



New England Fishery Management Council

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Scallop RSA proposals now being solicited for 2017 and 2018

Scallop industry members and partners have until 5 p.m. on Oct. 7, 2016 to submit applications for the latest round of funding available through the Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program.

The program was established through the Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP) to address scallop research priorities identified by the New England Fishery Management Council. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), in coordination with the Council, is now soliciting proposals for the 2017 and 2018 Atlantic Sea Scallop Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO).



VIMS photo

To apply, go to www.grants.gov and use the following funding opportunity number: NOAA-NMFS-NEFSC-2017-2004963.

NMFS emphasized, “Projects funded under the Scallop RSA Program must enhance the understanding of the scallop resource or contribute to scallop fishery management decisions. Priority is given to funding research proposals addressing the list of 2017 and 2018 Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Priorities listed in the FFO.”

The New England Council approved the list of scallop research priorities during its June meeting in Portland, ME after considering input and recommendations from its Scallop Committee and Scallop Advisory Panel.

The “HIGHEST” research priorities for 2017 and 2018 RSA funding involve survey-related research.



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“HIGH” priorities are focused on bycatch and scallop meat quality research. The Council also identified a list of “MEDIUM” and “OTHER” priorities, which are outlined in detail in the NMFS Federal Funding Opportunity notice.

Federal funds are not used to support this research. Rather, the program is funded by industry, which “sets aside” 1.25 million pounds of the fleet’s overall allocation for selected projects. Proceeds generated from the sale of these set-aside scallops supply the money to fund research and compensate participating vessels.

Last year, several two-year research projects were funded. NMFS awarded 121,379 pounds of scallops from the program’s 2017 set-aside of 1.25 million pounds to cover some two-year project costs. Consequently, under this solicitation, 1.13 million pounds are available from the 2017 RSA set-aside, and 1.25 million pounds are available from the 2018 RSA set-aside.

NMFS will establish a common scallop price estimate, based on the best and most recent data available at the time of negotiations, to determine the amount of set-aside necessary to cover research and fishing expenses. The price used for projects funded through the 2016 and 2017 scallop RSA competition was \$12 per pound.

For the second year in a row, NMFS will convene a technical review panel of three or more federal and public/private sector experts to discuss the technical merit of the “HIGHEST” priority scallop resource survey proposals.

Updated project selection criteria are being used this year “to ensure management applicability and responsiveness to Council priorities, which are central to the effectiveness of RSA programs and are fully considered when making project selection decisions,” said NMFS.

Interested applicants who don’t have Internet access should send one signed original and two hard copies of their proposals to: Cheryl A. Corbett, NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543, ATTN: 2017/2018 Atlantic Scallop Research Set-Aside Program. Mailed packages must be postmarked no later than Oct. 7.

Questions about the submission process should be directed to Cheryl Corbett at (508) 495-2070. Her email address is cheryl.corbett@noaa.gov.

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