA Fisheries." The final report is a public document and may be posted, partially or in its entirety, on the NOAA Fisheries website.

VII. Agency Contacts

If you have any questions regarding this proposal solicitation, please contact Penny Larin, NOAA Fisheries Service, Pacific Islands Regional Office, 1845 Wasp Blvd, Building 176, Honolulu, HI 96818; Phone: (808) 725-5057; Email: Penny.Larin@noaa.gov.

VIII. Other Information

In the event that an application contains information or data that you do not want disclosed prior to award for purposes other than the evaluation of the application, mark each page containing such information or data with the words "Privileged, Confidential, Commercial, or Financial Information - Limited Use" at the top of the page to assist NOAA in making disclosure determinations. DOC regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C 552, are found at 15 C.F.R. Part 4, which sets forth rules for DOC to make requested materials, information, and records publicly available under FOIA. The contents of funded applications may be subject to requests for release under the FOIA. Based on the information provided by the applicant, the confidentiality of the content of funded applications will be maintained to the maximum extent permitted by law.