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Scallop RSA Program: Time to Submit Applications for 2021-2022 Awards Based on Council Research Priorities

NOAA Fisheries has begun soliciting proposals for research projects to be carried out under the 2021-2022 Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program. The submission deadline is October 12, 2020.

Proposals should respond to the research priorities established by the New England Fishery Management Council. During its June 2020 webinar meeting, the Council determined that resource surveys should be the highest priority for the next round of RSA awards.

• The Council also identified a number of “high” and “general research” priorities, which are summed up in the table below.

• Details about all of the priorities are spelled out in this section of the Federal Funding Opportunity.

The Scallop RSA Program is a joint effort between the Council, which manages the scallop fishery and sets research priorities, and NOAA Fisheries, which administers the competition, oversees awarded projects, and oversees set-aside harvest activities.

Research set-aside programs support a wide range of projects, and many of them help inform management decisions. Proposals are evaluated for scientific merit and relevance to fishery management.

Questions? Contact NOAA’s Ryan Silva at ryan.silva@noaa.gov

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>HIGHEST PRIORITY (1a, 1b, 1c)</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>GENERAL RESEARCH (4, 5, &amp; 6 - not ranked)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1a</td>
<td>Intensive surveys of access areas</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Scallop recruitment supplementation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1b</td>
<td>Intensive surveys of areas of interest and the Gulf of Maine</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bycatch: Small scallops &amp; non-target species</td>
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<tr>
<td>1c</td>
<td>Broadscale surveys of Georges Bank and the Mid-Atlantic</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HIGH PRIORITY (2 &amp; 3 – ranked order)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sea turtle research</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Gear: Commercial dredge research</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Scallop biology research</td>
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Scallop RSA Projects – Work Worth Sharing

See for yourself. Important research is conducted each year through this valuable industry-funded program.

• Here are recent projects presented during this spring’s RSA Share Day.