Northeast Consortium 2007

Cooperative Research Opportunities: Call for Proposals

Full Proposals AND Project Development Awards

The Northeast Consortium invites proposals for collaborative research programs that address issues in fisheries and marine science focused within the Georges Bank and Gulf of Maine ecosystem. Proposals are invited for both full and project development awards; individuals may submit proposals for one or both categories.

The distribution of cooperative research funds will be via an open competition to be administered by the University of New Hampshire on behalf of the Northeast Consortium. Funding recommendations and decisions will be made by the Northeast Consortium representatives, based on review and recommendations of a panel consisting of Northeast Consortium Advisory Committee members and other commercial fishermen, scientists, and representatives of governmental, quasi-governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations.

Funding is contingent upon the availability and timely release of funds to the Northeast Consortium by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries.

Topic Areas

The intent of the Northeast Consortium is to provide funding for projects that address fisheries and ocean research issues within the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank ecosystem. To encourage potential proposers, we provide here summaries of general topic areas that are appropriate for Northeast Consortium cooperative research funding. The Northeast Consortium does not identify particular topics as high priority for funding and proposals are not restricted to the topic areas outlined below.

- SELECTIVE FISHING-GEAR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. The development of selective fishing gears that enhance gear selectivity, target healthy stocks, reduce bycatch and discard, reduce or eliminate technical barriers to trade, minimize harvest losses, and improve fishing practices. We also encourage studies of new and developing fishing gears and technologies aimed at reducing environmental impact while maintaining capture efficiency.
- ESTIMATION OF SURVIVAL AND SURVIVABILITY**.** Studies that estimate survival and survivability of aquatic species following fishing gear encounters; including estimation of mortality rates from currently used fishing gears and studies that aim at improving survival.
- ECOSYSTEM APPROACHES TO FISHING AND MANAGEMENT**.** Alternative or supplementary approaches to the analysis of species' distribution and abundance; life history features, behavior, dispersal, and the effects of oceanographic patterns and processes; ecological interactions between species.
- OCEANOGRAPHIC AND METEOROLOGICAL MONITORING. Information on weather, sea-state, and oceanographic and fishing conditions; synoptic coverage of large regions, use of satellite telemetry; use of commercial fishing vessels as platforms for ocean monitoring, modeling, and prediction.
- SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS. Studies which lead to a better understanding of the effects of fisheries, coastal, and ocean management decisions and cooperative research on the fishing industry and fishing communities.
- OUTREACH AND EDUCATION. Approaches to enhance knowledge sharing among fishermen, scientists, managers and the general public. Projects should focus on cooperative research generally, not just on Northeast Consortium-funded activities.

Proposals that involve study in closed areas should have a well-justified and specific rationale for conducting the research in the area proposed. The research and rationale should be consistent with the purpose of the closure.