

contributed importantly to total or partial separation of the firm's workers, or threat thereof, and to a decrease in sales or production of each petitioning firm.

Any party having a substantial interest in the proceedings may request a public hearing on the matter. A request for a hearing must be received by Trade Adjustment Assistance, Room 7315, Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230, no later than the close of business of the tenth calendar day following the publication of this notice.

(The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance official program number and title of the program under which these petitions are submitted is 11.313, Trade Adjustment Assistance.)

Dated: March 20, 2002.

Anthony J. Meyer,

Coordinator, Trade Adjustment and Technical Assistance.

[FR Doc. 02-7433 Filed 3-27-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-24-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 001206342-2025-02; I.D. 020502B]

RIN 0348-ZB00

NOAA Restoration Center; Request for National and Regional Habitat Restoration Partners

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of request for partnership proposals.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this document is to invite the public to submit multi-year proposals for establishing innovative partnerships with the NOAA Restoration Center (RC) at a national or regional level to further habitat restoration that will benefit living marine resources including anadromous fish. NOAA envisions working jointly on such partnerships, through its Community-Based Restoration Program (CRP), to select, competitively fund, and administer projects with substantial community involvement that restore NOAA trust resource habitats.

This document describes the types of habitat restoration partnerships that the RC envisions establishing, and describes criteria under which applications will be evaluated for funding consideration.

Partnerships selected through this notice will be implemented through a grant or cooperative agreement mechanism and will involve joint selection and co-funding of multiple community-based habitat restoration projects. Funding for establishing new partnerships in FY 02 is limited and the selection process is anticipated to be highly competitive. This is not a request for individual community-based habitat restoration project proposals.

DATES: This is an open notice for applications that runs through August 1, 2002. Applications will be evaluated and partners selected monthly after date of publication in the **Federal Register** until the close of this solicitation. Applications that are not selected in a previous month will be considered in subsequent months to compete on a rolling basis. Applications received later than 5 days following the closing date will not be accepted or returned. No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted.

ADDRESSES: Send applications to Christopher D. Doley, Director, NOAA Restoration Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway (F/HC3), Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282; ATTN: CRP Partnership Applications.

See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section under Electronic Access for additional information on the CRP and for application form information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robin J. Bruckner or Alison Ward, (301) 713-0174, or by e-mail at Robin.Bruckner@noaa.gov or Alison.Ward@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Program Description

The CRP, a financial and technical Federal assistance program, promotes strong partnerships at the national, regional and local levels to fund grass-roots, community-based activities that restore living marine resources and their habitats and promote stewardship and a conservation ethic for NOAA trust resources. NOAA trust resources are living marine resources that include commercial and recreational fishery resources (marine fish and shellfish and their habitats); anadromous species (fish, such as salmon and striped bass, that spawn in freshwater and then migrate to the sea); endangered and threatened marine species and their habitats; marine mammals, turtles, and their habitats; marshes, mangroves, seagrass beds, coral reefs, and other coastal habitats; and resources associated with National Marine Sanctuaries and National Estuarine

Research Reserves. Priorities for habitat restoration partnership activities include: areas identified by NOAA Fisheries as essential fish habitat (EFH) and areas within EFH identified as Habitat Areas of Particular Concern; areas identified as critical habitat for federally or state listed marine and anadromous species; areas identified as important habitat for marine mammals and turtles; watersheds or such other areas under conservation management as special management areas under state coastal management programs; and other important commercial or recreational marine fish habitat, including degraded areas that historically were important habitat for living marine resources.

The CRP's objective is to bring together citizen groups, public and nonprofit organizations, watershed groups, industry, corporations and businesses, youth conservation corps, students, landowners, and local government, state, and Federal agencies to implement habitat restoration projects to benefit NOAA trust resources. Partnerships developed at national, regional and local levels contribute funding, land, technical assistance, workforce support or other in-kind services to promote citizen participation in the improvement of locally-important living marine resources and develop local stewardship and monitoring activities to sustain and evaluate the success of the restoration.

The CRP recognizes the significant role that partnerships can play in making habitat restoration happen within communities, and acknowledges that habitat restoration is often best implemented through technical and monetary support provided at a community level. Community-based restoration projects supported by the CRP are successful because they have significant local backing, depend upon citizens' hands-on involvement, and typically involve NOAA technical assistance or oversight. The role of NOAA in the CRP is to help identify potential restoration projects, strengthen the development and implementation of sound restoration projects within communities, and develop long-term, ongoing national and regional partnerships to support community-based restoration efforts of living marine resource habitats across a wide geographic area. For more information on the CRP, see Electronic Access.

II. Restoration Partnership Goals

NOAA is interested in developing national and regional partnerships that will lead to the accomplishment of on-the-ground, community-based

restoration of marine, coastal and freshwater habitats to benefit living marine resources, including anadromous fish species. The primary goals of NOAA in establishing these partnerships are to restore living marine resource habitats; to involve community member volunteers in restoration activities to increase public awareness of the ecological value of fisheries habitat and foster a sense of community stewardship and pride for local restoration efforts; to develop and maintain long-term, ongoing, working relationships of mutual benefit by partnering on activities where the priorities and goals of partners overlap; to combine resources with national and regional partners to increase the geographic scope and rate at which habitat restoration can be conducted; and to collaborate on project identification, development, and selection for funding with partners that are able to coordinate and manage most or all aspects of restoration activities.

The RC envisions four primary means of working collaboratively to implement fisheries habitat restoration through partnerships: (1) Through sharing of restoration priorities, project ideas and techniques among interested organizations; (2) through the investment of technical assistance and oversight on particular restoration projects of mutual interest; (3) through collaborative identification of quality habitat restoration projects, and independent investment of technical assistance and cash and in-kind project contributions; and (4) through cooperative agreements, where potential national and regional partners apply for funds to work with the RC on a multi-year basis to identify, develop, implement and monitor community-based habitat restoration projects to benefit NOAA trust resources. Establishing partnerships through a cooperative agreement mechanism will involve joint selection and co-funding of numerous community-based habitat restoration projects, and is the primary focus of this **Federal Register** document.

III. National and Regional Restoration Partnerships

NOAA invites the submission of multi-year proposals of up to 3 years for establishing innovative partnerships with the RC at a national or regional level to further coastal habitat restoration. Successful applicants will be those whose partnership proposals are broad-reaching and demonstrate the potential for significant benefits to living marine resources across a large geographic area, and those whose restoration projects will actively engage

community participation. Applicants seeking to establish partnerships must demonstrate that restoration activities will be consistent with NOAA Fisheries goals outlined in this notice.

Proposals for both national and regional partnerships are encouraged. However, because regional partnerships are more focused in geographic scope, these applicants will be expected to demonstrate coordinated efforts among multiple groups such as universities, science centers, state and municipal agencies, watershed groups, local schools, civic groups and non-governmental organizations. Applications for regional partnerships should involve a coalition that will develop joint goals and objectives to accomplish habitat restoration, and whose activities are expected to take place across a substantial and defined geographic region, such as the Chesapeake Bay watershed, or the states that border the Gulf of Maine or the Gulf of Mexico, for example.

The CRP has worked with a variety of partners on community-based fishery habitat restoration. Successful partnerships resulted where joint goals and priorities were most effectively accomplished through collaborative activities, including the pooling of financial and technical resources. The following narrative highlights the qualities the CRP desires in working with national and regional community-based restoration partners. The example illustrates aspects that will be considered in the evaluation of applications, but it is not intended to limit the scope of partnership proposals.

The CRP seeks partnerships to match NOAA cash contributions at a minimum of a 1:1 level, enabling a greater number of jointly evaluated and selected community-based habitat restoration projects to be implemented. The combined partnership investments are to be subsequently leveraged between 1 and 5 times once cash and in-kind contributions from local partners and volunteers are included. Ideally, NOAA's contribution under a partnership is used to co-fund competitive habitat restoration projects that benefit a wide range of NOAA trust resources over a substantial geographic area. NOAA and its partner(s) will jointly solicit for local, citizen-driven habitat restoration proposals, and identify, evaluate and prioritize individual projects for funding. Partners will be expected to play a primary role in project development, the competitive solicitation of proposals, the coordination of joint reviews and evaluations of proposals, the award and administration of sub-grants, and the

direct administrative oversight and routine review of funded projects. Partners will be expected to ensure that all work on individual projects will meet Federal, state and local environmental permitting requirements and that projects will be monitored to evaluate their success. Partners also will be expected to conduct all financial, administrative and contractual aspects of subsequent awards, consistent with all applicable Federal regulations and U.S. Department of Commerce/NOAA procedures and policies. NOAA's role in most partnerships would be to provide technical assistance in project development, conduct requisite field visits, assist in the review and evaluation of proposals, and provide funding and technical guidance during project implementation and monitoring of project success.

Projects funded under a partnership will be expected to have strong on-the-ground habitat restoration components that provide educational and social benefits for people and their communities in addition to long-term ecological habitat improvements for NOAA trust resources. NOAA recognizes that accomplishing restoration is a multi-faceted effort involving project design, engineering services, permitting, construction, oversight and monitoring. Therefore, to allow maximum flexibility under a partnership, applicants should avoid unduly restricting proposed activities to specific restoration phases.

Restoration is defined here as activities that contribute to the return of degraded or altered marine, estuarine, coastal and freshwater anadromous fish habitats to a close approximation of their condition prior to disturbance. Restoration may include, but is not limited to, improvement of coastal wetland tidal exchange or reestablishment of historic hydrology; dam or berm removal; improvement or reestablishment of fish passageway; natural or artificial reef/substrate/habitat creation; establishment of riparian buffer zones and improvement of freshwater habitat features that support anadromous fish; planting of native coastal wetland and submerged aquatic vegetation; and enhancement of feeding, spawning and nursery areas essential to marine or anadromous fish.

A partnership application may target the restoration of specific habitats, or restrict work to certain geographic locations or the use of certain restoration techniques, if the restoration of these habitats or work in designated locations or with particular techniques has been documented under a regional planning effort to be a priority that is

also consistent with the priorities of NOAA Fisheries. An example of suitable documentation includes proposed restoration activities resulting from a regional planning or other process where multiple stakeholders have reached consensus. Proposals for partnerships with a narrow restoration focus that will benefit limited resources or few user groups, or that request funding solely to support or increase general organizational activities, are not considered ideal for the partnership development goals of the NOAA Restoration Center, and will be less likely to be selected for partnership agreements with the RC.

IV. Authority

The Secretary of Commerce is authorized under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. 661–666, to provide grants or cooperative agreements for fisheries habitat restoration.

V. Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance

The CRP is described in the “Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance,” under program number 11.463, Habitat Conservation.

VI. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, hospitals, other non-profits, commercial organizations, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, international organizations, state, local and Indian tribal governments, and Federal agencies. Although Federal agencies are eligible to apply, they are strongly encouraged to work with states, non-governmental organizations, national service clubs or youth corps organizations and others that are eligible to apply as potential NOAA habitat restoration partners, rather than seeking partnerships directly with NOAA. Proposals selected for funding from non-Federal applicants will be funded through a project grant or cooperative agreement under the terms of this document. Proposals selected for funding from a non-NOAA Federal agency will be funded through an interagency transfer.

The Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (DOC/NOAA) is strongly committed to broadening the participation of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities in its educational and research programs. The DOC/NOAA vision, mission, and goals are to achieve full participation by Minority Serving

Institutions (MSI) in order to advance the development of human potential, to strengthen the nation's capacity to provide high-quality education, and to increase opportunities for MSIs to participate in, and benefit from, Federal financial assistance programs. DOC/NOAA encourages proposals for innovative national and regional partnerships involving MSIs according to the criteria in this document, to strengthen the capacity of MSIs to foster student careers, research and workforce competitiveness in fisheries habitat restoration through identification, development, implementation and monitoring of on-the-ground community-based restoration projects on a national or regional scale.

VII. Anticipated Funding Levels for Partnership Activities

This solicitation invites multi-year partnerships of up to 3 years with the NOAA Restoration Center, in the form of cooperative agreements of up to \$3,000,000 (combined NOAA and partner funds, maximum Federal funds \$1,500,000) for the formation of national and regional habitat restoration partnerships in FY 2002, with allowances for higher amounts if the applicants can produce a cash match in excess of 1:1. Combined funds for partnerships may be scaled up from FY 2002 levels to \$4,000,000 in FY 2003, and to \$6,000,000 in FY 2004 dependent upon future budget increases. In accordance with NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program Guidelines (65 FR 16890, March 30, 2000), the Restoration Center Director (Director) will determine the proportion of funds available to the CRP on an annual basis that will be obligated to national and regional partnerships each year, including the proportion to be used for interagency partnerships, and the proportion to be used for direct solicitations for restoration projects through the CRP. The number of partnership awards to be made as a result of this solicitation will depend on the number of eligible applications received, the amount of funds requested for initiating partnerships by the applicants, the merit and rating of the proposals, and the amount of funds made available to the CRP by Congress. There is no guarantee that sufficient funds will be available to initiate partnerships where funding has been recommended, and the number of national and regional partnerships will be up to the discretion of the Director. Regional partnerships generally will have preference over national partnerships if available funds are limited. The exact amount of funds that

may be awarded to work within a habitat restoration partnership will be determined in pre-award negotiations between the applicant and NOAA representatives. Publication of this document does not obligate NOAA to establish any specific partnership proposed or to obligate all or any parts of the available funds for partnership activities.

For partnerships where funding is recommended, funds awarded cannot necessarily pay for all the costs that the recipient might incur in the course of carrying out the partnership role. Generally, costs that are allowable include salaries, equipment, supplies, and training, as long as these are “necessary and reasonable.” Allowable costs are determined by reference to the OMB Circulars A–122, “Cost Principles for Non-profit Organizations”; A–21, “Cost Principles for Education Institutions”; A–87, “Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments”; and Federal Acquisition Regulation, codified at 48 Code of Federal Regulations, subpart 31.2 “Contracts with Commercial Organizations.”

VIII. Matching Requirements

The overall focus of the CRP is to provide seed money to individual projects that leverage funds and other contributions from a broad public and private sector to implement locally important habitat restoration to benefit living marine resources. To this end, applicants seeking national and regional partnerships with the RC are encouraged to demonstrate a minimum 1:1 non-Federal match. While this is not a requirement, the RC strongly advises applicants to leverage as much investment as possible. Applicants with less than 1:1 match will not be disqualified, however applicants should note that cost sharing is an element considered in evaluation criteria (5) Cost-effectiveness and Budget Justification. The match can come from a variety of public and private sources and can include in-kind goods and services. Federal funds may not be considered matching funds. Applicants are permitted to combine non-Federal contributions from additional partners in order to meet the 1:1 match expected to establish a partnership, as long as the matching funds are not already being used to match other funding sources. Applicants whose proposals are selected for habitat restoration partnership funding will be bound by the percentage of cost sharing reflected in the award document signed by the NOAA Grants Officer.

IX. Type of Funding Instrument

Partnership proposals selected through this notice will be implemented through a cooperative agreement or interagency transfer. A cooperative agreement is a legal instrument reflecting a relationship between NOAA and a recipient whenever (1) the principal purpose of the relationship is to provide financial assistance to the recipient and (2) substantial involvement in the project by NOAA is anticipated during performance of the contemplated activity. NOAA may play a substantial role in any or all of the following: (1) Developing national and regional partnerships to promote locally driven habitat restoration activities; (2) conducting cooperative activities with recipients in project identification and ranking; (3) evaluating the performance of restoration projects; and (4) supporting project partners to enhance their effectiveness in meeting stated restoration goals for improving fisheries habitat.

X. Award Period and Partnership Duration

Applications for national and regional partnerships should cover a project period between 1 and 3 years. Multi-year project period requests may be funded incrementally on an annual basis, but once awarded, multi-year partnerships will not need to compete for funding in subsequent years. If an application is selected and approved for funding under a partnership, NOAA has no obligation to provide additional funding in connection with this partnership in subsequent years. However, the intention of the CRP is to attract and maintain partnerships that will be ongoing and long-lasting. Established partnerships are expected to continue through the duration of the project period. Future opportunities for submitting proposals to the competitive process for developing multi-year, national and regional habitat restoration partnerships are anticipated, but will be dependent on CRP funding levels and on the performance of existing partners to successfully maintain existing partnership activities to identify, develop, evaluate, implement and monitor community-based fisheries habitat restoration projects. A recommendation to the NOAA Grants Management Division (GMD) to continue an award for a partnership in subsequent years, or to extend the period of performance, is at the total discretion of the Director.

XI. Electronic Access

Information on the CRP, including examples of national partnerships and community-based habitat restoration projects that have been funded to date, can be found on the world wide web at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/community/index.html>. The standard NOAA grants application forms and instructions for applicants are accessible through this web site, or they can be obtained from the NOAA Restoration Center (see **ADDRESSES**). Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the NOAA Restoration Center to discuss partnership ideas and request an application package that contains instructions for submitting NOAA grants applications and supplementary instructions specific to the NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program.

XII. Application Process

To submit a proposal, a complete NOAA grants application package should be filed in accordance with the guidelines in this document. Each application should include all specified sections as follows: cover sheet (an applicant must use OMB Standard Form 424 as the cover sheet for each project); budget detail (SF 424A and budget justification narrative); grant assurances (SF424B); certifications (CD-511); and SF-LLL and CD-346 if applicable; and narrative project description (statement of work). Budgets should include a detailed breakdown by category of cost estimates as they relate to specific aspects of the partnership, with appropriate justification for both the Federal and non-Federal shares.

The narrative project description should be no more than 15 double-spaced pages long, in 12 point font, and should give a clear presentation of the proposed partnership. It should identify the problems the partnership will address and the geographic area over which the partnership will operate. The narrative should describe short- and long-term objectives and goals, methods for identifying potential projects, the criteria that will be used for selecting restoration proposals and determining the success of projects implemented at a community level under the partnership, and the relevance of the proposed partnership to enhancing habitat to benefit living marine resources. The narrative also should address a mechanism that partners will use to ensure that all necessary environmental permits and consultations will be secured prior to the use of Federal funds. Additionally, the narrative should identify the anticipated partnership duration,

amount and timing of funds requested, potential sources of match, and any restrictions the partner may impose on the further use of Federal funds. For example, if the partner anticipates limiting competition by restricting the level of funding per project, restricting funding to specific project phases, cost categories or to specific recipients, restricting habitat types, organization types or geographic locations from consideration, these restrictions should be clearly detailed in the narrative. It is NOAA's intention to maintain maximum competition and flexibility in the use of Federal restoration funds.

Anticipated project partners other than the applicant should be identified; this is particularly important for those applying to establish regional partnerships. The project narrative should describe the organizational structure of the applicant group(s), detail their qualifications and identify proposed partnership staff. In general, applications should clearly demonstrate the broad-based benefits expected to habitats, and how these benefits will be achieved through partnership activities with the RC. Partnerships that emphasize a single restoration component, such as only outreach, monitoring, or program coordination are discouraged, as are applications that propose partnerships to expand an organization's day-to-day activities that have limited NOAA involvement, or primarily support administration, salaries, overhead and travel.

Applications should not be bound or stapled and should be printed on one side only. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant. Three copies (including one signed original) of each application are required and must be submitted to the NOAA Restoration Center (see **ADDRESSES**). Applicants may opt to submit additional copies (seven are needed for reviewing purposes) if it does not cause a financial hardship.

XIII. Indirect Costs

The budget may include an amount for indirect costs if the applicant has an established indirect cost rate with the Federal government. Indirect costs are essentially overhead costs for basic operational functions (e.g. lights, rent, water, insurance) that are incurred for common or joint objectives and therefore cannot be identified specifically within a particular partnership. For this solicitation, the Federal share of the indirect costs must not exceed the lesser of either the indirect costs the applicant would be entitled to if the negotiated Federal indirect cost rate were used or 25 percent of the direct costs proposed. For

those situations in which the use of the applicant's indirect cost rate would result in indirect costs greater than 25 percent of the Federal direct costs, the difference may be counted as part of the non-Federal share. A copy of the current, approved negotiated indirect cost agreement with the Federal Government should be included with the application. If the applicant does not have a current negotiated rate and plans to seek reimbursement for indirect costs, documentation necessary to establish a rate must be submitted within 90 days of receiving an award.

XIV. Partnership Selection Process

Applications will be screened by CRP staff to determine if they are eligible, complete and in accordance with instructions detailed in the standard NOAA Grants Application Package. Eligible restoration partnership proposals will undergo a technical review, rating, and selection process. Proposals will be reviewed by NOAA regional and headquarters staff to determine how well applications meet the stated aims of the CRP, and how well the proposal meets the goals of the NOAA RC for establishing partnerships. As appropriate during this process, the NOAA Restoration Center will solicit individual technical evaluations of each partnership proposed and may request evaluations from other NOAA offices, the GMD, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Regional Fishery Management Councils, other Federal and state agencies, such as state coastal management agencies and state fish and wildlife agencies, and private and public sector restoration experts who have knowledge of a specific applicant, program or its subject matter.

Applications for proposed partnerships will be evaluated by individual technical reviewers, including those mentioned in the above paragraph, according to the criteria and weights described in this solicitation. The proposals will be rated, and reviewer comments and scores will be presented to the Director. Applications that were not selected in a previous month will be considered in subsequent months, but will only be evaluated and scored once. The Director, in consultation with CRP staff, may take into account the following program policy factors: (a) Diversity of geographic location and habitat types to be restored; (b) diversity of applicants; (c) degree of duplication of proposed partnership activities with other partnerships that are currently in effect or approved for funding by NOAA and other Federal agencies; (d) factors that may not be known by technical

reviewers that would affect achievement of the CRP's objectives as described in this announcement and the Program Guidelines (65 FR 16890, March 30, 2000); and (e) the availability of funds. Hence, partnership awards may not necessarily be extended to all applicants that score well. The Director, in consultation with CRP staff, will select the partnerships to be recommended to the GMD for funding and determine the amount of funds available for each approved partnership. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing that their proposal was not among those selected for funding, and unsuccessful applications will be kept on file until the close of the current fiscal year then destroyed.

Successful applicants may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets prior to final approval of an award. The exact amount of funds to be awarded, the final scope of activities, the partnership duration, and specific NOAA cooperative involvement with the activities proposed under selected partnerships will be determined in pre-award negotiations among the applicant, the GMD, and CRP staff. Partnership activities should not be initiated in expectation of Federal funding until a notice of award document is received from the GMD.

Successful applicants will be selected to establish habitat restoration partnerships with the RC monthly until the close of this solicitation. Notification of approved partnership status will take place approximately 60 days after the cooperative agreement application is forwarded to the GMD, when all NOAA/applicant negotiations of cooperative activities have been completed. Applicants should consider this selection and processing time in developing requested start dates for proposed partnership activities.

XV. Evaluation Criteria

Reviewers will assign scores to proposals ranging from 0 (unacceptable) to 100 (excellent) points based on the following five evaluation criteria and respective weights:

(1) *Potential of the Partnership to Benefit Living Marine Resources* (20 percent)

Proposals will be evaluated on (a) the national or regional extent of proposed habitat restoration activities and (b) the types of habitats that will be restored under the partnership. In particular, NOAA will evaluate partnership proposals based on the potential of the applicant and proposed magnitude of the partnership to restore, protect, conserve, and enhance habitats and ecosystems vital to self-sustaining

populations of living marine resources under NOAA Fisheries stewardship.

(2) *Partner Strengths and Experience* (20 percent)

The applicant should demonstrate its abilities to effectively and efficiently manage a significant number of projects simultaneously. Applicants will be evaluated on the qualifications, past experience, and potential of the project partners to effectively identify, develop, select, manage and oversee all project phases, particularly financial and administrative management of sub-awards, and the ability to ensure scientifically-based monitoring is implemented on individual projects funded through sub-awards.

(3) *Adequacy of Partnership Plan* (20 percent)

The partnership plan will be evaluated on: (a) the adequacy of proposed strategies for coordination with NOAA in all phases of project selection, design, implementation and monitoring; (b) the degree to which the selection process is competitive, and ensures that sub-awards are made according to technical evaluations and identified weighting factors consistent with NOAA priorities; (c) the ability of the partner to foster restoration activities under the partnership that will be consistent with regional or community planning processes, or other stakeholder mechanisms used to prioritize projects; (d) the degree to which projects selected for sub-awards are expected to have long-lasting results that will be sustained into the future through conservation easements or similar protection; (e) the ability to advance the partnership and increase awareness of the importance of habitat restoration; and (f) the ability to provide assurance that projects implemented through sub-awards will meet all Federal and state environmental laws and obtain applicable permits and consultations.

(4) *Ability to Engage Communities in Habitat Restoration* (20 percent)

Proposals will be evaluated on the suitability of proposed actions to involve citizens and broaden their participation in habitat restoration projects. Proposals must include information on how the selection of projects under the partnership with NOAA will promote significant community involvement in fisheries habitat restoration and stewardship. Community participation may include: (a) hands-on training and restoration activities undertaken by volunteers; (b) sponsorship from local entities, either through in-kind goods and services (earth moving, technical expertise, conservation easements) or cash

contributions; (c) public education and outreach; (d) support from state and local governments; and (e) ability to achieve long-term stewardship for restored resources and to generate a community conservation ethic.

(5) *Cost-effectiveness and Budget Justification* (20 percent)

Proposals will be evaluated on: (a) the percentage of funds that will be dedicated to all phases of restoration project implementation including physical, on-the-ground restoration compared to the percentage that is for administration and overhead to be used by the partner; (b) the overall leverage of NOAA funds anticipated, including the amount of cash match; (c) the ability to which the partnership and projects selected are likely to catalyze future restoration and protection of living marine resources; and (d) the ability of the applicant organization to demonstrate that a significant benefit will be generated for a reasonable cost. NOAA desires cost sharing to leverage funding and to further encourage partnerships among government, industry, and academia. In order to encourage on-the-ground restoration, if funding for salaries is requested, it must be used to support staff directly involved in overseeing the accomplishment of the restoration work that will take place under the partnership.

XVI. Other Requirements

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the Federal Register notice of October 1, 2001 (66 FR 49917), will be applicable to this solicitation. However, please note that the Department of Commerce will not implement the requirements of Executive Order 13202 (66 FR 49921), pursuant to guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget in light of a court opinion which found that the Executive Order was not legally authorized. See *Building and Construction Trades Department v. Allbaugh*, 172 F. Supp. 2d 138 (D.D.C. 2001). This decision is currently on appeal. When the case has been finally resolved, the Department will provide further information on implementation of Executive Order 13202.

Applications under this program are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

Classification

Prior notice and an opportunity for public comment are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act or by any

other law for this document concerning grants, benefits, and contracts. Accordingly, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

The CRP will determine National Environmental Policy Act compliance on a project by project basis under each funded partnership.

This action has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

The use of the standard NOAA grants application package referred to in this notice involves collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The use of Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, SF-LLL, and CD-346 have been approved by OMB under the respective control numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040, 0348-0046, and 0605-0001.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Dated: March 22, 2002.

Rebecca Lent,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 02-7511 Filed 3-27-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032502C]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of its Bottomfish Plan Team (BPT) in Honolulu, HI.

DATES: The meeting of the BPT will be held on April 10 and 11, 2002, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

ADDRESSES: The BPT will be held at the Council Office Conference Room, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813; telephone: 808-522-8220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: 808-522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BPT will meet on April 10 and 11, 2002, at the Council Conference Room to discuss the following agenda items:

Wednesday, April 10, 2002, 8:30 a.m.

- (1) Introduction
 - (2) Annual Report review
 - a. Review Status of 2000 Annual Report Recommendations
 - b. Identify problems and possible solutions for uncompleted recommendations
 - c. Review 2001 Annual Report modules and recommendations
 - American Samoa
 - Guam
 - Hawaii
 - Northern Mariana Island
 - d. 2000 Annual Report region-wide recommendations
 - (3) Research priorities for Western Pacific Region bottomfish fisheries
 - a. Bottomfish research needs
 - i. American Samoa
 - ii. Guam
 - iii. Hawaii
 - iv. CNMI
 - b. Prioritize research needs and recommendations
- Thursday, April 11, 2002, 8:30 a.m.*
- (4) Guam offshore bottomfishery development
 - a. Report on the fishery
 - b. Management considerations
 - (5) Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) Issues
 - a. Management under the Clinton Executive Orders that establish the NWHI Coral Reef Reserve
 - b. Sanctuary Designation Process
 - c. Pending management actions under the Magnuson-Stevens Act
 - i. New entry criteria for Mau Zone
 - ii. Modification to permit renewal and lease charter provisions
 - (6) Status of Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Biological Opinion, and Marine Mammal Protection Act requirements
 - (7) Monk Seals
 - a. Recommendations from the Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Team
 - b. Review and classification of past monk seal hookings
 - (8) Observer and Monitoring Program
 - a. NMFS plan for observer coverage
 - b. New technology options to monitor bottomfish vessels
 - c. Vessel Monitoring System and depth sensor technology; and
 - (9) Other Business.

The order in which the agenda items are addressed may change. The BPT will meet as late as necessary to complete scheduled business. Although non-