

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: Alaska Native Co-Management Funding Program (ANCFP)

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NMFS-AK-2011-2002737

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.439, Marine Mammal Data Program

Dates: Proposals/ applications must be received at the Grants.gov or NMFS Alaska Regional Office (AKR) by 5:00 p.m., Alaska Standard Time (AST), February 17, 2011. Proposals received after the established deadline will be rejected and returned to the sender without consideration. For applications submitted through Grants.gov, a date and time receipt indication will be the basis of determining timeliness. The proposal must be validated by Grants.gov in order to be considered timely. PLEASE NOTE: It may take Grants.gov up to two (2) business days to validate or reject the application. Please keep this in mind in developing your submission timeline.

For those not having access to the internet, one signed original and two hard copy applications must be postmarked or received by the established due date for the program at the following address: NOAA Federal Program Officer for the Alaska Native Co-Management Funding Program, National Marine Fisheries Service, 709 W. 9th Street, Juneau, Alaska 99801. Use of U.S. mail or another delivery service must be documented with a receipt. (Note that late-arriving hard copy proposals provided to a delivery service on or before 5:00 p.m. AST on the closing date for applications will be accepted for review if the applicant can document that the proposal was provided to the guaranteed delivery service by the specified closing date and time and if the proposal is received by AKR no later than 5:00 p.m. AST, two business days following the closing date.)

No facsimile or electronic mail proposals will be accepted. May 1, 2011 should be used as the anticipated start date on proposals, unless otherwise directed by the NOAA Program Officer.

Funding Opportunity Description: The National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) recognizes the unique importance of marine mammals to Alaska Native Organizations (hereafter ANOs) and values ongoing efforts by Alaska Native Tribes and ANOs to conserve and protect species under NMFS' jurisdiction. Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1388, NMFS may provide Federal assistance to ANOs to conserve marine mammals, and to promote co-management of Alaska Native

subsistence use of such mammals under NOAA's jurisdiction. This assistance, provided in the form of cooperative agreements, can be used to support conservation of marine mammals utilized for subsistence purposes by Alaska Natives. Funded activities may include development and implementation of species management, subsistence harvest monitoring, subsistence harvest sampling, scientific research, and public education and outreach. Proposals should address priority actions identified in an Endangered Species Act Recovery Plan or Marine Mammal Protection Act Conservation Plan where applicable and the priorities identified within this federal funding opportunity. Tribally-Authorized Alaska Native Organizations with a signed Agreement for co-management with NMFS are eligible to apply under this solicitation.

Proposals focusing on marine mammals under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will not be considered for funding under this grant program. This document describes how to prepare and submit proposals for funding in fiscal year (FY) 2011 and how NMFS will determine which proposals will be funded; this document should be read in its entirety.

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Program Objective

The objective of the FY11 Alaska Native Co-Management Funding Program is to provide technical and financial assistance for the development and implementation of programs that:

- * facilitate the equitable participation by Alaska Natives in the management of marine mammals for subsistence use
- * provide for sustainable use of marine mammals for subsistence purposes,
- * benefit marine mammals and their habitat, and
- * encourage local participation in marine mammal science and management.

B. Program Priorities

Applicants should ensure that their proposals address one or more of the following priorities, which are listed in no particular rank order of preference (i.e., no one factor carrying a higher priority than any other). If a project meets more than one of the listed priorities, the responsible party should list first the priority that most closely reflects the objectives of the proposed project.

The Marine Mammal Co-Management priorities for Fiscal Year 2011 are:

1. Collect and disseminate harvest information to include harvest numbers, struck and lost, age class and sex of harvested animals, hunting practices, hunting regions;
2. Collaborate with managers, scientists, and subsistence users to develop traditional ecological knowledge and wisdom that directly supports co-management decisions including the impacts of climate change on subsistence hunting;
3. Design and implement sampling, survey, or other field programs to address local or federal management and research needs;
4. Establish mentoring programs for marine mammal research projects;
5. Develop hunting and cultural education programs;
6. Develop hunting methods to reduce rates of struck and lost and wasteful practices;

7. Outreach and education of subsistence users or the general public;
8. Develop programs that support the U.S. Government in international reporting efforts and negotiations directly affecting subsistence harvest quotas; and
9. Organize and liaise between Alaska Native hunters and NMFS for the cooperative management and conservation of marine mammals in Alaska waters.

NOAA will consider only proposals which address the priorities identified in this section. All proposed projects should be clearly linked to the objectives and priorities addressed in this section. NOAA recognizes the importance of full participation of all eligible Alaska Native Organizations in the ANCFP.

C. Program Authority

16 U.S.C. 1388

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

Total funding available under this notice is anticipated to be approximately \$2.7M. Actual funding availability for this program is contingent upon FY2011 Federal appropriations. Awards amounts will be determined by the proposals and the available funds. Applicants are hereby given notice that these funds have not yet been appropriated for this program. Given this, there is no guarantee that sufficient funds will be available to make awards for all qualified projects. Publication of this notice does not obligate NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

If an application for financial assistance award is selected for funding, NOAA/NMFS has no obligation to provide any additional funding in connection with that award in subsequent years beyond the award period. If an applicant incurs any costs prior to receiving an award agreement signed by an authorized NOAA official, the applicant would do solely at his/her own risk of these costs not being included under the award. Pre-award costs are not allowed under the award unless approved by the NOAA Grants Officer.

B. Project/Award Period

The project budget period is recommended to be 12 months in duration. May 1, 2011 would be the proposed start date unless otherwise directed by the Program Office. We expect the majority of projects to have one year project periods.

If an applicant would like to continue work on a project funded through this program beyond the approved award period and obligated award funds have not been expended by the end of this period, the applicant must notify the assigned Federal Program Officer 60 days prior to the end of the period to determine eligibility for a no-cost extension. The Federal Program Officer will make the determination 30 days prior to the end of the period if the project is eligible for a no-cost extension. If a proposal is selected for funding, NOAA/NMFS has no obligation to provide additional funding in connection with that award in subsequent years.

C. Type of Funding Instrument

Proposals selected for funding will be funded through a cooperative agreement. There will be substantial involvement by NOAA in the management of the project. Examples of substantial involvement may include but are not limited to, assist in the development of outreach materials, collaboration between NOAA scientists and a recipient scientist, input into organizational structure, staffing, mode of operations, management processes, programmatic activities, review and revision of draft deliverables, regularly-scheduled monitoring and/or operational involvement during performance. Funding for contractual arrangements for services or products for delivery to NOAA is not available under this notice.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible ANO applicants must have an existing marine mammal co-management agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and be in "good standing" with NMFS. An applicant is considered to be in "good standing" if the ANO meets the following criteria:

- 1). Applicant must not have any pending or outstanding enforcement actions under the MMPA or ESA.
- 2). Progress and financial reports on current Federal assistance awards are up to date and/or completed in a timely manner.
- 3). Satisfactory past performance.
- 4). Operates within the parameters dictated by the co-management agreement.

Applicants meeting the two eligibility criteria above may choose to apply under another entity acting as a fiscal agent for the applicant, provided the application contains a thorough description of the relationship between the ANO and the fiscal agent entity, and the

responsibilities of all parties. The ANO will be the lead entity/organization of the consortium.

Any Alaska Native Organization not holding an existing co-management agreement with NMFS may collaborate with and apply as a sub-recipient under an eligible applicant (i.e., another ANO) for this program.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

No cost sharing or matching is required under this program.

C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility

1. Proof of Eligibility

In order to be considered for an award in this funding cycle, the applicant must provide a proof of eligibility document. This proof of eligibility will be a copy of the title and signature page of the Co-Management Agreement between NMFS and the ANO. Any proposal that does not provide a copy of the relevant pages of the Agreement will not be considered eligible and will not be considered for further review.

2. Permits and Approvals

Under section 104(c) of the MMPA and section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA, persons may be authorized to take marine mammals and threatened and endangered species, respectively, for purposes of scientific research or enhancing the survival of the species. Interested persons are required to submit an application in accordance with the Acts and the implementing regulations at 50 CFR part 216, subpart D, and 50 CFR part 222.

For further information on permit requirements and applications procedures for Federal natural resource permits, contact the NMFS Office of Protected Resources (see Section VII, Agency Contact(s) or see the following website: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/>.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

Applications are available through the Grants.gov website at <http://www.grants.gov>. Delays may be experienced when registering with Grants.gov near the end of a solicitation period. Therefore, NMFS strongly recommends that you do not wait until the application deadline to begin the registration/application process through the Grants.gov website.

B. Content and Form of Application

NOAA employees (whether full-time, part-time, or intermittent) are not permitted to assist in the preparation of an application, except that staff may provide information on program goals, funding priorities, application procedures, and completion of application forms. Since this is a competitive program, NOAA employees will not provide assistance in conceptualizing, developing, or structuring proposals, or write letters of support for a proposal.

Applications must adhere to the provision under Applications and the nine requirements under Required Elements by the application deadline. Failure to follow these provisions will result in proposals being returned to the applicant without review.

1. Applications

a. Applications submitted to the competitive program must include a Standard Form 424 (Application for Federal Assistance), including a detailed budget using Standard Form 424A, (Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs), Standard Form 424B (Assurances - Non-Construction Programs), Commerce Department Form CD-511 (Certification Regarding Lobbying), and if applicable, Standard Form SF-LLL (Disclosure of Lobbying Activities). These forms are available and submitted through the Grants.gov website at <http://www.grants.gov> .

b. In addition to the required sub-project of administrative costs, applicants must identify the specific priority or priorities to which they are responding. If the proposal addresses a program priority, it should state the priority as a sub-project title. If a sub-project reflects more than one priority, those priorities should be listed in the sub-project title. Applicants should not assume prior knowledge on the part of NMFS as to the relative merits of the project described in the application.

2. Required Elements

Proposals should be limited to 10 pages. The format may vary, but must include:

1. Title Page

This page shall provide the project title, project duration, applicant name(s), name(s) of the Principal Investigator (or Project Manager) and any Co-Investigators (or Co-Managers), complete contact information (address, telephone, fax, email, and phone number) of the applicant(s), and a statement regarding the Federal, non-Federal, and total costs of the project.

2. Project Summary

Provide a brief summary of the project goals and objectives, the proposed activities, the geographic area where the project would occur, and expected outcomes and benefits of the proposed activities. This summary may be posted on our website if the project is funded.

3. Project Description

Each project must be completely and accurately described, and include project and administrative objectives. Project objectives should be simple and understandable; as specific and quantitative as possible; clear as to the "what and when," but avoiding the "how and why;" and attainable within the time, funding, and resources available. Administrative objectives should be described in a similar fashion. Proposals should be accomplishment oriented and identify specific performance measures. Project performance measures could be due dates for draft and final technical and monitoring reports, dates for field seasons/data collection, and percentage of harvest sampled. Administrative performance measures could be dates, agendas, or minutes of board of directors, council, or commissioners meetings, quarterly website updating, or outreach and education materials from camps. The main body of the narrative should clearly state how the administrative and project work will be undertaken to meet the priorities and include:

(a) Project Design and Management: Describe how the project will be organized and managed and who will be responsible for carrying out project or administrative activities. The lead organization/individual and person listed as the technical contact should be identified as the Project Manager (PM) or Principal Investigator (PI). Use of sub-contractors or volunteer staff time to complete project activities and oversight of those individuals should be discussed. The PM/PI is responsible for all technical oversight and implementation of the approved work plan as delineated in the proposal. One PM or PI must be designated on each project, but the PM/PI may or may not be the applicant. However, if the applicant is not the PM/PI, there must be an explanation of the relationship between the applicant and PM/PI (e.g., applicant will be responsible for managing the grant funds and the PM will be responsible for completing the project milestones on time and within budget, etc.). Project participants or organizations that will have a significant role in conducting the project should be listed as Co-investigators or Co-Managers. Organizations or individuals that support the project, for example, researchers contributing data or materials, should be referred to as Cooperators. Copies of the PM's or PI's and all Co-investigator's/Co-Manager's current resumes or curricula vitae must be included as appendices.

(b) Project duration: Starting on the first day of the month and ending on the last day of the month.

(c) Objectives: Identify the problem/opportunity the project intends to address and describe its significance. Identify the administrative and/or project objectives, which should be simple and understandable, as specific and quantitative as possible and attainable within the time, money and human resources available.

(d) Project narrative: The project narrative is the technical or scientific plan of activities that are to be accomplished during each budget period of the project. This description should include detailed descriptions of the specific plan and/or methods that will be employed. Project milestones and the timelines (e.g. the number of months) necessary to meet them should be discussed.

(e) Benefits or results expected: Identify the outcomes, results and benefits. Describe how these expected outcomes, results, or products will be applied and/or made available to any appropriate user groups.

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

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

4. Total Project Costs and Budget Justification

Total project costs are the amount of funds required to accomplish what is proposed in the Project Description. Each proposal must include clear and concise budget information, both in the required Federal forms and in the narrative detail of this section. Funding detail should be broken down by sub-project.

Applications must include OMB standard form 424A, "Budget Information - Non Construction Programs". All instructions should be read before completing the form, and the amounts per category and total amounts indicated on the form should correspond with amounts indicated in the budget narrative and justification.

On a separate sheet or spreadsheet, list itemized costs per category and the corresponding Federal and non-Federal share and direct and indirect cost totals. Describe and justify the requested budget. For the non-Federal share, the itemized costs should be separated into cash and in-kind contributions. If in-kind contributions are included, describe briefly the basis for estimating the value of these contributions.

If the applicant currently has a negotiated indirect cost rate with the Federal government, indirect costs can be included in the budget. Indirect costs are overhead costs for basic

operational functions (e.g., lights, rent, water, insurance) that are incurred for common and joint objectives and cannot be identified specifically within a particular project. If indirect costs are included, the application should include a copy of the current negotiated indirect cost agreement with the Federal Government. This copy will not be included in the page limit requirements. If the applicant does not currently have a negotiated indirect cost rate with the Federal government, indirect costs may not be included in the budget. Applicants may itemize these costs as direct costs.

NOAA/NMFS will not consider fees, fundraising activities, and travel for Federal employees, salaries for Federal employees, or profits 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. A project begins on the effective date of an award agreement between the applicant and the Grants Officer and ends on the date specified in the award. Accordingly, we cannot reimburse applicants for time expended or costs incurred in developing a project or preparing the application, or in any discussions or negotiations with us prior to the award.

5. Appendices

Abbreviated curricula vitae or resumes of the PM/PI and any Co-Managers/ Co-Investigators should be included with the application. Applicants requiring scientific research permits must also include evidence of such a permit (e.g., by providing the permit number) or evidence they have submitted a permit application. Additional material that is necessary or useful to the description of the project may also be provided (e.g. letters of endorsement, tables or visual materials). Letters of endorsement are strongly recommended.

C. Submission Dates and Times

Proposals/ applications must be received at Grants.gov or the NMFS Alaska Regional Office (AKR) by 5:00 p.m., Alaska Standard Time (AST), February 17, 2011. Proposals received after the established deadline will be rejected and returned to the sender without consideration. For applications submitted through Grants.gov, a date and time receipt indication will be the basis of determining timeliness. The proposal must be validated by Grants.gov in order to be considered timely. PLEASE NOTE: It may take Grants.gov up to two (2) business days to validate or reject the application. Please keep this in mind in developing your submission timeline.

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Juneau, Alaska 99801. Use of U.S. mail or another delivery service must be documented with a receipt. (Note that late-arriving hard copy proposals provided to a delivery service on or before 5:00 p.m. AST on the closing date for applications will be accepted for review if the applicant can document that the proposal was provided to the guaranteed delivery service by the specified closing date and time and if the proposal is received by AKR no later than 5 p.m. AST, two business days following the closing date.)

No facsimile or electronic mail proposals will be accepted.

D. Intergovernmental Review

Applicants will need to determine if their State participates in the intergovernmental review process. This information can be found at the following website: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html>. This information will assist applicants in providing either a Yes or No response to Item 16 of the Application Form, SF-424, entitled "Application for Federal Assistance."

E. Funding Restrictions

Eligibility is limited to Alaska Native Organizations with an existing marine mammal co-management agreement with the NMFS and be in "good standing." See Section III.A.

F. Other Submission Requirements

Permits, Pre-approvals, and Clearances: The applicant is required to obtain the necessary permits, approvals and/or clearances that authorize the actions and activities required to carry out the project as proposed. This shall include meeting the requirements of applicable Federal law and all local regulations. To ensure that such permits, approvals, and clearances, where required, are obtained prior to the release of funds to the recipient, specific requirements in the form of Special Award Conditions may be attached to the NOAA award documents.

When requested, the applicant must also be available to respond to questions during all phases of review and evaluation of applications.

V. Application Review Information

A. Evaluation Criteria

The technical advisory panel will evaluate proposals by assigning scores up to the maximum indicated for each of the following criteria:

1. Importance and/or relevance and applicability of the proposed project to the program objectives. Proposals will be evaluated on clear identification of proposed project objectives and the ability to link those objectives to their co-management agreement and priorities within the ANCFP. Reviewers will carefully consider the likelihood of meeting milestones and achieving anticipated results specified in the statement of work. (30 points)

2. Technical/scientific merit: This criterion assesses whether the approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project objectives. Proposals should provide a clear identification of objectives, clear definition of the project design, strengths or weakness, and the means to measure and evaluate performance. Special emphasis will be given to proposals that foster and improve cooperative interactions with NMFS. (20 points)

3. Overall qualifications of the applicant: This criterion assesses whether the applicant, and team members, possess the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project. Reviewers will consider previous related experience and qualifications of the project's PM or PI, Co-Manager(s) or Co-Investigator(s) and other personnel, including designated contractors, consultants, and cooperators. Reviewers will also consider past award performance of the applicant(s) and PM/PI. (20 points)

4. Project costs: This criterion evaluates the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time frame. Applicant must clearly differentiate between proposed administrative and projects costs as specified under section B, Program Priorities. The itemized costs and the overall budget must be justified, clear to the reviewer, and cost-effective. Note project costs including administrative costs must be limited to NMFS species. (30 points)

B. Review and Selection Process

Screening, review, and selection procedures will take place in 3 steps: initial screening, technical/merit panel review, and final selection by the Selecting Official (i.e., the Regional Administrator, NMFS Alaska Region). An initial screening and evaluation of applications will be conducted to ensure that application packages have all required forms and application elements, clearly relate to the 2011 Alaska Native Co-management Funding Program, and meet all of the eligibility criteria.

Proposals meeting the requirements of this solicitation will then undergo technical/merit panel review. Each proposal will be reviewed by reviewers that evaluate and discuss the proposals in a panel setting, followed by an individual scoring of the proposals using the evaluation criteria provided in section V.A. (Evaluation Criteria) above. Technical/merit reviewers will be individuals with appropriate subject-matter expertise and may be from

Federal or state agencies, or other organizations. The merit reviewers' scores will be used to produce a rank order of the proposals.

After applications have undergone merit review, the Selecting Official will make the final decision regarding which applications will be funded based upon the rankings, funding amount recommendations, and evaluations of the applications.

If the Selecting Official accepts a proposal and/or a grant application for a project not in accordance with the rank given or the recommendation of the reviewer panel, the Selecting Official will consult with the Federal Program Officer and provide a detailed written explanation of the reasons for the action based on the selection factors below. The authority for approving a grant award for projects rests solely with NOAA/NMFS.

C. Selection Factors

The NMFS Regional Administrator, Alaska Region will be the Selecting Official. The merit review ratings shall provide a rank order to the Selecting Official for final funding recommendations. The Selecting Official will review the rank order, funding recommendations and comments from all reviewers and determine the recipients to be funded and how much funding shall be awarded to each selected recipient. A program officer may first make recommendations to the Selecting Official to applying the selection factors below. The Selecting Official shall award in the rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based upon one or more of the following factors:

1. Availability of funding
2. Balance/distribution of funds:
 - (a). geographically,
 - (b). by type of institutions,
 - (c). by type of partners,
 - (d). by research areas, and
 - (e). by project types.
3. Whether this project duplicates other projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA or other Federal agencies.
4. Program priorities and policy factors.

5. Applicant's prior award performance.
6. Partnerships and/or Participation of targeted groups.

Key program policy factors (see 4 above) to be considered by the Selecting Official are: (1) the time of year the research activities are to be conducted; (2) The ability of the proposal to meet the applicable requirements; (3) redundancy of research projects.

Therefore, the highest scoring projects may not necessarily be selected for an award.

D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Subject to the availability of funds, review of proposals will occur during the 2 months following the date given in this announcement that the proposals are due to NMFS. May 1, 2011 should be used as the proposed start date on proposals, unless otherwise directed by the Program Officer.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

Successful applicants will receive notification that their applications have been recommended for selection to the NOAA Grants Management Division. This notification is not an authorization to begin project operations. Official notification of selection, signed by the NOAA Grants Officer, is the authorizing document that allows a project to begin. Notifications will be issued to the Authorizing Official and the Principal Investigator of the project. Successful applicants may be notified either electronically or in writing. NMFS will notify unsuccessful applicants, in writing, by postal mail. If an application is not selected, NOAA will return the proposal and related documents to the applicant.

The final, exact amount of funds, the scope of work, and terms and conditions of a successful award will be determined in pre-award negotiations between the applicant and NOAA/NMFS representatives.

To enable the use of a universal identifier and to enhance the quality of information available to the public as required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to the extent applicable, any proposal awarded in response to this announcement will be required to use the Central Contractor Registration and Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System and be subject to reporting requirements, as identified in OMB guidance published at 2 CFR Parts 25, 170 (2010), http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr25_main_02.tpl , http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr170_main

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B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

1. 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 February 11, 2008 (73 FR 7696). You may obtain a copy of this notice by contacting the agency contact, or by going to the website at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html> . Applicants whose proposed projects may have an environmental impact should furnish information requested to assist proposal reviewers in assessing the potential environmental consequences of supporting the project.

2. Limitation of Liability.

Funding for programs listed in this notice is contingent upon the availability of FY 2011 Federal appropriations. Applicants are hereby given notice that funds have not yet been appropriated for the programs listed in this notice. In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if these programs fail to receive funding or are cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

3. Universal Identifier.

Applicants should be aware that, they are required to provide a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number during the application process. See the October 30, 2002 Federal Register, Vol. 67, No. 210, pp. 66177-66178 for additional information. Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711 or via the internet (<http://www.dunandbradstreet.com>).

4. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

If recommended for funding, applicants whose proposed projects may have an environmental impact will be asked to furnish sufficient information to assist NOAA in assessing the potential environmental consequences of supporting the project.

NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for each project which seeks NOAA funding. Detailed information on NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA web site: www.nepa.noaa.gov, including our NOAA Administrative order 216-6 for NEPA,

www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216_6.pdf , and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, http://ceq.hhs.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/toc_ceq.htm .

If needed by NOAA for NEPA assessment, applicants will be asked to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species, and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non-indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to coral reef systems). In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting an environmental assessment if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. 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.

C. Reporting

Grant recipients will be required to submit financial and performance (progress) reports. All financial reports shall be submitted to NOAA's Grants Management Division in accordance with the award conditions via NOAA's Grants Online. Performance or progress reports are required to be submitted to the NOAA Program Officer semi-annually via NOAA's Grants Online web based software. These reports will be due no later than 30 days following the end of each 6-month period from the start date of an award. All reports will be submitted in accordance to the NOAA Special Award Conditions. The comprehensive final report is due 90 days after the award expiration.

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

VII. Agency Contacts

If you have any questions regarding this proposal solicitation, please contact Jenn Hall-Brown, at the Alaska Regional Office, 709 W. 9th Street, Juneau, Alaska 99801, by

phone at (907) 586-7273 or by email at Jenn.Hall-Brown@noaa.gov .

VIII. Other Information

Freedom of Information Act

U.S. Department of Commerce regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) are found at 15 C.F.R. Part 4, Public Information. These regulations set forth rules for the Department regarding making requested materials, information, and records publicly available under the FOIA. Applications submitted in response to this Federal Funding Opportunity may be subject to requests for release under the Act. In the event that an application contains information or data that the applicant deems to be confidential commercial information which is exempt from disclosure under FOIA, that information should be identified, bracketed, and marked as Privileged, Confidential, Commercial or Financial Information. Based on these markings, the confidentiality of the contents of those pages will be protected to the extent permitted by law.