



New England Fishery Management Council

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NMFS Solicits Proposals for 2009 Monkfish Research Set-Aside Program

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced recently that it is accepting proposals to use 500 monkfish days-at-sea to conduct research related to the monkfish fishery. Under the terms of the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils' Monkfish Fishery Management Plan, these days-at-sea are reserved from the total amount allocated to the fishery for the purpose of fostering collaborations between fishermen and scientists to address monkfish-related research activities. Approved proposals receive days-at-sea/compensation fishing trips that generate funds to pay for the cost of research. Accordingly, participating vessels do not have to use their valuable days to fish for monkfish, nor are federal funds provided.

This announcement applies to research conducted during fishing year 2009, from May 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010. **Full proposals must be received on or before 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on September 9, 2008.** For more information and to apply for this opportunity, please go to <http://www.grants.gov> and use the following funding opportunity number: NMFS-NEFSC-2009-2001478.

Projects funded under this RSA award must enhance the 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 to research proposals in the following general subject areas: 1) cooperative research to supplement NMFS stock assessment surveys; 2) life history studies on age and growth, longevity, reproduction and natural mortality; 3) tagging and telemetry studies to investigate short and long-term movements and habitat use; 4) research concerning bycatch and discard mortality of target and/or non-target species; 5) trawl and gillnet gear studies concerning size and/or species selectivity and bycatch reduction (including reducing bycatch of interactions with protected species; and 6) research concerning trophic interactions of monkfish with other species. Please note the above subject areas are not listed in order of priority.

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 cheryl.corbett@noaa.gov. Questions about the Monkfish RSA Program may 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 Philip Haring is also available to provide assistance. He can be reached by telephone at 978.465.0492, by fax at 978.465.3116 or via email at pharing@nefmc.org.

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.

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