

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (FFO)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

Funding Opportunity Title: 2013 Saltonstall Kennedy (2013 S-K)

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NMFS-FHQ-2013-2003834

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.427, Fisheries Dev and Utilization Research and Dev Grants and Coop Agreements Program

Dates: Applications must be received by <http://www.Grants.gov> , postmarked, or provided to a delivery service by 11:59 pm, Eastern Standard Time 60 days after the posting date of the FFO. 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. Applications received more than 5 business days following the postmarked closing date will not be accepted. No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted. 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 and returned to the sender without further consideration.

Funding Opportunity Description: The Saltonstall-Kennedy Act established a fund (known as the S-K fund) used by the Secretary of Commerce to provide grants or cooperative agreements for fisheries research and development projects addressing aspects of U.S. fisheries, including, but not limited to, harvesting, processing, marketing, and associated business infrastructures. Under this authority, grants and cooperative agreements are made on a competitive basis (subject to funding) to assist in carrying out projects related to U.S. commercial and recreational fisheries. The term “fisheries” encompasses wild capture, marine aquaculture and recreational fishing. The objective of the S-K Grant Program is to address the needs of the fisheries and fishing communities in optimizing economic benefits within the context of rebuilding and maintaining sustainable fisheries, and in dealing with the impacts of conservation and management measures. U.S. fisheries include any fishery, commercial or recreational, that is, or may be, engaged in by citizens or nationals of the United States, or citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. Proposals submitted to this competition must address at least one of the following priorities: Aquaculture, Optimum Yield of Harvested Resources under Federal or State

Management, Fisheries Socioeconomics, Conservation Engineering, Ecosystem Studies, and Territorial Science.

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Program Objective

The objectives of the S-K Grant Program, and, therefore, the funding priorities, have changed over the years since the program began in 1980. The program has evolved as Federal fishery management laws and policies and research needs have evolved in response to changing circumstances.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act, requires us to undertake efforts to prevent overfishing, rebuild overfished fisheries, insure conservation, minimize bycatch, protect essential fish habitats, and realize the full potential of U.S. fishery resources. It further requires that we take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities; provide for the sustained participation of such communities; and, to the extent possible, minimize the adverse economic impacts of conservation and management measures on such communities.

The objective of the S-K Grant Program is to address the needs of fishing communities in optimizing economic benefits within the context of rebuilding and maintaining sustainable fisheries and practices, and in dealing with the impacts of conservation and management measures. NMFS seeks applications that demonstrate direct benefits to U.S. fishing industries and encourages proposals that involve fishing community participation. U.S. fisheries include any fishery, commercial or recreational, that is, or may be, engaged in by citizens or nationals of the United States, or citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

NOAA's Next-Generation Strategic Plan [<http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/ngsp/>], updated in 2010, describes the agency's research priorities for the next 5 years, and provides a framework for targeting NOAA's resources to best meet science and management needs. NOAA goals include having Healthy Oceans: Marine fisheries, habitats, and biodiversity sustained within healthy and productive ecosystems. To accomplish this goal, we aim to conserve, protect, manage, and restore living marine resources and coastal and ocean resources which are critical to public health and the vitality of the U.S. economy, the S-K Program is seeking to fund projects that contribute to this understanding. Successful applications will be those aimed at helping fishing communities to resolve issues that affect their ability to fish; making full use of those species that are currently under Federal or state fishery management plans; and addressing the socioeconomic impacts of overfishing and overcapacity. The S-K Program is open to applicants from a variety of sectors, including individuals, industry, academia, and state and local governments. We encourage applications that involve collaboration between industry and the other sectors listed.

B. Program Priorities

1). Aquaculture –

Projects which: (1) demonstrate marine aquaculture technologies in pilot and commercial scale projects that will create jobs in coastal communities, produce healthful local seafood, revitalize working waterfronts and support traditional fishing communities (2) provide training for fishermen and others in coastal communities in aquaculture production methods, (3) document and assess socioeconomic impacts of marine aquaculture operations.

Examples of possible projects might include, but are not limited to: Projects which demonstrate the feasibility of culturing marine fish species identified as potential or suitable candidates for aquaculture (e.g. redfish, pompano, cod, halibut, sablefish, mussels, scallops, milkfish, and other baitfish species, and tuna). Projects should include, where feasible, participation of the traditional fishing communities. Projects which explore alternate feed sources that reduce the demand for marine protein, such as use of fish processing trimmings in aquaculture feeds. Projects which investigate alternative ways to minimize aquaculture activities' interactions with marine mammals and other living marine resources.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act defines a "fishing community" as "a community which is substantially dependent on or substantially engaged in the harvest or processing of fishery resources to meet social and economic needs, and includes fishing vessel owners, operators, and crew and United States fish processors that are based in such community." (16 U.S.C. 1802 (16)).

2) Optimum Utilization of Harvested Resources under Federal or State Management –

Projects which reduce or eliminate factors such as diseases, human health hazards, and quality problems that limit the utilization of fish and their products in the United States and abroad through cooperative research with fishing industry participation. Projects that increase public knowledge of the safe handling and use of fish and their products. Projects that develop seafood fraud detection and reduction techniques. Projects that develop usable

products from economic discards (defined in the Magnuson-Stevens Act as “fish which are the target of a fishery, but are not retained because they are of an undesirable size, sex, or quality, or for other economic reasons”) and byproducts of processing. Projects that facilitate industry (including restaurants and seafood marketing facilities, etc.) cooperation and outreach to promote and enhance marketability of regional U.S. fishery products. Collect data on population dynamics, life histories, etc., of fish not currently under Federal FMPs, for the Regional Fishery Management Councils to determine the feasibility of a new federally managed fishery that could provide additional fishing opportunity.

3) Fisheries Socioeconomics –

Projects that improve the understanding of the socioeconomic aspects of fisheries to increase information on current and future consequences of management choices for use by decision makers and stakeholders. Scope includes commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishing and fishing-related businesses and fishing communities. Research examples could include but are not limited to ethnographic baseline research on specific fishing communities; cost-income data; analyses of the socioeconomic impacts of specific management measures on certain fisheries; analyses of factors influencing demand for recreational fishing trips by anglers; market analyses to determine factors that influence and trace the demand and supply of specific seafood products, including imports; factors limiting fishing community sustainability; research into fishing community innovations in organization/governance, cooperatives, marketing, risk-pooling, access to capital/permits/catch allocations, and other improvements to promote sustainability; data and evaluative models to assist decision makers in analyzing optimal allocations of allowable biological catches.

4) Conservation Engineering –

Projects that reduce or eliminate adverse interactions between fishing operations and non-targeted, protected, or prohibited species, including the inadvertent take, capture, or destruction of such species. These include juvenile or sublegal-sized fish and shellfish, females of certain crabs, fish listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), marine turtles,

seabirds, marine mammals, candidate species, and species of concern. Projects that improve the survivability of fish discarded or intentionally released and of protected species (including candidate species and species of concern) released in fishing operations. Projects that reduce or eliminate impacts of fishing activity on essential fish habitat (EFH) that adversely affect the sustainability of the fishery. Activities could focus on but are not limited to the development of gear technologies and/or changes to fishing practices to reduce the bycatch of sea turtles in bottom otter trawl or gillnet gear; development of new or improvement of existing gear modifications designed to reduce incidental interactions between fishing gear (e.g., traps/pots, gillnets, and trawls) and marine mammals, including studies to investigate new gear which could effectively reduce serious injury and mortality of right whales and other large whales in the U.S. Atlantic commercial fixed gear fisheries and through the development of entanglement mitigation gear; and improvement in the understanding of how interactions between fishing operations and protected species (including candidate species and species of concern) occur, including interactions between trawl gear fisheries and marine mammals, and between fixed gear fisheries and large whales (e.g., through the development of gear marking technology).

5) Ecosystem Studies -

Projects that aid in the understanding and integration of all the interactions that a target fish stock has with predators, competitors, and prey species; other ocean uses e.g. energy projects that can prohibit/inhibit fishing biology and ecology; the complex interactions between fisheries and their habitat (including other fish species, protected species, candidate species, and species of concern); the effects of fishing on fish stocks and their habitat, or strategies to improve the seafood industry's use of the ecosystem.

6) Territorial Science-

Projects under this theme are intended to improve the quality and quantity of fishery information from the U.S. territories covered by the Magnuson Act, including the territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands; and the Commonwealths of the Northern Mariana Islands and Puerto Rico, that can be used for establishing, enhancing and monitoring Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) for Federal fisheries management in these territories.

Examples of possible projects might include, but are not limited to: *Projects improving catch accountability by enhancing fishery statistics in each territory through a variety of techniques, including expanded creel surveys, fish dealer sampling, and other mechanisms. *Projects that would expand fishery bio-sampling and analysis of bio-sampling data, including activities that would include sampling shoreside and at fish dealers the species of fish most relevant for management. *Projects that conduct fishery independent reef fish surveys. *Projects that build critical on-island capacity which could include building home-grown scientific capacity by partnering with local academic institutions to include students in the fishery statistics data collection and bio-sampling life history studies.

If proposals received do not adequately respond to these priorities, NMFS may carry out a national program of research and development addressed to meet aspects of U.S. fisheries pursuant to Section 713c-3(d) of the S-K Act as amended.

C. Program Authority

Authority for the Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program is provided under the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act (S-K Act), as amended (15 U.S.C. 713c-3).

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

Approximately \$5-10 million may be available in Fiscal Year 2013 to fund projects. The S-K Program anticipates that typical awards will range from \$30,000 to \$250,000. Although a select few may fall outside of this range, project proposals requesting less than \$20,000 or greater than \$400,000 will not be accepted or reviewed. The number of awards made as a result of this solicitation will depend on the number of eligible applications received, the amount of funds requested for each project, the merit and ranking of the proposals, and the amount of funds made available to the S-K Program. There is no limit on the number of applications that can be submitted by the same applicant during this competitive solicitation; however, multiple applications submitted by the same applicant must clearly identify different projects and each application will be rated individually in the competitive review process. If you have several projects that you are seeking funding for, submit a separate application for each project; do not consolidate several projects into one application.

B. Project/Award Period

We will award grants or cooperative agreements for a maximum period of 24 months. Multi-year applications beyond this duration will not be considered. The requested award start date must begin on the first day of the month and end on the last day of the month. The earliest start date for projects will be January 1, 2014, dependent upon availability of Federal funding as provided by Congress, acceptable completion of all NOAA/applicant negotiations including NEPA analysis and permit requirements, and the provision of other supporting documentation as requested.

C. Type of Funding Instrument

The funding instrument (grant or cooperative agreement) will be determined by the NOAA Grants Office. A cooperative agreement will be used if the proposed project involves substantial NOAA involvement as described in the award. Examples of substantial NOAA involvement may include non-compensated collaboration in research or approval of key stages in the project before subsequent steps are undertaken. The exact amount of funds, the scope of work, and terms and conditions of a successful award will be determined in pre-award negotiations between you and NOAA/NMFS representatives.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants

You are eligible to apply for a grant or a cooperative agreement under the Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program if:

1. You are a citizen or national of the United States;
2. You are a citizen of the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), being an individual who qualifies as such under section 8 of the Schedule on Transitional Matters attached to the constitution of the NMI;
3. You are a citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, or the Federated States of Micronesia; or
4. You represent an entity that is a corporation, partnership, association, or other non-Federal entity, non-profit or otherwise (including Indian tribes), if such entity is a citizen of the United States or NMI, within the meaning of section 2 of the Shipping Act, 1916, as amended (46 U.S.C. app. 802).

We support cultural and gender diversity in our programs and encourage women and minority individuals and groups to submit applications. We recognize the interest of the Secretaries of Commerce and Interior in defining appropriate fisheries policies and programs

that meet the needs of the U.S. insular areas, so we also encourage applications from individuals, government entities, and businesses in U.S. insular areas. We are also committed to broadening the participation of Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), which include Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities, in our grant programs,. To find out more about MSIs go to <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/edlite-minorityinst.html>.

We encourage applications from members of the fishing community and applications that involve fishing community cooperation and participation. We will consider the extent of fishing community involvement when evaluating the potential benefit of funding a proposal.

You are not eligible to submit an application under this program if you are an employee of any Federal agency; a Regional Fishery Management Council (Council); or an employee of a Council. However, Council members who are not Federal employees can submit an application to the S-K Program.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

No cost sharing or matching is required. Although the S-K Act, as amended, does not require that you share in the total cost of the project, you may elect to do so. If you choose to cost-share and if your application is selected for funding, you will be obligated to account for the amount of cost share dollars reflected in the award documents, signed by the NOAA Grants Officer. If project costs are shared, NMFS must provide at least 50 percent of total project costs. Applicants should note that cost sharing is an element considered in Section V.A. Evaluation Criterion #4 “Project Costs”

The funds you provide as cost sharing may include funds from private sources or from state or local governments, or the value of in-kind contributions. Federal funds or funds used to match other federal aid cannot be used as match. In-kind contributions may include, but are not limited to, personal services volunteered to perform tasks in the project, and permission to use, at no cost, real or personal property owned by others. We will determine the appropriateness of all cost sharing proposals, including the valuation of in-kind contributions, on the basis of guidance provided in 15 CFR parts 14 and 24.

C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility

All applications must contain all required forms; if these forms are not signed via the www.Grants.gov application process, they MUST be signed in ink. Paper applications should also be accompanied by a compact disk (CD) or DVD with the entire application as

one Adobe PDF file. Paper applications without inked signatures on their forms will be considered ineligible and will not be reviewed.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

The standard application package is available at <http://www.grants.gov>. If you do not have internet access, an application package may be received by contacting Daniel Namur, S-K Program Manager, NOAA/NMFS (F/MB); 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13358, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282, Phone: (301) 427-8730, e-mail: Dan.Namur@noaa.gov.

B. Content and Form of Application

Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply through the www.Grants.gov website. A complete standard NOAA grant application package is required in accordance with the guidelines in this document. Each application will include:

Federal application forms, including:

- Application for Federal Assistance: SF-424
- Budget Information, Non-construction Programs: SF-424A
- Assurances, Non-construction Programs: SF-424B
- Certification Regarding Lobbying: CD-511
- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities: SF-LLL (if applicable)
- a Project Summary (described below, limit 2 pages)
- a Narrative Project Description (described below, limit 25 pages)
- a detailed, narrative Budget Justification (described below)
- 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)

Your application should follow the format described below:

A. Project Summary

Provide a summary of the proposed project (two page maximum), including applicant organization, project title, project location, requested award dates, funding requested, name

and title of Principal Investigator, collaborating partners, species/resources to be addressed, brief description of proposed activities and anticipated benefits/outcomes, and connection to a specific SK priority.

B. Narrative Project Description

The project narrative is the scientific or technical action plan of activities that are to be accomplished during the project. This description must include the specific methodologies, by project job activity, proposed for accomplishing the proposal's objective(s). You must provide a narrative description of your project that includes the information listed below. The project description may not exceed 25 pages. All pages must be single-spaced and should be composed in at least a 12-point font with one-inch margins on 8.5" x 11" paper. Any PDF or other attachments that are included in an electronic application must meet the above format requirement when printed out. Failure to follow the requirements will result in the rejection of the application and subsequent return.

The project narrative should closely follow the organization of the evaluation criteria (see Section V. A. Evaluation Criteria) for the application to receive a consistent review against competing applications. The narrative should demonstrate your knowledge of the need for the project, and show how your proposal builds upon any past and current work in the subject area, as well as relevant work in related fields. The narrative should highlight any relationship to fishery management plans, or other fishery-related strategic planning or management documents. Will the project(s) yield environmentally compatible socio-economic benefits, such as increased business opportunities, recreational opportunities, or decreased safety hazards? You should not assume that we already know the relative merits of the project you describe. You must describe your project as follows:

1. Project goals and objectives. Identify the specific S-K Program priority (listed in Section I.B. Program Priorities) to which the proposed project responds. Identify the problem/opportunity you intend to address and describe its significance to the fisheries resource and fishing community. 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 measurements. If you are applying to continue a project previously funded under the S-K Program, describe in detail your progress to date and explain why you need additional funding. If the proposal is for renewed support, include a description of the relation of the completed work to the proposed work. We will consider this information in evaluating your current application.

2. Project impacts.

Describe the anticipated impacts of the project on the fisheries resource and the fishing community in terms of reduced bycatch, increased product yield, or other measurable benefits. Identify the benefits that will be achieved as a result of this effort, both to the recipient and the general public as a whole.

3. Evaluation of project.

Specify the criteria and procedures that you will use to monitor and evaluate the relative success or failure of a project in achieving its objectives.

4. Need for government financial assistance.

Explain why you need NOAA financial assistance for the proposed work, and why other funding sources, if applicable, cannot fund all the proposed work. List all other sources of funding you have or are seeking for the project.

5. Federal, state, and local government activities and permits. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain all necessary Federal, State, and local government permits and approvals where necessary for the proposed work to be conducted. You must provide information on this element, whether or not permits are required. Please provide a list of all applicable permits that will be required to perform the proposed work and an indication of the status of any permits needed (e.g., not yet applied, permit application submitted/pending, permit granted, etc.) or a statement indicating that no permits are necessary. List any existing Federal, state, or local government programs or activities that this project would affect, including activities requiring: certification under state Coastal Zone Management Plans; section 404 or section 10 permits issued by the Corps of Engineers; experimental fishing or other permits under Federal Fishery Management Plans (FMP); environmental impact statements to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act; scientific permits under the Endangered Species Act and/or the Marine Mammal Protection Act; or Magnuson-Stevens Act Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation if the project may adversely affect areas identified as EFH. Describe the relationship between the project and these FMPs or activities, and list names and addresses of persons providing this information. You may obtain information on these activities from the NMFS Regions (see Section VII-Agency Contacts).

6. Project work plan.

(a) What is the project design? What specific work, activities, procedures, statistical design, or analytical methods will you undertake? Applicants should provide sufficiently detailed information on the proposed activities and potential environmental effects so that

NOAA can analyze the impacts of the project as required under the National Environmental Policy Act (see Section VI. B.2.)

(b) Who will be responsible for carrying out the various activities? Provide information about the specific responsibilities of other personnel funded through the proposal, including the technical and administrative points of contact as appropriate.

(c) The proposal must include a data sharing plan to make available to the public all environmental and other data created during the course of the project. The plan is required as part of NOAA's data sharing policy described in Section VI.B.3, and will be reviewed as part of the Evaluation Criteria under V.A.1.

(d) What are the major products/deliverables and how will project results be disseminated? Describe products of the project, such as a manual, video, technique, or piece of equipment. Indicate how project results will be disseminated to potential users, what outreach will be conducted, and how NOAA support for the project will be acknowledged in the dissemination of results.

(e) What are the project milestones? Display timelines for major tasks, target milestones for important immediate and final products, and key project outcomes. This includes identifying all consultation and permitting requirements and their status (e.g., not applied for, pending, secured). Describe the time lines in increments (e.g., month 1, month 2), rather than by specific dates. Identify the individual(s) responsible for the various specific activities.

7. Project management.

Describe how the project will be organized and managed. Proposals should demonstrate the applicant organization's knowledge and experience in delivering the project requested in this application. The principal investigator may or may not be the applicant; however, if the applicant is not the principal investigator, there must be an explanation of the relationship between the applicant and principal investigator (e.g., the applicant may be responsible for managing the grant funds and the principal investigator will be responsible for completing the work).

Include the resume or curriculum vitae of the principal investigator(s) and any consultants and/or subcontractors, and indicate their level of involvement in the project. Include copies of any agreements between you and the participants describing the specific tasks to be performed. Agreement documents and resumes/curriculum vitae should be included in the "Supporting Documentation." This information does not count toward the project narrative's 25 page limitation.

8. Participation by persons or groups other than the applicant.

Describe how Federal, state and non-government entities, particularly members of fishing communities, will participate in the project, and the nature of their participation. Also describe the involvement of NOAA staff with the project, if applicable.

9. Outreach and Education

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 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 (including Regional Fishery Management Councils, etc.,) and the public.

C. Budget Justification

In order to allow reviewers to fully evaluate the appropriateness of proposed costs, the budget justification narrative must include a detailed breakdown of total project costs by category of cost (object class) separated into federal and non-federal shares as they relate to specific aspects of the project, with appropriate narrative justification for both the federal and non-federal (if applicable) shares. The object classes should match those found in the SF-424A. Applicants are encouraged to include a budget table to further clarify the cost breakdown.

SK Program and the NOAA's Grants Management Division staff will review budget information for recommended applications to determine if costs are allowable, allocable, reasonable, and realistic. The budget justification narrative should be sufficiently detailed to enable a clear understanding of the cost breakdown and calculations used to derive the line item subtotals in each object class of the SF-424A budget form.

To support the budget, when applicable, describe briefly the basis for estimating the value of the cost sharing derived from in-kind contributions. The source of any non-federal matching funds or in-kind contributions should be detailed.

The budget narrative must include:

a. Personnel costs, including salary and wages, should be broken out by named principal investigator (PI) and number of months requested per year per PI as a percentage of their normal salary rate. Support for each PI should be commensurate with their stated involvement, which may or may not correspond to their current position. Any unnamed personnel (graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, technicians) should be identified by their job title, and their personnel costs explained similar to PI personnel costs above. Fringe benefits should be identified separately from salary and wages; fringe benefit rates should be

applied consistently, and should apply equally to both Federal and non-Federal (matching) funds. 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.

b. Travel costs should be broken out by number of people traveling, destination and purpose of travel, and projected costs per person. Projected travel costs should be inclusive of transport costs, lodging costs, and per diem expenses for all travelers, which are to be described in detail in the budget narrative. If travel details for a particular trip are unknown, explain the basis for estimating proposed costs. Applicants must adhere to the provisions of the 'Fly America Act' and use U.S.-flagged vessels for transport, unless a specific waiver to this provision has been secured. Any foreign travel necessary to implement the project should be highlighted in the project and budget narratives since such travel may require additional clearances.

c. "Equipment" is non-expendable, tangible personal property with a unit cost of \$5,000 or more and a useful life of more than one year. Items that do not meet the equipment definition must be included under supplies. Each piece of equipment should be described separately and reference the type/model to be purchased and its contribution to the achievement of the project goals. General use equipment must be used 100% for the proposed project if charged directly to the award; if the equipment will be used for multiple projects, only a portion of the expense that is commensurate with the actual use of the equipment during the project may be requested. Equipment purchases are not a priority under this competition.

d. Supplies should be itemized to the level of detail known or may be based on established historical costs. Whenever possible, applicants should include the quantity/number of units and cost per unit to justify expenses listed in the supplies category.

e. Contractual costs should be itemized separately, according to standard budget categories that appear in the SF-424A; all types of contractual costs should be included in the Contractual line on the SF-424A and explained in detail in the budget narrative. Applicants must indicate the basis for each contract's cost estimate and specify the products or services to be obtained through all contracts. Based on new reporting requirements contained in the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, all subawards of \$25,000 or greater, whether in the form of a subcontract or subgrant, must be

documented per the Federal Subaward Reporting System (FSRS; www.FSRS.gov) . A separate SF-424A for each subaward of \$25,000 or greater must be submitted with the final application to provide a detailed description of subaward expenditures.

f. Other costs should be listed by type of material or nature of expense and should be broken down by quantity/number of units and cost per unit if applicable.

g. The budget may include an amount for indirect costs if the applicant has an approved indirect cost rate agreement with the federal government. Indirect costs are essentially overhead costs for basic operational functions (e.g., lights, rent, water, and insurance) that are incurred for common or joint objectives and therefore cannot be identified specifically within a particular project. For this solicitation, the federal share of the indirect costs must not exceed the lesser of either the indirect costs the applicant would be entitled to if the negotiated federal indirect cost rate were used or 25 percent of the federal direct costs proposed. For those situations in which the use of the applicant's indirect cost rate would result in indirect costs greater than 25 percent of the federal direct costs, the difference may be counted as part of the non-federal share. A copy of the current, approved negotiated indirect cost agreement with the federal government should be included with the application.

D. Supporting Documentation

This section should include the supporting documentation such as: qualifications of the primary project personnel (resumes or curriculum vitae, limit two pages each), agreements with key partners, a copy of your indirect cost rate agreement, and letters of support received from the relevant jurisdictional representatives, partners, or communities involved in the project. You should include any relevant documents and additional information (i.e., maps, background documents, project website) that will help us to understand the project and the problem/opportunity you seek to address.

C. Submission Dates and Times

Applications must be received by www.grants.gov , postmarked, or provided to a delivery service by 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST) 60 days after the posting date of the FFO. Note: It may take www.grants.gov up to two (2) business days to validate or reject an application. Please keep this in mind when developing your submission timeline. Use of U.S. mail or another delivery service must be documented with a receipt. Applications received later than 5 calendar days following the postmark closing date will not be accepted.

No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted. See Section IV F. Other Submission Requirements for complete mailing information.

D. 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 16 on SF-424 regarding clearance by the State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) established as a result of EO 12372. To find out about and comply with a State's process under EO 12372, the names, addresses and phone numbers of participating SPOC's are listed in the Office of Management and Budget's home page at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_spoc.

E. Funding Restrictions

Projects that primarily involve business start-up or infrastructure development are not eligible for funding under the S-K Program.

The S-K Program 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.

F. Other Submission Requirements

Applicants should submit applications electronically through <http://www.Grants.gov>. Applicants should note that it can take between 3-5 business days or as long as 3 weeks to register with Grants.Gov if all steps are not completed in a timely manner, and registration is required only once. Users of Grants.gov will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it off line, and then upload and submit the application via the Grants.gov site. 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.

To use Grants.gov, applicants must have a DUNS number and current registration in the Central Contractor Registration or System for Award Management (CCR/SAM) system. Applicants should allow a minimum of five days to complete the CCR/SAM registration; registration is required only once, but must be renewed periodically. In all, there are approximately five steps needed to set up your organization's Grants.gov account (see http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp).

After electronic submission of the application, applicants will receive an automatic acknowledgment from Grants.gov. Applications submitted through Grants.gov will be accompanied by THREE automated responses (the first confirms receipt; the second confirms that there are no errors with an application submission; and the third validates that the application has been forwarded to NOAA for further processing). If all notifications are not received, applicants should follow up with both the Grants.gov help desk and the S-K Program Manager Daniel Namur to confirm NOAA receipt of the complete submission.

* 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, original forms in hard copy and an electronic copy of the entire application on CD, including scanned signed forms. If the applicant has completed the entire application in Grants.gov but is unable to submit it via Grants.gov, then this application package should be provided via CD along with printed and signed versions of forms SF-424, SF-424B, and CD-511. The authorized representative MUST sign and date these forms over the printed signature that will appear in the signature box. Paper applications should be printed on one side only, on 8.5" x 11" paper, and should not be bound in any manner.

Paper applications must be postmarked or provided to a delivery service and documented with a receipt and sent to: Daniel Namur, NMFS SK Program Manager, 1315 East West Hwy, SSMC3, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

Applications postmarked or provided to a delivery service after 11:59 pm 60 days after the posting of the FFO will not be considered for funding. Applications submitted via the U.S. Postal Service must have an official postmark; private metered postmarks are not acceptable. In any event, applications received later than 5 calendar days following the postmark closing date will not be accepted. No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) employees working in S-K Program offices 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, S-K Program staff will not provide assistance in conceptualizing, developing, or structuring proposals, or write letters of support for an application or proposal.

Should you wish to partner with a NMFS employee, who will act as a partner in the proposed research project, a written agreement of this participation must be provided, detailing their involvement, signed by the employee's supervisor. NMFS involvement could include planning, scheduling, conducting, and analyzing proposed project activities and frequent contact with the Applicant to help solve technical problems/situations as they arise during performance of the award.

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, you should 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. U.S. Department of Commerce regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) are found at 15 CFR part 4, "Public Information," which sets forth rules for DOC to make requested materials, information, and records publicly available under FOIA. Applications submitted in response to this Federal Funding Opportunity may be subject to requests for release under the Act. Based on the information provided by you, the confidentiality of the content of funded applications will be maintained to the maximum extent permitted by law.

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 and respective weights specified below. Written comments are required to justify provided scores in each section of the review.

Applications that best address these criteria will be most competitive.

1. Importance/relevance and applicability of proposed projects to the program goals (30 points). This criterion ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, Federal, regional, state, or local activities.

Does the proposal describe its relevance to a SK Program Priority in Section B, and how information gathered will contribute to NOAA mission to enhance the understanding of the fishery resource and contribute to the body of information on which management decisions are made (8 pts)? Does this study address an important problem, providing a clear definition of the problem, need, issue or research need to be addressed (12 pts)? Can the research question be answered using existing data? If not, is this the best method to obtain the data (2 pts)? Where applicable, is the participation of U.S. fishermen meaningfully incorporated into the project design (3 pts)? Will the project(s) yield environmentally compatible socio-economic benefits, such as increased business opportunities, recreational opportunities, or decreased safety hazards (3pts)? The appropriateness of the data sharing plan: Has the proposal included a Data Information Sharing Plan including description of the types of environmental data and information 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; policies addressing data stewardship and preservation; procedures for providing access, sharing and security; and prior experience in publishing such data (2pts).

Using the scale below, score Item 1 (lowest score possible is 0)

Poor	Fair	Good	Commendable	Excellent
0-----	8-----	15-----	23-----	30-----

2. Technical/scientific merit (40 points). This criterion assesses whether the approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and objectives.

Proposals should provide a clear definition of the approach to be used, including descriptions of field work, theoretical studies, and laboratory analysis to support the proposed research.

Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well-integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project (15 pts)? Are the objectives in the proposal clearly defined and focused, realistic and can be reached within the proposed project period (8 pts)? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider ways to resolve the issues or implement alternative tactics (4 pts)? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies (4 pts)? Is sufficient detail provided in the proposal about the methods proposed for monitoring and evaluating the success of the project, and are they appropriate (3 pts)? Does the project

demonstrate support, cooperation and/or collaboration with the fishing industry (2 pts)? Is there sufficient description of the project's environmental impact (2 pts)? Have permits been applied for or acquired (2 pts)?

Poor Fair Good Commendable Excellent
0-----10-----20-----30-----40

3. Overall qualifications of the applicants (10 points). This criterion assesses whether the applicant, and team members, possess the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project.

Does the applicant have the capacity/knowledge to conduct the scope and scale of the proposed work, as indicated by the qualifications and past experience of the project leaders and/or partners that show adequate administrative capability and experience in successfully completing similar projects (4 pts)? Does the applicant describe the facilities, equipment and/or administrative resources available to support and successfully manage the work and award responsibilities (2 pts)? Does the proposal include resumes of the Principle Investigator(s)? (2 pts) If applicable, are partners (e.g., consultants/contractors) necessary to the conduct of the project and the accomplishment of its objectives? (1 pt) If consultants and contractors are conducting the critical activities under the award, is the primary applicant's involvement necessary (1 pt)?

Poor Fair Good Commendable Excellent
0-----4-----6-----8-----10

4. Project costs (10 points). This criterion evaluates the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time frame. Cost effectiveness of the project is considered.

Is the proposed budget cost-effective and realistic based on the applicant's stated objectives, time frame, and amount of overall project budget already secured from other sources (4 pts)? Is the proposed budget sufficiently detailed, with appropriate budget

breakdown and justification of costs by object class (4 pts)? Does the applicant demonstrate the ability to leverage other resources (i.e., are matching funds proposed) (2pts)?

Poor Fair Good Commendable Excellent

0-----4-----6-----8-----10

5. Outreach and education (10 points). This criterion assesses whether the project provides a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nation's natural resources.

Does the proposal identify anticipated benefits, potential users, indicators of success, and methods of disseminating results (4pts)? Is an effective method proposed for dissemination of project results (2 pts)? Are the various target audiences, such as the fishing community or the general public, identified (2 pts)? Will the outreach methods acknowledge NOAA Fisheries support of the project (2 pts)?

Poor Fair Good Commendable Excellent

0-----4-----6-----8-----10

B. Review and Selection Process

1. Initial Screening

An initial administrative review is conducted on each application to determine compliance with application requirements and completeness of application materials.

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); include a SF 424 authenticated by an authorized representative, as well as other required federal forms; were submitted by an eligible applicant; address one of the funding priorities; and include a project summary, 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 to it.

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

After the initial screening, independent written technical evaluations from three or more appropriate federal, private or public sector experts (e.g. industry, academia, or governmental experts) with subject matter expertise will be obtained to determine the technical merit of the proposal. Their evaluation will be based solely on the information included in the application based on the criteria described in Section V.A. Evaluation Criteria. Each reviewer will independently evaluate each project and provide an individual score. No consensus advice will be given. 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 technical reviewer identity to the maximum extent permitted by law.

Following completion of the technical review, the individual technical review scores will be averaged to determine the final technical score for each application. Applications will be ranked in descending order by their final technical scores. A "cutoff" score will be established that is based in part, on the amount of funds available for grants. Applications that scored below the cutoff will be eliminated from further consideration.

3. Constituent Panel Review

For those applications at or above the cutoff technical evaluation score, NMFS may solicit individual comments and evaluations from a panel or panels of three or more representatives selected by the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries (AA), NOAA. Panel members will be chosen from the fishing industry, state government, non-government organizations, and others, as appropriate. The panelist's role is to enhance the Agency's understanding of this select group of proposals received under the competition prior to recommendations for selections being made. Should Constituent Panel Review(s) be conducted, panelists will be provided with the applications, a summary of the technical evaluations (including scores and comments), and for applications to continue a previously funded project, information on progress on the funded work to date.

Each panelist will evaluate the applications in terms of the significance of the problem or opportunity being addressed, the degree to which the project involves collaboration with fishing community members and other appropriate collaborators, proposed means to disseminate project results, and benefits (industry, resource, economic) derived from investment in the project. Prior to the panel discussion, each member of the panel will independently assign a numerical rating between 1 and 4 (poor to excellent) for each application according to the following scale, and provide comments to support their score:

1 – Poor; application was marginally responsive to the evaluation criteria (Section V.A) but does not address program priorities outlined in the FFO.

2 – Fair; application was adequately responsive to the evaluation criteria (Section V.A) and marginally addresses program priorities outlined in the FFO.

3 – Good; application was strongly responsive to the evaluation criteria (Section V.A) and partially addresses program priorities outlined in the FFO.

4 – Excellent; application was highly responsive to the evaluation criteria (Section V.A) and exceptionally addresses program priorities outlined in the FFO.

Panel members will be required to certify that they do not have a conflict of interest and that they will maintain confidentiality of the panel deliberations. NOAA will protect panelist identity to the maximum extent permitted by law.

During the Panel Meeting, reviewers can revise their scores and comments. Panelists must individually submit their final score to the S-K Program Manager by the end of the panel meeting. No consensus advice will be given by the Panelists on recommendations or scores. After the panel scores are submitted, a compilation of all proposals in rank order is developed based on the average score from the constituent review panel with the cutoff placed at the amount of funds to be made available from the congressional process.

4. Funding Recommendations

Technical Review Only - The SK Program Manager, in consultation with the NMFS Regional Administrators (RAs) and Office Directors (ODs) and Science Center Directors (SDs) develop a recommendation for project funding for those Applications that scored above the cutoff score.

Constituent Panel Review (if applicable) - The SK Program Manager will use the constituent panel ranking and review comments along with input from the NMFS Regional Administrators (RAs), Science Center Directors (SD), and Office Directors (ODs), to develop a recommendation for project funding.

Not all activities submitted under a single proposal may be deemed appropriate for funding, and the Selecting Official may recommend alternate activities as appropriate. For a proposal to be selected for funding the applicant may be required to modify objectives, work plans and budgets, and provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to the award. Awards are not necessarily made to the highest ranked applications.

C. Selection Factors

The AA, as the Selecting Official, will review the funding recommendation and comments of the RAs/ODs/SDs 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:

1. Availability of funding;
2. Balance and 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. & B.
5. Applicant's prior award performance:
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.
8. Amount of non-federal cost share contribution

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 Fall of 2013. The earliest start date for projects will be January 1, 2014, 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 completed of the review and selection process, successful applicants will receive notification from a NMFS Regional 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, and 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 that their proposals were not selected for recommendation.

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.

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 (CCR) and Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS number) 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.

Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements.

Administrative and national policy requirements for all Department of Commerce awards are contained in the Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements published in the Federal Register on December 17, 2012 (77 FR 74634). You may obtain a copy of this notice by contacting the agency contact(s) under section VII., or by going to the website at

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. Applicants whose proposed projects may have an environmental impact must furnish information requested to assist proposal reviewers in assessing the potential environmental consequences of supporting the project.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

1. Administrative Requirements: Successful applicants that accept a NOAA award under this solicitation will be bound by the Department of Commerce and NOAA standard terms and conditions. This document will be provided in the award package in Grants Online, NOAA's financial assistance management system. In addition, award documents provided by the NOAA grants office through the Grants Online award package may contain program-specific special award conditions.

2. NEPA Requirements: As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, of applications that request Federal funding. 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 and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations. 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). Program applications should, to the best extent, provide what they know about their projects at the time of submitting their grant application. Examples of the level of

detail to be incorporated into proposals to assist in the environmental review can be found in <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/questionnaire.pdf>.

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 not selecting an application. Funds will not be released until NOAA completes the requisite NEPA analysis and documentation. Funds may 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.

It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain all necessary federal, state, and local government permits and approval for the proposed work to be conducted. Applicants are expected to design their proposed activities to minimize the potential for adverse impacts to the environment. If applicable, documentation of requests for, or approval of required environmental permits should be included in the application package. Applications will be reviewed to ensure that they contain sufficient information to allow NOAA staff to conduct a NEPA analysis so that appropriate NEPA documentation, required as part of the application package, can be submitted to the NOAA Grants Management Division along with the recommendation for funding for selected applications.

3. NOAA's Data Sharing Policy: Environmental data and information collected and/or created under NOAA grants/cooperative agreements must be made visible, accessible, and independently understandable to general users, free of charge or at minimal cost, in a timely manner (typically no later than two (2) years after the data are collected or created), except where limited by law, regulation, policy or security requirements. The Data/Information Sharing Plan (and any subsequent revisions or updates) must be made publically available at the time of award and, thereafter, will be posted with published data. Failing to share environmental data and information in accordance with the submitted Data/Information Sharing Plan may lead to disallowed costs and be considered by NOAA when making future award decision. If your proposed activities do not generate any environmental data, your application is still required to have a data sharing plan. Such a data sharing plan could include the statement that "this project will not generate any environmental data". More information about the Data Sharing Policy is available on NOAA's Environmental data Management Committee website at: <http://www.nosc.noaa.gov/EDMC/PD.DSP.php>

4. Limitation of Liability - Funding for programs listed in this notice is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2013 appropriations. Applicants are hereby given notice that amount of funds have not yet been determined for the SK program described in this notice

and are advised that the competition described herein may be subject to cancellation due to unavailability of funding or revision of agency priorities. In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for preparation costs. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award funding for specific projects or obligate available funds. You should not initiate your project in expectation of Federal funding until you receive a grant award document signed by an authorized NOAA official. If you incur any costs prior to receiving an award agreement signed by an authorized NOAA official, you do so solely at your own risk of these costs not being included under the award. Recipients and sub-recipients are subject to all Federal laws and agency policies, regulations and procedures applicable to Federal financial assistance awards.

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, and none has 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.

C. Reporting

C. Reporting

Award recipients will be required to submit financial and performance (technical) reports.

1. 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 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.

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 scheduled for the reporting period (from the proposal and amendments) and the tasks that were actually accomplished in the period. The report should also explain any special problems or differences between the scheduled and accomplished work.

The final, comprehensive report should include an "Executive Summary" of the project accomplishments which briefly and succinctly summarizes the final report for website or publication use. Limit this summary to no more than one page. The suggested format for the final report is:

- a. Report title, author, organization, grant number, date
- b. Executive Summary: a brief and succinct summary of the final report
- c. Purpose:

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

- Objectives of the project.

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

- Project management: list individuals and/or organizations actually performing the work and how it was done.

e. Findings:

- 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.

f. 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.

- 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 Service, in cooperation with the Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program. 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

Regional S-K Program point of contacts: Headquarters – Daniel Namur, telephone (301) 427-8730 email: Dan.Namur@noaa.gov. Alaska Region: Shawn Carey, telephone: (907) 586-7845; email: Shawn.Carey@noaa.gov; Northwest Region: Kim Raneses, telephone: (206) 526-6131; email: Kim.Raneses@noaa.gov, Pacific Islands Region: Scott Bloom, telephone: (808) 944-2218; email: Scott.Bloom@noaa.gov, Southwest Region: Trisha Culver, telephone: (562) 980-4239; email: Trisha.Culver@noaa.gov, Northeast Region: Susan Olsen, telephone (978) 281-9330; email: Susan.Olsen@noaa.gov; and Southeast Region: Ellie Roche, telephone: (727) 570-5324; email: Ellie.Roche@noaa.gov.

VIII. Other Information

None