

Dated: May 15, 2008.

Stephen J. Claeys,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. E8-11625 Filed 5-22-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket No. 080508641-8643-01]

Request for Technical Input—Standards in Trade Workshops

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Request for Workshop Recommendations.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) invites interested parties to submit recommendations for workshops covering specific sectors and targeted countries or regions of the world where training in the U.S. system of standards development, conformity assessment, and metrology may facilitate trade. Prospective workshops will be scheduled for a 3 to 5 day period. This notice is not an invitation for proposals to fund grants, contracts or cooperative agreements of any kind. NIST will offer a limited number of workshops, based upon the availability of resources. Recommenders are encouraged to consider Administration priorities outlined in the 2007 National Export Strategy. NIST will consider recommendations based upon which workshops would be most useful to intended audiences.

DATES: All recommendations must be submitted no later than 5 p.m., June 23, 2008.

ADDRESSES: All recommendations must be submitted to Ellen Emard via e-mail (ellen.emard@nist.gov) or by mail to 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 2100, Gaithersburg, MD, 20899. The National Export Strategy is available at <http://www.ita.doc.gov/media/publications/abstract/nes2007desc.html>. Additional information about the NIST Standards in Trade Workshop is available at <http://ts.nist.gov/standards/global/sitdescr.cfm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ellen Emard (301) 975-4038, ellen.emard@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Standards in Trade Workshops are a major activity of the Global Standards and Information Group in the NIST Standards Services

Division. The workshops are designed to provide timely information to foreign standards officials on U.S. practices in standards and conformity assessment. Participants are introduced to U.S. technology and principles in metrology, standards development and application, and conformity assessment systems and procedures. Each workshop offers an overview of the roles of the U.S. Government, private sector, and regional and international organizations engaged in standards development and conformity assessment practices. Specific workshop objectives are to: (1) Familiarize participants with U.S. technology and practices in metrology, standardization, and conformity assessment; (2) describe and provide an understanding of the roles of the U.S. Government and the private sector in developing and implementing standards; (3) convey the structure of the standards and conformity assessment systems in the invited country or countries and the role and responsibilities of organizations represented by the invitees; and (4) facilitate professional contacts as a basis for strengthening technical ties and enhancing trade.

Workshop recommendations (maximum 5 pages) must address at a minimum the following points, in the order noted and labeled accordingly:

1. Name and Description of the Recommending Person or Organization

Provide the primary mailing address, and the name, telephone number and email address of the primary point of contact.

2. Industry Sector and Suggested Workshop Title which captures the essence of the recommendation

Provide a title that considers the goals and potential benefits of the workshop.

3. Proposed Workshop Objectives

Describe the intended goals to be attained, why they are important, the specific workshop objectives, and U.S. and foreign stakeholders that are likely to participate.

4. Calendar Dates Suggested for Workshop

Provide three or more suggested start dates for the workshop. The first date should be no earlier than 8 months from the publication date of this announcement.

5. Relevant NIST Organizational Link

Workshop topics must be linked to NIST activities and/or research. The appropriate NIST organizational unit, laboratory or program must be identified by the recommender and the relevance of the activity to NIST must be demonstrated. If known, identify the specific NIST staff who could serve as the NIST internal point of contact.

6. Principal Topics

Provide a list of the suggested topics for the workshop.

7. Related Site Visits and Events

Workshops can include visits to relevant business sites or events. Provide a list of suggested site visit locations, events or other areas of interest and discuss the relevance of each to the overall purpose of the proposed workshop's goals.

8. Expected Outcomes/Measures of Success

Include in this section a description of:

- The anticipated benefit of the workshop for trade and market access;
- The anticipated economic impacts (in dollars);
- The potential for future opportunities for collaboration and trade as a result of the workshop;
- The measures of success; and
- The desired results of the workshop and how the results will be measured.

All recommendations must address each of the above eight points and be submitted to Ellen Emard via e-mail (ellen.emard@nist.gov) or mail 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 2100 Gaithersburg, MD 20899 no later than 5 p.m., June 23, 2008.

Dated: May 16, 2008.

Richard F. Kayser,
Chief Scientist.

[FR Doc. E8-11627 Filed 5-22-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 080515671-8672-01; I.D. GF001]

Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP)—FY 2009 Competition

AGENCY: Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), the National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of funding availability.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this document is to advise eligible coastal states and territories (requirements described below) that OCRM is soliciting coastal and estuarine land conservation project proposals for competitive funding under the CELCP. States and territories must have submitted to NOAA a draft CELCP plan on or before May 1, 2008 in order to be eligible to participate in the FY2009 funding opportunity (see Final Guidelines for Coastal and Estuarine

Land Conservation Program for more information on CELCP plan requirements, available at <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/media/CELCPfinal02Guidelines.pdf>. Funding is contingent upon the availability of FY 2009 Federal appropriations. It is anticipated that projects funded under this announcement will have a grant start date between March 1, 2009 and October 1, 2009. The program authority is 16 U.S.C. 1456d. Applicants must comply with all requirements contained in the full funding opportunity announcement (see **ADDRESSES**).

DATES: The deadline for receipt of proposals through Grants.gov or to the OCRM office is 11:59 p.m. EST July 23, 2008. Applications may be submitted electronically at <http://www.grants.gov> or by mail to the address listed in this announcement. Applicants are strongly recommended to allow sufficient time for delivery of materials, electronically or by mail, by the deadline.

ADDRESSES: The full funding opportunity announcement and application materials are available online at: <http://www.grants.gov> or NOAA's CELCP Web site under "Funding Opportunities" (http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/celcp_fundingop.html). They may also be requested by contacting the program official identified below.

To Request an Application Package or for Further Information Contact: Elaine Vaudreuil, Phone: (301) 713-3155 ext 103, E-mail: Elaine.Vaudreuil@noaa.gov or Elisabeth Morgan, Phone: (301) 713-3155 ext. 166, E-mail: Elisabeth.Morgan@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) was established "for the purpose of protecting important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural or recreational state to other uses." This announcement solicits proposals for land acquisition projects (fee simple interest or conservation easements) that can be completed within 18 months from the start date of the award and that have the purpose of protecting important coastal and estuarine areas. NOAA may extend project grants up to an additional 18 months (for a total project period of 3 years maximum) if circumstances warrant. The state or territory's designated lead agency for implementing the CELCP may solicit project proposals from additional state/

territorial agencies, local governments as defined at 15 CFR 24.3, or entities eligible for assistance under Section 306A(e) of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) (16 U.S.C. 1455a(e)), provided that each agency or entity has the authority to acquire and manage land for conservation purposes. Eligible coastal states and territories may select and submit up to three projects for this competition. The maximum amount that may be requested for the Federal share of each project is \$3,000,000.

Project proposals should describe how the project supports the purpose of the CELCP (described above), and specifically, how the project fits into the state or territory's CELCP plan.

The proposals should also detail: How the project will be completed in a timely manner, the existing and proposed uses of the property, how the project site will be managed in the future for long-term conservation, the applicant's qualifications to acquire and manage property for long-term conservation, the basis for the requested funding amount, including land acquisition costs and other costs that directly support the project, as well as the source of the non-Federal matching share.

The CELCP Guidelines, which were published in the **Federal Register** on June 17, 2003 (68 Fed. Reg. 35860-35869), establish the eligibility, procedural and programmatic requirements for participation in the CELCP, including the criteria for financial assistance awards under the program. The Guidelines outline the criteria and process for eligible states and territories to develop a CELCP plan, nominate land conservation projects to a national competitive process, as well as the criteria and process for NOAA to select projects at the national level for funding. All applications submitted pursuant to this notice must be consistent with the CELCP Guidelines, except that, for this solicitation, the eligibility requirement that states and territories have an approved CELCP plan will be expanded to include states and territories that have submitted a draft CELCP plan to NOAA by May 1, 2008, for review. The CELCP Guidelines can be found at <http://www.coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/media/celcpfinal02guidelines.pdf>.

Electronic Access: The full text of the full funding opportunity announcement for this program can be accessed via the Grants.gov Web site at <http://www.grants.gov>. The announcement will also be available at http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/celcp_fundingop.html or by contacting the program officials identified under

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

Applicants must comply with all requirements contained in the full funding opportunity announcement.

Statutory Authority: Authority for the CELCP is 16 U.S.C. 1456d.

CFDA: 11.419, Coastal Zone Management Administration Awards.

Funding Availability: NOAA anticipates that approximately 20-60 projects may be included on a competitively-ranked list of projects that are ready and eligible for funding in FY 2009. Funding for projects selected for the prioritized list is contingent upon availability of Federal appropriations for fiscal year 2009. Applicants are hereby given notice that funds have not yet been appropriated for this program. The FY 2009 President's Request for the program is \$15 million. Annual appropriated funding levels for the CELCP ranged from \$8-\$50 million in fiscal years 2002-2008. The maximum amount that may be requested for the Federal share of each project of each project is \$3,000,000. The amount of funding per award in previous years has ranged from \$380,000 to \$3,000,000 for competitively-selected projects, depending on the amount requested, size, and type of project. There is no guarantee that sufficient funds will be available to make awards for all qualified projects. Publication of this notice does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

Eligibility: Only states and territories with Coastal Zone Management Programs or National Estuarine Research Reserves approved under the CZMA that have submitted a draft CELCP plan to NOAA on or before May 1, 2008, are eligible to participate in this funding competition. The eligible states and territories are: Alabama, Alaska, American Samoa, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Northern Mariana Islands, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. The designated lead agency for implementing the CELCP in each state or territory is eligible to submit project for funding under this competition. A list of state lead agency contacts for the CELCP can be found at: <http://www.coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/media/celcpstateleadcontacts.pdf>.

The state's lead agency may solicit, and include in their application, project proposals from additional state agencies, or local governments as

defined at 15 CFR 24.3, or entities eligible for assistance under section 306A(e) of the CZMA (16 U.S.C. 1455a(e)), provided that each has the authority to acquire and manage land for conservation purposes. Each state may submit up to three project proposals. The state will be responsible for ensuring that allocated funds are used for the purposes of and in a manner consistent with this program. Interested parties should contact the applicable state's CELCP lead contact for additional details about the state's project solicitation requirements.

Cost Sharing Requirements: Federal funds awarded under this program must be matched with non-federal funds at a ratio of 1:1, with the following exception. The 1:1 matching requirement is waived for any project under \$200,000 for Insular Areas, defined as the jurisdictions of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Non-federal matching funds may be derived from state, local, non-governmental or private sources in the form of cash or in-kind contributions. Cost-sharing requirements for the CELCP are specified in Section 2.7 of the CELCP Guidelines.

Evaluation and Selection Procedures: The general evaluation criteria and selection factors that apply to full applications to this funding opportunity are summarized below. The evaluation criteria for full applications will have different weights and details. Further information about the evaluation criteria and selection factors can be found in the full funding opportunity announcement.

Evaluation Criteria for Projects: 1. Importance and/or relevance of proposed project to the program goals (55 points out of 110). This evaluation factor seeks to determine whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and relevance to NOAA, Federal, regional, state/territorial, or local priorities. 2. Technical/Scientific Merit (25 points out of 110). This evaluation factor seeks to determine whether the proposed approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and objectives. 3. Overall Qualifications of Applicants (10 points out of 110). This evaluation factor seeks to determine whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project. 4. Project Costs (20 points out of 110). The budget is evaluated to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and timeframe.

Review and Selection Process: Once a full application has been received, NOAA will conduct an initial administrative review to determine compliance with requirements, completeness of the application, and eligibility of proposed costs and uses of the property. All proposals will be evaluated and scored individually in accordance with the assigned weights of the above evaluation criteria by an independent peer mail review or by an independent peer panel review. Both Federal and non-Federal experts may be used in this process. If non-Federal experts are used in this process, no consensus advice will be given by either the peer mail reviewers or the independent peer panel.

Each proposal will be reviewed by at least three reviewers. Every project will be scored by the same number of reviewers. The scores will be presented to the program officers and averaged for a final score, which will be used to produce a rank order of the proposals. A final list will be ranked in order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based upon the appropriate selection factors, listed below. The final ranked list may be made available prior to final appropriations or final selections. Subsequent grant administration procedures will be in accordance with current DOC and NOAA grant administration procedures.

Selection Factors for Projects: The selecting official may choose to recommend a proposal out of rank order based upon: Availability of funding; geographic distribution of projects and/or funds; program objectives and priorities; duplication with projects funded, or under consideration by, NOAA or other Federal agencies, the applicant's prior performance period, and/or adequacy of information necessary to make a NEPA determination and draft necessary documentation before recommendations are made to the Grants Officer.

Intergovernmental Review: Applications under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." A list of participating states and the clearinghouse points of contact can be found at <http://whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html>.

Limitation of Liability: In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if this program fails to receive funding or is cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for applicant projects or proposals that are seeking NOAA federal funding opportunities. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA Web site: <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/>, including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA, <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216-6-TOC.pdf>, and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/toc_ceq.htm. Consequently, as part of an applicant's package, and under their description of their program activities, applicants are required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non-indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to coral reef systems). In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting of an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. The failure to do so shall be grounds for not selecting an application. In some cases if additional information is required after an application is selected, funds can be withheld by the Grants Officer under a special award condition requiring the recipient to submit additional environmental compliance information sufficient to enable NOAA to make an assessment on any impacts that a project may have on the environment.

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements: The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** notice of February 11, 2008 (73 FR 7696), are applicable to this solicitation.

Paperwork Reduction Act: This document contains collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). The use of Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, and SF-LLL have been approved by OMB under the respective control

numbers 0348–0043, 0348–0044, 0348–0040, and 0348–0046.

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

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

Executive Order 13132 (Federalism): It has been determined that this notice does not contain policies with Federalism implications as that term is defined in Executive Order 13132.

Administrative Procedure Act/Regulatory Flexibility Act: Prior notice and opportunity for public comment are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act or any other law for rules concerning public property, loans, grants, benefits, and contracts (5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2)). Because notice and opportunity for comments are not required pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553 or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) are inapplicable. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis has not been prepared.

Dated: May 20, 2008.

John E. Potts,

Acting Associate Assistant Administrator for Management and CFO/CAO, NOS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. E8–11677 Filed 5–22–08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XH94

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permit

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

ACTION: Notification of a proposal to conduct exempted fishing; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Northeast Region, NMFS (Assistant Regional Administrator), has made a preliminary determination that the subject exempted fishing permit (EFP) application, which would exempt

Atlantic sea scallop (scallop) vessels participating in a modified scallop dredge twine top (twine top) study from minimum twine top mesh sizes, Closed Area I Access Area (CAI) and Closed Area II Access Area (CAII) closures, and fish possession restrictions, should be issued for public comment. The Assistant Regional Administrator has also made a preliminary determination that the activities authorized under the EFP would be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP). However, further review and consultation may be necessary before a final determination is made.

DATES: Comments on this document must be received on or before June 9, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is scallop.efp@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: “Comments on dredge twine top EFP.” Written comments should be sent to Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope, “Comments on dredge twine top EFP.” Comments may also be sent via facsimile (fax) to (978) 281–9135.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ryan Silva, Cooperative Research Program Specialist, phone: 978–281–9326, fax: 978–281–9135.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Coonamessett Farm submitted this EFP application for research activities that would assess a modified scallop dredge twine top (twine top) designed to reduce finfish bycatch while improving the retention of scallops. The subject EFP would exempt vessels from the following regulations: Ten-inch (25.4–cm) minimum twine top mesh size specified at 50 CFR 648.51(b)(2); CAI and CAII scallop vessel trip restrictions specified at § 648.59(b)(5) and (c)(5), respectively; and temporary exemptions from scallop, Northeast multispecies, monkfish, summer flounder, black sea bass, scup, spiny dogfish, and skate possession restrictions specified throughout 50 CFR part 648.

The applicant states that previous twine top selectivity research found that the aft portion of the twine top is where most scallop escapement occurs and the forward portion of the twine top is where most finfish escapement occurs. The applicant postulates that by decreasing the mesh size to 6 in (15.2

cm) in the aft portion of the twine top while increasing the mesh size to 12 in (30.5 cm) in the forward portion of the twine top that both scallop retention and finfish escapement would increase. The experimental twine top would also have lower hanging ratio beyond that of a traditionally hung twine top, with the hypothesis that this may further reduce finfish bycatch.

The applicant states that to effectively test the modified twine top, field trials must occur in areas of high finfish bycatch such as those found in CAI and CAII. However, both CAI and CAII are closed to scallop fishing for the 2008 fishing year (March 1, 2008–February 28, 2009). The applicant requests they be allowed up to three 7-day trips between September and November of 2008, in CAI and/or CAII. On these trips, the applicant would compare identical dredge frames fitted with a standard twine top and a modified twine top. All scallops and finfish caught during these trips would be processed for morphological data and then returned to the sea as soon as possible. Yellowtail flounder, as part of a separate research experiment assessing yellowtail flounder mortality in the scallop dredge fishery, would be tagged and released.

In addition to testing the twine top in CAI and CAII, the applicant requests authorization to test the modified twine top on up to three fishing trips to the Nantucket Lightship Access Area (NLCA) and/or Elephant Trunk Access Area (ETAA). Both the NLCA and ETAA are open to scallop fishing in the 2008 fishing year. The applicant submitted a proposal to conduct this research with funding through the 2008 Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program. The 2008 Scallop RSA Program proposals are currently under review. If this project is funded through the 2008 Scallop RSA Program, the NLCA and ETAA trips that employed the modified twine top would be compensation fishing trips. If it is not funded, the NLCA and ETAA trips would be normal commercial scallop fishing trips. This preliminary determination to issue an EFP for this research in no way implies that the proposal submitted for funding through the 2008 Scallop RSA Program will be, or has been, favorably reviewed.

Exemption from scallop, Northeast multispecies, monkfish, summer flounder, black sea bass, scup, spiny dogfish, and skate possession restrictions would authorize project investigators to temporarily possess finfish for scientific data collection purposes prior to returning all finfish to the sea.