



New England Fishery Management Council

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 17, 2008

Deirdre Boelke or Patricia Fiorelli
978.465.0492

NMFS Solicits Proposals for NE Fishery Council's 2009 Scallop Research Set-Aside Program

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced this week that it is accepting proposals under the New England Fishery Management Council's 2009 Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program for cooperative scallop-related research activities to be conducted during the 2009 fishing year, from March 1, 2009 through February 28, 2010. For more information and to apply, please go to <http://www.grants.gov> and use the following funding opportunity number: NMFS-NEFSC-2009-2001472. **Full proposals must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on August 25, 2008.**

The Scallop RSA Program facilitates scallop research by reserving a portion of the Atlantic sea scallop total allowable catch and days-at-sea allocated to the fishery for the purpose of funding research. The sale of scallops harvested under the RSA quota supports approved research projects that address priorities identified by the Council.

The highest priority will be given to proposals that address intensive, industry-based surveys of the following scallop access areas --- Closed Areas I and II, the Nantucket Lightship, and Elephant Trunk and Delmarva areas. These surveys would be used to estimate scallop catch levels under a rotational area management program if data is available by August 2009. Additional priorities include other surveys that address areas not surveyed by the annual NMFS survey; scallop biology; identification and evaluation of methods to reduce groundfish bycatch; habitat characterization research; identification of sources of sea turtle interactions and/or identification of ways to minimize sea turtle/scallop fishery interactions; improved information concerning scallop abundance and evaluation of the distribution, size composition and density of sea scallops; and area management research. A more detailed description of these priorities is provided in the full announcement of this grant opportunity.

Applicants who do not have internet access should contact Cheryl Corbett, NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Science Center at 508.495.2070, by fax at 508.495.2004 or via email at c.corbett@noaa.gov. Questions about the Scallop RSA Program should be directed to Ryan Silva, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office. His telephone number is (978) 281-9326 and fax number is (978) 281-9135. His email address is ryan.silva@noaa.gov. Council staff member Deirdre Boelke is also available to provide assistance. She can be reached by telephone at 978.465.0492, by fax at 978.465.3116 or via email at dboelke@nefmc.org. Because of potential delays in the Grants Online process near the end of the solicitation period, applicants are encouraged to begin their application process in advance of the deadline date.

The New England Fishery Management Council, one of eight regional councils established by federal legislation in 1976, is charged with conserving and managing fishery resources from three to 200 miles off the coasts of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

#