

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Federal Agency Name(s): National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce

Funding Opportunity Title: Coral Reef NGO Partnership

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: NOS-OCRM-2009-2001603

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.419, Coastal Zone Management Administration Awards.

Dates: Partnership applications for funding in 2009 must be received and validated by Grants.gov on or before 5 p.m. EST on February 27, 2009. 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. Hard copy applications must be received at the Coral Conservation Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management 1305 east-West Highway, 11th floor, Silver Spring, MD, 20910 no later than 5 p.m. EST on February 27, 2009.

Funding Opportunity Description: The purpose of this notice is to invite Non-Governmental Organizations with non-profit 501 (c) (3) status, with expertise and experience in supporting coral reef management in U. S. and associated waters to submit a multi-year proposal for establishing a partnership for up to four years with the NOAA CRCP at both a national and international level to further the conservation of coral reefs. This document describes the coral reef conservation partnership that the CRCP envisions, identifies the qualities that NOAA desires in a partner, and describes criteria under which applications will be evaluated for funding consideration. Partnerships selected through this notice will be implemented through a multi-year cooperative agreement of up to four years in length.

CRCP funding of up to \$600,000 pursuant to section 6403 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act (CRCA) (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq) is expected to be available for initiating this partnership in FY 2009. Applications must include a generalized four year work program and a more specific work plan and budget for activities to be funded in FY 2009, in conformance with the requirements in Section IV below. Annual federal CRCP funding is anticipated to increase up to \$1,000,000 for the subsequent three years of the agreement. However, annual funding levels and any increases over FY 2009 levels will be dependent upon future budgets appropriated by Congress, partnership success, and CRCP annual priorities. The CRCP requires the partnership to match NOAA cash contributions at a minimum of a 1:1 level overall, and will give priority to those partnerships that can provide cash match for

project implementation funds.

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Program Objective

Initiated in 2000, with the passage of the Coral Reef Conservation Act (CRCA), NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program supports effective management and sound science to preserve, sustain and restore valuable coral reef ecosystems. The CRCP headquarters operations are located in Silver Spring, MD, with significant field staff in the Pacific and Caribbean regions.

The CRCP is a partnership among NOAA, the seven coral reef jurisdictions (Florida, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam) and numerous other Federal agencies, academic institutions, and NGOs. The CRCP brings together expertise from NOAA's Line Offices for a multidisciplinary approach to understanding and managing coral reef ecosystems. These offices carry out, directly and in partnership, a wide range of activities, including mapping and monitoring of coral reefs, and research on various aspects of coral reef science and resource management. The CRCP facilitates and supports partnerships with scientific, private, government and non-governmental groups at local, state, federal and international levels. Approximately \$8 million of the CRCP budget supports extramural grants to these partners.

The CRCP also plays a key role in the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF), an inter-agency task force, authorized under Executive Order 13089. The Department of Commerce (represented by NOAA) and the Department of the Interior co-chair the USCRTF. The CRCP provides staff support to the USCRTF. The USCRTF is composed of twelve Federal agencies, seven states and territories that contain coral reefs, and the three Freely Associated States (Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and the Marshall Islands).

The seven coral reef jurisdictions manage their coral reefs partly through Local Action Strategies (LAS). The LAS, which are a priority initiative of the USCRTF, identify and address major threats to U.S. coral reef ecosystems. This initiative began in 2002 with the USCRTF approval of the "Puerto Rico" resolution, which called for the development of the LAS. Between 2002 and 2008, the CRCP and other key Federal agency partners on the USCRTF worked with the seven coral reef jurisdictions to develop and implement individual LAS in each jurisdiction. However, one of the most significant hurdles preventing the successful completion of the LAS is the lack of local capacity and support to develop and implement projects identified in the LAS and other relevant strategies.

An external program review of the CRCP was completed in September of 2007. The

review panel provided a series of recommendations for the CRCP. Among these recommendations was a call for the program to better meet the needs of State and Territorial coral reef managers, as well as federal agency and other coral reef managers in both the U.S. and internationally.

The CRCP subsequently completed development of a strategic "Roadmap for the Future" (<http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov/Library/Publications/crcproadmap.pdf>), which provides the program's response to the external review. The Roadmap lays out the new directions the CRCP will take from FY 2010 to FY 2015 and articulates new principles and priorities to guide the program in its transition to more effectively address the top threats facing coral reef ecosystems and better meet coral reef management needs. As described in the Roadmap, the CRCP will focus its efforts on understanding and addressing the following three priority threats to coral reefs: the impacts of fishing, land based sources of pollution, and climate change.

The partnership envisioned in this notice will assist the CRCP in supporting the individual coral reef managers to improve the overall management of their coral reefs, including implementation of their LAS initiatives, by providing technical and management assistance to fill some of the gaps in their ability to effectively manage their coral reefs.

B. Program Priorities

Through this funding announcement the CRCP seeks to better support the needs of coral reef managers by establishing a partnership with a single Non-Governmental Organization with expertise and field experience in developing, implementing, and assessing the effectiveness of a full range of coral reef management strategies and the CRCP goals and objectives expressed in the Roadmap for the Future noted above.

The partnership is aimed at implementing activities which support and complement coral reef managers in the following areas (tiers are in order of priority):

Tier 1 Areas:

- Florida, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam

Tier 2 Areas:

- The Freely Associated States in the Pacific (Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands)
- Independent Samoa, as it is involved in the "Two Samoas Initiative" (<http://www.coralreef.gov/meeting20/Presentations/samoakona2008.pdf>)
- The wider Caribbean/Atlantic reef areas, including the Mesoamerican reef area

Tier 3 Areas:

- The "Coral Triangle" (which encompasses East Timor, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Solomon Islands) and other high value coral locations (e.g., the Pacific Remote Island Atolls) in the Pacific

The application must include projects to address the coral management needs in the priority order listed above, i.e., a significant number of needs in all of the Tier 1 areas must be addressed before projects are proposed for Tier 2 areas. Applicants are not expected to address all of the needs in Tier 2 areas, or any of the needs in the Tier 3 area in the first year work plan (October 1, 2009-October 1, 2010). Work in these areas may be added to out year work plans after evaluation of initial efforts to meet needs in Tiers 1 and 2 areas. In their applications, applicants should describe their involvement in regional coral reef conservation efforts including the "Micronesia Challenge"

(<http://www.palau.biodiv-chm.org/index.php?menuid=3600&lang=en&cl=blue>) and the "Caribbean Challenge."

(http://www.icriforum.org/secretariat/GMDC/pdf/GM_DC_RI_Caribbean_Challenge.pdf)

Applicants must have the following qualification and resources including existing field programs, with qualified field staff, which cover all or most of the geographic areas listed above. The applicant must also have substantial experience in working with local managers to protect and restore coral reef ecosystems, particularly activities which address the impacts of fishing, land based sources of pollution, and climate change. It is anticipated that the following types of actions will be proposed in the application:

- Development of place-based management strategies and plans which address significant threats to coral reefs, in particular land-based sources of pollution, overfishing, and climate change;
- Development of resilient MPA networks;
- Measuring the effectiveness of coral management efforts;
- Development of sustainable finance plans for local management entities; and,
- Provision of capacity building, in the form of training, site exchanges, and peer-to-peer learning to strengthen local capacity to implement all of the above, including training managers ways in which they can respond to impacts from climate change.

In case the applicant does not have existing or planned staff commitments in each of the areas noted above, it must provide information about how it will fill such gaps through agreements with other NGOs or other organizations.

C. Program Authority

Authority for NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program is provided by Section 6403 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq).

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

This solicitation announces that CRCP funding of up to \$600,000 is expected to be available for establishing this partnership with a single NGO in 2009. NOAA anticipates that the partnership award may increase up to \$1,000,000 in FY 2010, 2011, and 2012; however annual funding levels and any increases over FY 2009 levels for successful applicants will be dependent upon future budget appropriations provided by Congress, partnership success, and overall CRCP priorities.

The exact amount of funds that may be awarded and specific tasks under each annual award will be determined in pre-award negotiations between the applicant and NOAA representatives. Publication of this document does not obligate NOAA to establish any specific partnership proposed or to obligate all or any parts of the available funds for partnership activities.

B. Project/Award Period

This solicitation announces that CRCP funding of up to \$600,000 is expected to be available for establishing this partnership with a single NGO in 2009. NOAA anticipates that the partnership award may increase up to \$1,000,000 in FY 2010, 2011, and 2012; however annual funding levels and any increases over FY 2009 levels for successful applicants will be dependent upon future budget appropriations provided by Congress, partnership success, and overall CRCP priorities.

The exact amount of funds that may be awarded and specific tasks under each annual award will be determined in pre-award negotiations between the applicant and NOAA representatives. Publication of this document does not obligate NOAA to establish any specific partnership proposed or to obligate all or any parts of the available funds for partnership activities.

C. Type of Funding Instrument

The proposal selected will be funded through a cooperative agreement under the terms of this document. Substantial involvement of the federal government should be expected in the cooperative agreement and may include, but is not limited to, activities such as: holding annual meetings with partners in to address project identification, evaluation and selection; conducting joint site visits, workshops and evaluations of the performance of individual projects and any sub-awards; supporting project partners to enhance their effectiveness in meeting stated coral reef conservation goals; providing project-specific permitting guidance and/or assistance; and involvement in public events to highlight coral conservation activities.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are limited to non-profit organizations.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

One of the overall principles of the CRCP and the CRCA is to provide funding to individual projects that leverage funds and other contributions from a broad public and private sector to implement locally important habitat restoration to benefit living marine resources. To this end, applicants are required to contribute a minimum 1:1 non-Federal match overall for federal funds requested. Additionally, those organizations that propose to provide a 1:1 cash match for project implementation funds at the national or regional level (before local, project-specific contributions are included) will be likely to score higher in the evaluation of project costs. While this is not a requirement, the CRCP strongly advises applicants to leverage as much investment as possible.

The match can come from a variety of public and private sources and can include in-kind goods and services. Federal funds may not be considered matching funds. Applicants are permitted to combine non-federal contributions from additional partners in order to meet the 1:1 match expected to establish a partnership, as long as the matching funds are not already being used to match other funding sources and are available within the project period stated in the application. Applicants are also permitted to apply federally negotiated indirect costs in excess of federal share limits as described in Section IV. E. 2. "Indirect Costs." Similarly, proposals that limit administrative costs to 15% will likely score higher on this criterion.

The Applicant whose proposal is selected for partnership funding will be bound by the percentage of cost sharing reflected in the award document signed by the NOAA

Grants Officer. Successful applicants should be prepared to carefully document matching contributions, including the number of volunteer or community participation hours devoted to specific projects.

C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility

Not Applicable

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

For Applicants without internet access, an application package may be requested from Bill Millhouser, OCRM/NOAA, 1305 east-West Highway, 11th floor, N/ORM-3, Silver Spring, MD 20910, phone 301-713-3155, extension 189; or e-mail bill.millhouser@noaa.gov or Dana Wusinich-Mendez, 301-713-3155 extension 159, dana.wusinich-mendez@noaa.gov. Federal financial forms can also be obtained from the NOAA grants website at <http://rdc.noaa.gov/~grants/pdf> and are available as part of the final application package on www.grants.gov.

Any administrative questions should be addressed to Bill Millhouser.

B. Content and Form of Application

Full proposal applications must include a 4 year partnership proposal. The complete package should total no more than 45 pages (single-spaced, 12-point font and exclusive of appendices). The 45-page limit does not include the proposal title page, a table of contents if one is included, necessary federal forms, or any appendices. Appendices should be limited to materials that directly support the main body of the proposal (e.g., support letters, resumes, references, lists of relevant work products or reports, data sources, etc.). Applicants must paginate their proposal and any appendices. Appendices may be paginated as stand alone documents (individually) or collectively.

All funding application packages must contain the following components:

1. Title Page (Proposal Cover Sheet). Include proposal title, complete contact information for the Principal Investigator and Financial Representative, duration of

proposed project, and funding requested for each of the four years, broken out by regions.

2. **Proposal Summary.** Provide a 10-15 page (single space, 12- point font) summary of the proposed partnership. The summary should provide a description of the applicant's capabilities, project goals and objectives, and brief summaries of the projects that the applicant intends to complete over the next four years in each geographic area, as well as estimated federal and match funding to be provided in each region. NOAA recognizes that these summaries will necessarily be less specific for out years. For this reason, future funding of each of the annual grant periods may require the submission of specific task descriptions.

3. **Budget information.** Provide a standard form 424 indicating the total amount of federal and matching funds proposed for the entire 4 year application. Separate 424A forms and supporting budget information must be provided each of the 4 years of the proposal.

The summary budget narrative should provide a description of the estimated costs associated with implementing the projects and tasks proposed for the entire proposal. In general, the narrative should, to the extent possible:

- a) Describe, by category of expenditures, the total cost to accomplish the purposes and objectives contained in the overall work plan for the entire grant period. Categories should correspond to the Object Class Categories listed in Section B of the SF-424A.
- b) Provide an explanation and justification for how the categorical costs are derived (federal and non-federal expenditures), in sufficient detail to help reviewers determine if costs are allowable and reasonable.
- c) Indicate whether the expenditures are federal or non-federal in nature.
- d) Include the dollar amounts in the discussion and explain how the dollar amounts were derived.

Each application should include a summary task and budget table of all projects and tasks proposed in each of the 4 years of the grant proposal - listing each project or task title and the corresponding total cost and matching funds information as well as the key work products or outcomes.

4. **Proposal Description.** The proposal narrative descriptions (30 -35 pages) must include discrete projects or tasks divided into annual increments, each of which must be organized around the regions identified in Section I.B. Each task should be titled and assigned a separate project or task number. NOAA recognizes that these project descriptions will necessarily be less specific for out years. Each task should include:

- a. **Introduction -** Provide a brief summary of relevant background information that justifies the need for the proposed task. Clearly describe or explain: the relationship

of the proposed project to previous efforts, how the project fits into the jurisdictions' strategies for addressing the issue (such as LAS or MPA initiatives), and how the project is coordinated with relevant local governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations and, if applicable, CRCP regional activities.

b. Task Description and Methodology - Provide project description that describes the scope and detail of the project and the work to be accomplished. Clearly describe or explain: project goals and objectives, proposed activities, methods, procedures and any special equipment that will be used in support of the project goals, and how project outcomes will directly result in improved management of coral reef resources.

c. Task Outcomes or Products - Identify and describe the anticipated project products or outcomes and benefits for the management of coral reef resources, and performance measures that will be used to determine project success.

d. Schedule - Indicate when this project is expected to begin (month and year) and include a timeline for key project activities and benchmarks. For multi-year tasks, clearly indicate in which year the project is planned to begin (i.e., year 1, year 2 or year 3). Provide a task timeline or time table in a narrative or table format.

e. Project Management/Personnel - Identify the project manager or PI. Identify other individual(s) responsible for completing the proposed project.

d. Task Budget Summary Table - A summary budget should be provided for each task to include a detailed breakdown of costs by category of expenditure and information regarding the amount of matching funds available to the applicant for the project. Direct and indirect costs must be should be identified.

For applications submitted in electronic format, acceptable formats are limited to Adobe Acrobat (.PDF), WordPerfect or Microsoft Word files. All applications must meet the information and formatting requirements specified in this FFO.

C. Submission Dates and Times

Partnership applications for funding in 2009 must be received and validated by Grants.gov on or before 5 p.m. EST on February 27, 2009. 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. Hard copy applications must be received at the Coral Conservation Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management 1305 east-West Highway, 11th floor, Silver Spring, MD, 20910 no later that 5 p.m. EST on February 27, 2009.

For applications submitted through Grants.gov APPLY, a date and time receipt indication by Grants.gov will be the basis of determining timeliness. Hard copy applications will be dated and time stamped when they are received in the program office. If the application is not received by the time and the date specified above, the application will not be reviewed or considered for FY 2009 funding.

D. Intergovernmental Review

Funding applications under the Center are not subject to Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs

E. Funding Restrictions

Expenditures for construction, large equipment and/or infrastructure are not an allowable costs under this award. Purchases of certain types of equipment proposed herein will be reviewed on a case by case basis with respect to the specific management needs of specific geographic regions.

F. Other Submission Requirements

not applicable

Full proposals must may be submitted to Bill Millhouser, OCRM/NOAA,1305 East-West Highway, 11th floor, N/ORM-3, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

V. Application Review Information

A. Evaluation Criteria

Once a full application has been received by NOAA, an initial administrative review is conducted to determine compliance with requirements and completeness of the application. A merit review is then conducted by peer reviewers. Applications will be peer-reviewed by a minimum of 3 individuals with coral reef and fisheries management experience on the weighted evaluation criteria listed below, as evidenced by information in the application. Each reviewer will individually evaluate and rank proposals using the evaluation criteria provided below. The merit reviewers ratings are used to produce a rank order of the proposals.

- 1) Importance and/or relevance and applicability of proposed project to the CRCP

goals (25%): This ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, federal, regional, state, or local goals and priorities and direct benefit to coral reef resources and ecosystems. Proposals will be evaluated based on the potential of the project(s) to meet goals and objectives stated in section 6403(g) of the Coral Reef Conservation Act. In addition, the proposal should demonstrate that the proposed coral reef management activities are part of a comprehensive and integrated approach to support a logical, short, medium- or long-term plan to address jurisdictional, regional and national coral reef conservation program goals (e.g., LAS, MPA, watershed or other types of place- based management planning, etc.).

2) Technical/scientific merit and adequacy of implementation plan (20 %): This assesses whether the approach is technically sound and feasible, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and objectives for this management activity. The project proposals should: (a) Incorporate assessment of project success in terms of meeting the proposed objectives; (b) Demonstrate that the conservation activity will be sustainable and long-lasting; and (c) Provide assurance that implementation of the project will meet all state environmental laws and Federal consistency requirements by obtaining or proceeding to obtain applicable permits and consultations.

3) Overall qualifications of applicants (30%): This ascertains whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project. For this competition, the proposal should demonstrate coordination with applicable ongoing local, state, territorial, and Federal coral reef management activities. Additionally, proposals will be evaluated on the previous accomplishments of the applicants in achieving coral reef conservation objectives similar to those outlined in section I.B, Program Priorities, of this funding announcement.

4) Project costs (15%): The Budget is evaluated to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time-frame. For this competition, the budget should reflect the ability of the work to be completed for the funding and timing proposed. Proposals will be evaluated on their ability to demonstrate that significant benefit will be generated for the most reasonable cost. Projects will also be reviewed in terms of their need for funding and the ability of NOAA funds to act as a catalyst to implement projects and precipitate partnerships and other sources of funding to achieve conservation objectives.

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

B. Review and Selection Process

Full Proposal Review and Selection Process: An initial administrative screening is conducted to determine compliance with requirements/completeness. All proposals will be evaluated and individually ranked in accordance with the assigned weights of the above evaluation criteria by at least three independent peer reviewers through a full merit review process (i.e. a mail and panel review process). The merit reviewer's ratings are used to produce a rank order of the proposals. Appropriate mechanisms will be established to avoid conflicts of interest during the proposal merit review process. The merit review ratings shall provide a rank order to the Selecting Official for final recommendation. The Selecting Official will award in the rank order. The Selecting Official or designee may negotiate the funding level of the proposal. The Selecting Official will make the final recommendation for award to the Grants Officer, who is authorized to obligate the funds and execute the award.

C. Selection Factors

Based on the panel review scores, the program officer will provide a listing of proposals in rank order to the Selecting Official for final funding recommendations. A program officer may first make recommendations to the Selecting Official 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 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.
7. Adequacy of information necessary for NOAA to make a NEPA determination and draft necessary

D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

The anticipated start date is October 1, 2009

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

The selected applicant will be notified by the NOAA Grants Management Division (GMD) by e-mail that their application has been selected for funding. Unsuccessful applications for all CRCP grants will be destroyed and not returned to the applicant. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by e-mail that their application was not recommended for funding after selection package has been approved.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

1. Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements:

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 February 11, 2008 (73 FR 7696), A copy of the notice may be obtained at <<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/search.html> >

2. Limitation of Liability:

In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if these programs are cancelled because of other agency priorities.

Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project.

3. 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. NOAA has completed a programmatic Environmental Assessment of the NOAA Coral Grants Program. This document streamlines NOAA's review of coral grant applications. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA website: <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/>, including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA, http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216_6_TOC.pdf, and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/toc_ceq.htm).

Consequently, as part of an applicant's package, and under their description of the 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 a project-specific environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying and implementing feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. The failure to do so shall be grounds for the denial of an application.

C. Reporting

The recipient will be required to submit financial and performance (technical) progress reports electronically through the NOAA Grants On-Line System. Instructions for submitting financial and progress reports will be provided by NOAA Grants Management Division. Recipients receiving funding will be required to submit semiannual performance reports within 30 days after each semi-annual performance period via NOAA Grants Online and copies of all products that are developed under the award. The specific information, products, or data contained in the performance report can be determined by the NOAA office responsible for the program and applicant in pre-award negotiations or, the recipient will submit performance reports according to the Department of Commerce, Financial Assistance Standard Terms and

Conditions.

NOAA will not release the data for public use for one year after the data submission date to allow time for the project Principal Investigators to develop and submit publications based on the data. After that time, NOAA retains the right to use and or distribute some or all of the information freely, while continuing to provide appropriate credit to the PIs for their work.

VII. Agency Contacts

Technical point of contact for this announcement is Bill Millhouser at 301-713-3155, extension 189 or e-mail at bill.milhouser@noaa.gov. FAX; 301-713-4367. Address: OCRM/NOAA, N/-ORM3, 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; or Dana Wusinich-Mendez, 301-713-3155 extension 159, dana.wusinich-mendez@noaa.gov

VIII. Other Information

not applicable