



New England Fishery Management Council

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contacts

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NMFS Solicits Proposals for the NEFMC 2007 Sea Scallop Research Set-Aside Program

Newburyport, MA NOAA Fisheries Service announced on June 12, 2006, that it is accepting research proposals for fishing year 2007 (March 1, 2007 - February 28, 2008) to utilize portions of the total allowable catch (TAC) and days-at-sea (DAS) allowance set-aside by the New England Fishery Management Council for scallop research in accordance with the provisions of the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan.

The program provides a mechanism to fund research and compensate vessel owners through the sale of scallops harvested under the research quota. Vessels participating in an approved research project may be authorized by the Regional Administrator of NOAA Fisheries, Northeast Region to harvest and land scallops in excess of any imposed trip limit or to harvest and land scallops during fishery closures. Landings from such trips would be sold to generate funds that would help defray the costs associated with research projects. No federal funds will be provided for research under this notification.

NOAA Fisheries and the Council will give priority to funding research proposals that address the following topics: (1) access area scallop resource surveys; (2) other surveys, including areas not surveyed by the annual NOAA Fisheries survey; (3) scallop biology research; (4) groundfish bycatch reduction; (5) habitat impact reduction; (6) habitat characterization research; (7) sea turtle interaction research; (8) distribution, size composition and density of sea scallops; (9) scallop area management research. Area access scallop resource surveys will be accorded the highest priority when proposals are evaluated, while the other eight are listed in no order of priority.

Applications must be received by the NMFS Northeast Regional Office on or before 5 p.m. EDT on Friday, August 11, 2006. Both online and paper copies of proposals will be accepted.

For complete details on the full funding opportunity announcement or to apply, please go to <http://www.grants.gov/>. Use the following funding opportunity number: NMFS-NERO-2007-2000678. Applicants without Internet access may contact Rich Maney, NMFS Northeast Regional Office, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. He can be reached by phone at 978.281.9265, by fax at 978.281.9117 or by email at rich.maney@noaa.gov.

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