



New England Fishery Management Council

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contacts

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

Workshop Planned For Potential Applicants

Newburyport, MA NOAA Fisheries Service announced on June 12, 2006, 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 2007 fishing year (May 1, 2007 - April 30, 2008). Applications must be received by the NMFS Northeast Regional Office on or before **5 p.m. EDT on Friday, August 11, 2006.**

The Councils, in coordination with NOAA Fisheries, 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, although not necessarily in this order:

(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 monkfish fishery on essential fish habitat (EFH), 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.

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-2007-2000675
- Then select 'Full Announcement 1'

For further information about the monkfish set-aside program contact Phil Haring at 978/465-0492 or pharing@nefmc.org. Allison Ferreira can be reached at 978/281- 9103 or allison.ferreira@noaa.gov.

WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

Monkfish Research Set-Aside Workshop

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

9:30 am - 5:00 pm

University of Rhode Island's Coastal Institute

The New England Fishery Management Council and NOAA Fisheries Service will hold a collaborative workshop on Wednesday, July 12, 2006 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to discuss aspects of the Monkfish Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program. The program is carried out through the cooperation of both the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, who have joint management authority over the monkfish fishery and NOAA Fisheries Service.

The purpose of this workshop is to facilitate discussion among potential RSA applicants (including scientists and vessel owners), NOAA Grants personnel, and fishery regulators concerning how to develop successful research proposals under the 2007 Monkfish RSA Program. Presentations concerning the NOAA Grants application process and the federal fisheries permitting process, as they relate to the Monkfish RSA Program, will be given. In addition, lessons learned from the 2006 Monkfish RSA Program, the inaugural year of the program, will be discussed.

NOAA Fisheries Service is currently soliciting proposals for the 2007 Monkfish RSA Program through **5 p.m. EDT on August 11, 2006**. This announcement may be viewed by visiting the NOAA Grants on-line website at <http://www.grants.gov> under Funding Opportunity Number **NMFS-NERO-2007-2000675**. Applications may also be submitted through the Grants on-line website.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORKSHOP CONTACT: Allison Ferreira, Fishery Policy Analyst, NOAA Fisheries Service, (979) 281-9103, e-mail: Allison.Ferreira@noaa.gov; or Phil Haring, Senior Fishery Analyst, NEFMC, (978) 465-0492, email: pharing@nefmc.org.

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