



New England Fishery Management Council

News Release

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NMFS Solicits Proposals for Fishery Councils' Monkfish Research Set-Aside Program

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) recently announced that it is accepting proposals under the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils' Monkfish Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program for cooperative monkfish-related research activities to be conducted during the 2008 fishing year, from May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009. Applications must be received by the Service's Northeast Fisheries Science Center on or before 5 p.m. EDT on August 31, 2007.

The Councils' Monkfish Fishery Management Plan has reduced fishermen's allocation of days-at-sea to create a pool of 500 days to be used for cooperative monkfish-related research activities, and/or so that compensation fishing trips may be taken for purpose of generating funds to pay for the cost of research. Accordingly, a vessel that participates in approved research projects does not have to use the valuable days it has been allocated to fish for monkfish, nor are federal funds provided for research under this notification.

Projects funded under this RSA award must enhance our knowledge of the monkfish fishery resource or contribute to the body of scientific or other information on which management decisions are made. The Councils and NMFS will give priority supporting research proposals in the following general subject areas: 1) cooperative stock assessment surveys; 2) research concerning monkfish bycatch and discards; 3) research to minimize bycatch and interactions with sea turtles and other protected species; 4) research to minimize impacts of the monkfish fishery on essential fish habitat, or other sensitive habitats; 5) research on the biology or population structure and dynamics of monkfish; 6) tagging studies; and 7) mesh and gear selectivity studies, including studies on gear efficiency. Please note the above subject areas are not listed in order of priority.

For complete details on how to apply, please visit the Grants Online website at <http://www.grants.gov>.

- Under 'Find Grant Opportunities', click on 'Search for Grant Opportunities'
- Search for the 'Funding Opportunity Number' NMFS-NEFSC-2008-2001016

The Federal Register notice announcing the 2008 Monkfish RSA Program and the Federal Funding Opportunity announcement are also posted on the Northeast Regional Office's website at: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/hotnews/monkherringsra/>.

Vessel owners who are interested in getting involved in monkfish research should contact Allison McHale (NMFS, Northeast Regional Office) at 978.281.9103. Contact and vessel information will be posted on the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's Cooperative Monkfish Research website (<http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/read/popdy/monkfish/>) under "Monkfish RSA Workshop Materials" and also will be available to researchers who are looking for industry partners.

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