

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

Funding Opportunity Title: Fisheries International Cooperation and Assistance Program (FICAP)

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NMFS-FHQ-2015-2004376

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.463, Habitat Conservation

Dates: Full applications must be submitted to Grants.gov by 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time May 25, 2015.

Funding Opportunity Description: The purpose of this notice is to request applications for special projects and programs associated with NMFS Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection (IASI) strategic plan and mission goals (<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ia/>), as well as to provide the general public with information and guidelines on how IASI will select proposals and administer discretionary Federal assistance under this National Marine Fisheries Service Fisheries International Cooperation and Assistance Program (FICAP) - FY 2015 Announcement. This program is a mechanism to encourage research, education, policy, and outreach, innovative projects, or sponsorship that are not addressed through our competitive discretionary programs. Funding for potential projects in this notice is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations. Applicants are hereby given notice that funds have not yet been appropriated for any potential activities in this notice. Publication of this announcement does not oblige IASI to review an application, or to award any specific project, or to obligate any available funds.

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Program Objective

The purpose of this notice is to request applications for special projects and programs associated with the NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) International Affairs and Seafood Inspection (IASI) strategic plan and mission goals (<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ia/>) aimed to promote international cooperation to achieve effective and responsible marine stewardship and ensure sustainable global fisheries and protected marine species management. This funding opportunity is a mechanism to build international cooperation that supports science-based management by encouraging research, education, policy, and outreach, innovative projects, or sponsorships, and strengthen our existing international development work building strategic partnerships with other nations, particularly with developing countries. NMFS has the authority to engage in international cooperation and development activities with other countries in order to implement the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Whaling Convention Act.

Funding for activities described in this notice is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations. The funds to be used have been appropriated by Congress to the Department of Commerce, but not specifically for these activities as stated below. Publication of this announcement does not oblige IASI to review an application beyond an initial administrative review, or to award any specific project, or to obligate any available funds.

B. Program Priorities

The NMFS Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection (IASI) issues this funding opportunity to address one or more of the following high priority areas:

1. Implementation of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Whaling Convention Act through international cooperation and development activities with other countries;
2. Promote sustainable and responsible management of fisheries, protected species, and other relevant marine resources and achieve effective and responsible marine stewardship at the national, regional, and global levels;
3. Engage in efforts to address Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. Promote increased fisheries monitoring and enforcement and collaborate with countries,

international fisheries organizations, and other global organizations to address illegal fishing activities;

4. Support research, initiatives, and conservation efforts that help achieve fisheries management or address bycatch of marine mammals, sea turtles, sharks, and seabirds in international waters; and

5. Ensure that the international trade of species listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), is legal and sustainable.

C. Program Authority

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 1829) authorizes NOAA to undertake activities to promote improved monitoring and compliance for high seas fisheries, or fisheries governed by international fishery management agreements.

The High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. § 1826k) authorizes NOAA to support equivalent conservation measures through international support and assistance.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. § 1378) authorizes NOAA to undertake an international program with other nations for the protection and conservation of all marine mammals covered by the Act, including (i) cooperative research into alternative methods of locating and catching yellowfin tuna which do not involve the taking of marine mammals, (ii) cooperative research on the status of affected marine mammal population stocks, and (iii) reliable monitoring of the number, rate, and species of marine mammals taken by vessels of harvesting nations.

The Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. § 1537) authorizes NOAA to provide assistance for the worldwide protection of endangered species and threatened species.

The specific program authority will vary depending on the nature of the proposed project.

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

Funding for potential projects in this notice is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations. IASI anticipates between \$1.25 to 1.75 million will be made available for this funding opportunity, which will be distributed among 10-20 projects and that

awards will range from \$10,000 to \$200,000.

B. Project/Award Period

If approved for funding the anticipated start date for projects generally will be three to six months after receipt of proposals by IASI. Applications should generally be submitted for a one-year-award period of performance, but this may be negotiated if the application is recommended for funding. Multiple-year applications must specify the budget and activities for each year. Once funded, there is no assurance that a project will receive future funding.

C. Type of Funding Instrument

Selected applicants will either enter into a grant or a cooperative agreement depending upon the amount of IASI's involvement in the project. Applications funded through cooperative agreements will include substantial involvement of IASI, which may include, but is not limited to, liaison activities between the grantee and NOAA personnel who are contributing data or expertise to the project.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, nonprofits, commercial organizations, international or foreign organizations or governments, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, individuals, and state, local and Indian Tribal governments.

If the applicant is a university that has a NOAA Joint or Cooperative Institute (CI), the institution is encouraged to submit an application that will be associated with the CI. The application must specify the name of the CI, its most recent award number, and the NOAA-approved research theme applicable to the work to be performed in the project narrative. The application must use the facilities and administrative rate (F&A or Indirect Cost Rate) associated with most recent CI award.

If the application is selected for funding, NMFS will notify the university that a separate competitive award will be issued with its own award number. However, the competitive award will include a Special Award Condition (SAC) that evidences the link between it and the CI award. The SAC will provide (1) that the university has submitted the proposal to be associated with the CI; (2) that any existing University/NOAA MOA will be incorporated by reference into the terms of the competitive award, and (3) that any progress report(s) for the competitive award must follow the timetable of and be submitted by the CI directly to the funding program. Copies of these progress reports will be attached to the CI's performance report as an appendix.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

Cost sharing is not required; however, NMFS IASI strongly encourages applicants to leverage as much investment as possible. The nature of any contribution (cash versus in kind) and the amount of any matching funds should be submitted within the proposal.

C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility

Not applicable.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

Electronic application packages are strongly encouraged and are available at: www.grants.gov.

Grants.gov requires applicants to register prior to submitting an application. Applicants (unless the applicant is an individual or Federal awarding agency that is excepted from those requirements under 2 CFR §25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal awarding agency under 2 CFR §25.110(d)) are required to: (i) be registered with System for Award Management (SAM) before submitting an application; (ii) provide a valid unique entity identifier in the application; and (iii) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during when it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency.

These registration processes can take several weeks and involve multiple steps. In order to allow sufficient time for these processes, applicants should begin the registration process as soon as possible.

If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the Federal awarding agency is ready to make a Federal award, the Federal awarding agency may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

B. Content and Form of Application

1. Format Requirements.

All application materials should be composed in PDF or a common word processing format, and when printed out should meet all format requirements. All pages must be single- or double-spaced, printed or typed in at least 12-point font, and printable on 8.5-inch x 11-inch paper, with 1-inch margins.

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

- Application for Federal Assistance (Form SF-424),
- Budget Information, Non-construction Programs (Form SF-424A), and
- Assurances, Non-construction Programs (Form SF-424B).

Applicants may submit the information typically included on these documents through the <http://www.grants.gov/> website. The Department of Commerce Form(s) CD 511, Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other responsibility Matters; Drug Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying, and if applicable Department of Commerce Form CD 346 Application for Funding Assistance (Non Profits, For Profits, and Individuals) will be required with the application.

Brevity will assist reviewers and program staff in quickly evaluating proposals. Therefore, the Project Description may not exceed 15 pages. Tables and visual materials, including charts, graphs, maps, photographs and other pictorial presentations are included in the 15-page limit. Data management plans and/or access agreements as well as budgets and justifications, project summary, and previous, current and pending support sections do not count towards the 15-page limit. Appendices may be included with proposals but must not exceed a total of 15 pages in length. Appendices may include information such as curriculum, resumes, and/or letters of endorsement. Additional informational material will be disregarded. Failure to follow the requirements may result in the rejection of the application.

2. Content Requirements.

The following information must be included:

- a. Signed Form SF-424: The Form SF-424 must be signed by the authorized representative. Electronic signatures submitted through [grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) satisfy this requirement.
- b. Title Page (1-page limit): The title page identifies the project's title, total budget, start and end dates; and the Principle Investigator's (PI's) and co-PI's names, affiliations, complete mailing addresses, email addresses, telephone numbers, and fax numbers.
- c. Project Synopsis (1-page limit): It is critical that the project synopsis accurately describes the project being proposed and conveys all essential elements of the activities. It is imperative that potential applicants tie their proposals to one of the priority issues described in Section I.B., Program Priorities and state it here in the synopsis.
- d. Project Description (15-page limit): The applicant should describe and justify the project being proposed and address each of the evaluation criteria as described below in Section V, Application Review Information. Project descriptions should include clear

objectives and specific approaches to achieving those objectives, including methods, timelines, and expected outcomes.

- e. Literature Cited: If applicable.
- f. Assurances: The Form SF-424B must be completed and submitted for all non-construction applications.
- g. Certification regarding debarment, suspension, and other responsibility matters; drug free workplace requirements and lobbying: The applicant must complete and submit Form CD-511.
- h. Resumes for each major participant.
- i. Standard Application Forms: Please refer to the application package available through www.Grants.gov. Please review each form to determine which are required with submission. Each applicant may not be required to submit all forms listed, depending on the project type or applicant type.
- j. NEPA Questionnaire. Applicants do not need to provide answers to the NOAA NEPA Questionnaire at this time. However, NOAA may require additional information from the applicant regarding potential environmental impacts prior to reviewing the application.
- k. Budget and Budget Justification: Form SF-424A must be completed, and there should be an accompanying detailed budget justification. Indicate matching funds, if provided, in a separate column. Provide justifications for all budget items in sufficient detail to enable the reviewers to evaluate the appropriateness of the funding requested. The budget justification should be broken out and detailed using the same budget categories as the Form SF- 424A.

Applicants proposing to use an approved Federal indirect cost (IDC) rate agreement are required to submit a copy of the signed indirect cost rate agreement with the application package.

C. Submission Dates and Times

Full applications can be submitted on a rolling basis starting from the publication date of this announcement up to 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on May 25, 2015. Applications received after this time will not be reviewed or considered for funding. Applications shall be evaluated for funding generally within 3 to 6 months of receipt. An applicant can expect to receive either a rejection notice based on the initial prescreening review (if found ineligible), a rejection notice based on merit review or program restrictions, a request for additional information, and/or an award within that timeframe. Applicants should not assume prior knowledge on the part of NMFS as to the relative merits of the project described in the

application.

Important: All applicants should be aware that adequate time must be factored into applicant schedules for delivery of the application. Electronic applicants are advised that volume on Grants.gov is currently extremely heavy, and if Grants.gov is unable to accept applications electronically in a timely fashion, applicants are encouraged to exercise their option to submit applications in paper format. Paper applicants should allow adequate time to ensure a paper application will be received on time, taking into account that guaranteed overnight carriers are not always able to fulfill their guarantees.

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 the Form 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 Management and Budget's home page at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html.

E. Funding Restrictions

Allowable Costs

Funds awarded cannot necessarily pay for all the costs that the recipient might incur in the course of carrying out the project. Allowable costs are determined by reference to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements, codified at 2 C.F.R. Part 200. Generally, costs that are allowable include salaries, equipment, supplies, and training, as long as these are "necessary and reasonable."

Indirect Costs

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

F. Other Submission Requirements

Proposals should be submitted through Grants.gov.

Paper proposals may be mailed to:

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

Christopher Rogers

Phone Number: 301-427-8375

Email: Christopher.Rogers@noaa.gov

1315 East-West Hwy

SSM3 #10648

Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

V. Application Review Information

A. Evaluation Criteria

NMFS has standardized evaluation criteria for all competitive assistance announcements. The criteria for this funding opportunity are listed below. Applicants are required to adhere to all the noted submission requirements and to provide a demonstrable link and/or to emphasize manner in which study objectives results will serve to support IASI's mission goals/priorities. Since proposals responding to this funding opportunity may vary significantly in their activities/objectives, assigning a set weight for each evaluation criterion is not feasible but is based on a total possible score of 100. The Program Office and/or Selection Official will determine which of the following criteria and weights will be applied. Some proposals, for example sponsorships, may not be able to address all the criteria like technical/scientific merit. However, it is in your best interest to prepare a proposal that can be easily evaluated against these five criteria.

1. Importance and/or relevance and applicability of proposed project to the mission goals (40 points):

This ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, federal, regional, state, or local activities: i.e., how does the proposed activity enhance IASI's mission goals? Proposals should also address significance/possibilities of securing productive results, i.e., does this study address an important problem?; if the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge and/or science based management be advanced?; what will be the effect of these studies on the concepts or methods that drive this field?; what effect will the project have on improving public understanding of the role of

NMFS IASI.

Proposals may also be scored for innovation, i.e., Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches or methods? Are the aims original and innovative? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies?

2. Technical/scientific merit (20 points):

This assesses whether the approach is technically sound and if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and objectives. Proposals should address the approach/soundness of design: i.e., are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well-integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the audiences to be engaged through the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics? This criterion will also evaluate the applicant's proposed methods for monitoring, measuring, and evaluating the success or failure of the project, i.e., what are they? Are they appropriate?

3. Overall qualifications of applicants (10 points):

This ascertains whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project. If appropriate, proposals should also address the physical environment and collaboration, if any, i.e., Does the environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed experiments or activities take advantage of unique features of the intended environment or employ useful collaborative arrangements?

4. Project costs (20 points):

The Budget is evaluated to determine if costs are reasonable, allowable, allocable, and necessary and if the budget is realistic, and commensurate with the project needs and time frame. The budget is also evaluated to see if it meets the needs for the project to start as soon as funds are received.

5. Outreach and education (10 points):

IASI assesses whether this project provides a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding IASI's mission to protect the Nation's and global marine resources. For example, how will the outcomes of the project be communicated to NOAA and the interested public to ensure it has met the project objectives over the short, medium, or long term? Does the project address any of the goals or employ any of the strategies of the NOAA Education Plan (http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/NOAA_Ed_Plan.pdf)? Outreach and education is not central to this grant program.

B. Review and Selection Process

An initial administrative review will be conducted to determine eligibility for award, compliance with requirements, and completeness of the application, including a review to verify that:

- The applicant is eligible to apply;
- The application was received on time; and
- All required elements of the application are present and follow format guidance.

Applications not passing this initial review will not be considered further for funding through this funding opportunity, and will not receive further review. All applications that meet the eligibility and minimum requirements will be evaluated by at least three mail reviewers and/or peer panel reviewers. Each reviewer will individually evaluate the proposal(s) using the evaluation criteria provided above. The reviewers may be any combination of Federal and/or non-federal personnel. The proposal(s) will be individually scored (i.e., a consensus is not reached) unless all reviewers are Federal employees. If all of the reviewers are Federal employees, the program officer has the discretion to authorize a score based on consensus scoring.

IASI selects evaluators on the basis of their professional qualifications and expertise as related to the unique characteristics of the proposal. The Program Officer will assess the evaluations and make a fund or do-not-fund recommendation to the Selecting Official with an explanation of the reasons for the recommendation. Any application considered for funding may be required to address the issues raised in the evaluation of the proposal by the reviewers, Program Officer, Selecting Official, and/or Grants Officer before an award is issued.

vii. Applications not selected for funding in FY2015 or FY2016 may be considered for funding from FY2017, but may be required to revalidate the terms of the original application or resubmit in the next funding opportunity cycle if one is published for FY2016. The Program Officer, Selecting Official and/or Grants Officer may negotiate the final funding level of the proposal with the intended applicant. The Selecting Official makes the final recommendation for award to the Grants Officer who is authorized to commit the Federal Government and obligate the funds.

C. Selection Factors

The average rank order from the merit review will be the primary consideration for the Selection Official in deciding which of the new proposals will be recommended for funding to the NOAA Grants Officer. The Selecting Official shall award in rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based upon the following factors:

1. Availability of funding;
2. Balance/distribution of funds:
 - Geographically
 - By type of institutions
 - By type of partners
 - By research areas
 - By project types;
3. Duplication of other projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA or other Federal agencies;
4. Program priorities and areas of interest as set out in section I. B of this FFO;
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 NEPA determination and draft necessary documentation before recommendations for funding are made to the Grants Officer.

D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Subject to the availability of funds, awards are expected to be made three to six months after receipt by IASI of the full application. Given this time frame, applicants applying in Fiscal Year 2015 should take into consideration that submissions received after May 25, 2015 may not be able to be awarded in FY2015 (October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015).

The notice of Federal award signed by the Grants Officer (or equivalent) is the authorizing document, and may be provided through postal mail or by electronic means to the applicant as indicated on the application.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

The notice of award is approved by the Grants Officer. 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 System for Award Management (SAM) and a unique entity identifier 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

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 2013 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.

B. Administrative and National Policy 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 contained in the Federal Register notice of December 30, 2014 (79 FR 78390) are applicable to this solicitation and may be accessed online at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-30/pdf/2014-30297.pdf>.

Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements

In accordance with the Federal Register notice published on (79 FR 75871) and the regulation at 2 C.F.R. 1327.101, effective December 26, 2014, the DOC adopted the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements codified at 2 C.F.R. Part 200 (Uniform Guidance). The Uniform Guidance streamlines the language from eight Office of Management and Budget (OMB) circulars, including cost principles (OMB Circulars A-21, A-87, A 122) and administrative requirements (OMB Circulars A-102 and A 110), into one consolidated set of guidance applicable to federal assistance awards. Note that the OMB Uniform Guidance supersedes DOC's uniform administrative requirements set out at 15 C.F.R. parts 14 and 24. In addition, the audit requirements of the Uniform Guidance applies to audits of non-Federal entities beginning on or after December 26, 2014. The Uniform Guidance as codified at 2 C.F.R. Part 200 may be found at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2014-title2-vol1/pdf/CFR-2014-title2-vol1-subtitleA-chapII-subchap-id302.pdf>. Additional information on the substance of and transition to the Uniform Guidance may be found at <https://cfo.gov/cofar>.

Limitation of Liability

In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal

preparation costs. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NMFS IASI to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds. Recipients and sub-recipients are subject to all Federal laws and agency policies, regulations, and procedures applicable to Federal financial assistance awards.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for applicant projects or proposals which are seeking NOAA federal funding opportunities. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA Web site: <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/>, including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA, http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216_6.pdf, NEPA Questionnaire, <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/questionnaire.pdf>, and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/toc_ceq.htm.

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

In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting of an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying 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. 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.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This notification involves collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The use of Standard Forms SF-424, 424A, 424B, and SF-LLL and CD-346 has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under control numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040 and 0348-0046 and 0605-0001. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements

of the PRA unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Executive Order 13132 (Federalism)

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

Data Sharing

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 years after the data are collected or created), except where limited by law, regulation, policy, or by security requirements.

1. Unless otherwise noted in this federal funding announcement, a Data/Information Sharing Plan of no more than two pages shall be required as an appendix. A typical plan may include the types of environmental data and information 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; policies addressing data stewardship and preservation; procedures for providing access, data, and security; and prior experience in publishing such data. The Data/Information Sharing Plan will be reviewed as part of the NOAA Standard Evaluation Criteria, Item 1 -- Importance and/or Relevance and Applicability of Proposed Project to the Mission Goals.

2. The Data/Information Sharing Plan (and any subsequent revisions or updates) will be made publicly available at time of award and, thereafter, will be posted with the published data.

3. 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 decisions. Additionally, PIs must indicate how and when they have made their data accessible and usable by the community in the past. Information on NOAA's Data Management Policy is available under:

http://www.corporateservices.noaa.gov/ames/administrative_orders/chapter_212/212-15.html

Felony and Tax Certifications for Corporations

In accordance with current Federal appropriations law, NOAA will provide a successful corporate applicant a form to be completed by its authorized representatives certifying that the corporation has no Federally-assessed unpaid or delinquent tax liability or recent felony

criminal convictions under any Federal law.

Delinquent tax liability

In accordance with current Federal appropriations law, NOAA will provide a successful applicant a form to be completed by its authorized representatives certifying that the applicant has no Federally-assessed unpaid or delinquent tax liability or recent felony criminal convictions under any Federal law.

C. Reporting

Financial reports are to be submitted to the Grants Officer identified in the award and Performance (technical) reports are to be submitted to the Federal Program Officer.

1. All financial reports should be submitted through the NOAA Grants Online system. Reports will be submitted on a semi-annual schedule and must be submitted no later than 30 days following the end of each 6-month period from the start date of the award.

2. Performance Progress Reports must also be submitted to the Federal Program Officer through the NOAA Grants Online system on a semi-annual schedule and must be submitted no later than 30-days following the end of each 6-month period from the start date of the award. 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. 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 performance reports must also include documentation of all fish caught by vessels participating in the project, including catch that may or may not be directly applicable to the research subject matter.

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, and date.

- b. Executive Summary: a brief and succinct summary of the final report.
- c. Purpose: detailed description of problem and objectives of the project.
- d. Approach: detailed description of the work that was performed and the 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 and a 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. Also include the dissemination of project results and explain, in detail, how the project's results have been and will be disseminated. Additional performance reports may be required to comply with Congressional reporting requirements on an annual basis if the above noted reports are not timely for the congressional report.

3. 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 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, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection. 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, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA Fisheries."

VII. Agency Contacts

For further information about IASI, please visit NOAA Fisheries Office of International

Affairs and Seafood Inspection website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ia/>

Or contact:

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Christopher Rogers

Phone Number: 301-427-8375

Email: Christopher.Rogers@noaa.gov

1315 East-West Hwy

Suite 10648

Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

VIII. Other Information

FOIA- Freedom of Information Act

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. DOC regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) are found at 5 U.S.C 552, 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 you, the confidentiality of the content of funded applications will be maintained to the maximum extent permitted by law.