



New England Fishery Management Council

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contacts

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NMFS Solicits Proposals for the NEFMC 2006 Monkfish Research Set-Aside Program

Newburyport, MA The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced on September 13, 2005, that it is accepting proposals under the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils' (Councils) Monkfish Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program for monkfish-related cooperative research activities to be conducted during the 2006 fishing year (May 1, 2006 - April 30, 2007). Applications must be received by the NMFS Northeast Regional Office on or before **5 p.m. EST on Thursday, October 13, 2005.**

The Councils, in coordination with NMFS, have set aside 500 monkfish days-at-sea (DAS) to be used for research activities under the RSA program. Through the allocation of research DAS, the Monkfish RSA Program provides a mechanism to reduce the cost for vessel owners to participate in cooperative monkfish research that encourages partnerships between fishermen and scientists. The Councils' intent is to promote research by eliminating the need for participating fishermen to use their vessel's limited monkfish DAS allocation. Landings from research trips may be sold to generate funds to help defray costs incurred during research activities. No Federal funds are provided for research under this notification.

Projects funded under an RSA DAS award must enhance the knowledge of the monkfish fishery resource or contribute to the body of information on which management decisions are made. The Councils and NMFS will give priority to funding research proposals in the following general subject areas:

(1) Research concerning monkfish bycatch and discards; (2) research to minimize bycatch and interactions with sea turtles and other protected species; (3) research to minimize impacts of monkfish fishery on essential fish habitat (EFH), or other sensitive habitats; (4) research to establish an exempted monkfish trawl fishery in the Northern Fishery Management Area; (5) research on the biology or population structure and dynamics of monkfish; (6) tagging studies; (7) mesh and gear selectivity studies, including studies on gear efficiency; and (8) cooperative stock assessment surveys.

For complete details on how to apply, please visit the Grants Online website at <http://www.grants.gov/> or check the NEFMC website, www.nefmc.org under "What's New" on the home page.

- Under 'Find Grant Opportunities', click on 'Search Grant Opportunities'
- Search for the 'Funding Opportunity Number' NMFS-NERO-2006-2000372.
- Then select 'Full Announcement 1'

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