

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Federal Agency Name(s):** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce
- **Funding Opportunity Title:** Western Pacific Demonstration Projects
- **Announcement Type:** Notice of Funding Availability
- **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number(s):** 11.452, Unallied Industry Projects
- **Dates:** Proposals must be postmarked or received by 5 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time on October 25, 2004

● **Funding Opportunity Description:** NMFS is soliciting applications for financial assistance for Western Pacific Demonstration Projects. Eligible applicants are encouraged to submit projects intended to foster and promote use of traditional indigenous fishing practices and/or develop or enhance Western Pacific community-based fishing opportunities benefiting the island communities in American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Projects may also request support for research and the acquisition of materials and equipment necessary to carry out such project proposals.

### FULL ANNOUNCEMENT

#### I. Funding Opportunity Description

##### A. Program Objective

NMFS is soliciting competitive applications for grants to eligible western pacific communities to support fishery demonstration projects to foster and promote traditional indigenous fishing practices. The program statute authorizes \$500,000 for each fiscal year and provides authority to award grants for not less than three and not more than five fishery demonstration projects. This solicitation announces the availability of \$500,000 for Fiscal Years 2004 and announces that prospective funding in the amount of \$500,000 may be available for Fiscal Year 2005. NMFS will select not less than three and not more than five applicants for each fiscal year. Applicants will be selected by NMFS on a competitive basis, as recommended by the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council). Funding for Fiscal Year 2005 is contingent upon the availability of appropriations.

## B. Program Priorities

Priority will be given to projects that best foster and promote traditional indigenous fishing practices within the Council's jurisdiction. Responsible parties should ensure that their applications address one or more of the following program priorities, which are listed in no particular rank order of preference; i.e., no one factor carrying a higher priority than any another. If a project meets more than one of the listed priorities, the responsible party should list first the priority that most closely reflects the objectives of the proposed project.

1. Community Education - Projects that promote economic growth and stability in indigenous communities, such as fisheries and conservation-related educational activities that increase skills and knowledge supporting island traditions and principles of self-sufficiency and empower communities to better accommodate such traditional practices and principles in their plans for sustaining their future cultural and economic well-being.
2. Processing of fishery products and byproducts - Projects that encourage the accommodation of traditional island practices that promote and support the responsible and sustainable use of marine resources through the implementation of a conservation ethic that makes fisheries more efficient through value-added activities designed to eliminate waste and discards of fisheries bycatch.
3. Feasibility studies for participation in fishery and fishery related activities - Projects that improve western Pacific community-based fishing opportunities through research and the study of traditional practices that may be beneficial to the economic, social and cultural good of island communities, including but not limited to community training and vocational education in fish harvesting, storage, processing, distribution and marketing.
4. Increase opportunities for participation in the Council activities and process - Projects that broaden the involvement of western Pacific communities in fisheries conservation and management activities and processes that empower such parties to more effectively participate in future decisions over the allocation of the regional fisheries resource.
5. Demonstrate traditional, cultural fishing practices - Projects that study the feasibility of using more contemporary, non-traditional materials, equipment, and techniques in a demonstration of how the use of such gear improvements and fishing techniques may be made more consistent with the historical practices of native Pacific island cultures in the wise use of marine resources.

## C. Program Authority

Statutory authority to make direct grants to eligible western Pacific communities is provided under Section 111(b) of Pub. L. 104-297, as amended, and published within 16 U.S.C. 1855 note.

## II. Award Information

#### A. Funding Availability

Total funding available under this notice is anticipated to be approximately \$1,000,000 subject to the availability of funds. Proposals in any amount may be submitted but awards in excess of \$150,000 are unlikely. It is anticipated that 3 to 5 awards will be made for each fiscal year covered by this notice.

#### B. Project/Award Period

The project budget period is 12 months in duration. May 1, 2005 should be used as the proposed start date. Where requested in the applicant's proposal and deemed reasonable by NOAA, a project may be approved for a period not to exceed 2 years from the date of the award notification signed by the NOAA Grants Officer. If an application is selected for initial funding, NMFS has no obligation to provide additional funding in connection with that award in subsequent years. Applications for renewal or supplementation of existing projects are eligible to compete with applications for new awards.

#### C. Type of Funding Instrument

Funding shall be in the form of a grant.

### III. Eligibility Information

#### A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are limited to communities in the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Area, as defined at section 305(i)(2)(D) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), 16 U.S.C. 1855(i)(2)(D); and meet the standards for determining eligibility set forth in section 305(i)(2)(B) of the Act, 16 U.S.C. 1855(i)(2)(B). The eligibility criteria developed by the Council and approved by the Secretary to participate in western Pacific community development programs was published in the Federal Register on April 16, 2002 (67 FR 18512, 18514). The published criteria supplement those set forth in section 305(i)(2)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and shall be applied equally in determining a party's eligibility to participate in the demonstration project; that is, the applicant must:

1. Be located within the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Area (American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam or Hawaii);
2. Consist of community residents descended from aboriginal people indigenous to the western Pacific area who conducted commercial or subsistence fishing using traditional fishing practices in the waters of the western Pacific;
3. Consist of community residents who reside in their ancestral homeland;
4. Have knowledge of customary practices relevant to fisheries of the western Pacific;

5. Have traditional dependence on fisheries of the western Pacific;
6. Experience economic or other barriers that have prevented full participation in the western Pacific fisheries and, in recent years, have not had harvesting, processing or marketing capability sufficient to support substantial participation in fisheries in the area; and,
7. Develop and submit a Community Development Plan to the Western Pacific Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service. For the purposes of determining eligibility to participate and receive funding assistance authorized under Section 111(b) of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, Pub. L. 104-297, as amended, and published in 16 U.S.C. 1855 note, a project proposal shall be considered a Community Development Plan.

Western Pacific Demonstration Project proposals and grant applications must be submitted to NMFS by October 25, 2004 by a responsible party who is authorized and certified as a representative of a qualifying community, an organization of indigenous peoples, or entity serving such communities or organizations, including institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations and charitable foundations that are recognized as such by competent authority, for-profit commercial parties, state and local governments, or other authorized instruments of governance.

Where the responsible party is an individual, such authority must be certified through written documentation that identifies the named individual, his/her relationship with a community eligible to participate in the grant program, and the scope of his/her authority to act on behalf of that community. The responsible party must reside in the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Area.

Where the responsible party is an eligible nonprofit organization, which has not previously received NOAA support, it must submit proof of its status with its application. Any of the following would give evidence of such status:

1. A reference to the applicant in the Internal Revenue Service's most recent list of tax-exempt organizations under Section 501(c) of the IRS Code;
2. A copy of a currently valid IRS tax exemption certificate on which the applicant is named;
3. A statement from a state taxing authority or state's attorney general certifying that the applicant has non-profit status and that none of the net earnings accrue to any private shareholder;
4. A certified copy of the organization's certificate of incorporation or similar document that clearly establishes nonprofit status; or

5. Any of the above proof regarding a parent organization, if one exists, and a statement signed by the parent organization that the applicant is a local nonprofit affiliate.

#### B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

No cost sharing or matching is required under this program.

#### C. Other:

Definitions: The following definitions developed by NMFS and the Council will apply to the terms found in section 305(i)(2)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, 16 U.S.C. 1855(i)(2)(B):

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Area: The geographic area, including the waters of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and islands, which is subject to management purview of the Western Pacific Council.

Community: a population of non-transient people descended from the aboriginal people indigenous to the area who share a common history based on social, cultural and economic interactions and a functional relationship sustained by participation in fishing and fishing related activities.

Economic barriers: barriers, which add to the difficulty and cost of participation in a fishery by descendants of the aboriginal people of each area. They include, but are not limited to, the degradation of marine habitat, localized depletion of harvested stocks, and loss of access to long-fished grounds because of closure and/or lack of access to capital and expertise to compete for marine resources.

Subsistence fishing: harvesting of marine resources for personal consumption, distribution among family members or the community or as offerings and gifts to non-commercial parties that perpetuate community relationships and identities.

Traditional fishing practices: methods of fishing and fishery utilization originating from customary and traditional uses and practices of indigenous people that can be conducted within existing regulations.

The cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery: for each community, the accumulation and perpetuation of ancestral knowledge and participation that have resulted from historical dependence on marine resources as a principal source of food for the aboriginal people indigenous to the area.

The following definitions developed by NMFS and the Council will apply to the terms found in Section 111(b) of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, Pub. L. 104-297, as amended, and published in 16 U.S.C. 1855 note:

Advisory Panel: a panel established specifically under this authority to evaluate, determine the relative merits of, and rank Project proposals and grant applications. The panel shall consist of not more than 8 individuals selected by the Council, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, who are knowledgeable or experienced in traditional indigenous fishery practices. Panel members are not members or employees of the Council.

Technical Assistance: consultation and collaboration provided by NOAA or other Federal agencies to the Council, the Advisory Panel, or western Pacific communities regarding the interpretation of the authorizing statute, the published FR notice, and matters concerning the NOAA grants management process and procedures for completing the Application for Federal Assistance (Project proposal and grant application). NOAA will not participate in writing a Project proposal, but may be asked to provide guidance with respect to format and required documentation, where requested.

#### IV. Application and Submission Information

##### A. Address to Request Application Package

Application packages are available at:

<http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/%7Egrants/appkit.html>

If the applicant has difficulty downloading the required forms, please contact Scott W.S. Bloom, NOAA Program Officer (NMFS) at 808-973-2937, or by e-mail at [Scott.Bloom@noaa.gov](mailto:Scott.Bloom@noaa.gov); or Charles Ka'ai'ai (Council), 808-522-8220 or by e-mail at [Charles.Kaai'ai@noaa.gov](mailto:Charles.Kaai'ai@noaa.gov).

##### B. Content and Form of Application Submission

Applications must adhere to all provisions under "Proposals" and "Required Elements" and must submit one signed original and two copies of the signed application to the NOAA Program Officer for Western Pacific Demonstration Projects, Pacific Islands Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1601 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 1110, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 by 5 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time on October 25, 2004. Failure to follow these restrictions will result in applications being returned to the submitter without review.

NOAA employees (whether full-time, part-time, or intermittent) are not permitted to assist in the preparation of an application, except that staff may provide information on program goals, funding priorities, application procedures, and completion of application forms. Since this is a competitive program, NOAA and Council employees will not provide assistance in conceptualizing, developing, or structuring proposals, or write letters of support for a proposal.

##### 1. Proposals

Proposals must include a project narrative giving detail on the proposed work to be performed by the recipient, how it plans to accomplish such tasks, and its related benefits and monetary costs.

Proposals may not exceed 20 pages of double-spaced, white 8-1/2" x 11" bond paper exclusive of the required Application for Federal Assistance forms and documentation described below. A minimum 12-point font size is recommended. All information needed for a comprehensive review of the proposal should be found in the Project narrative and required Federal financial assistance application forms described below. No appendices are permitted. NMFS will strictly enforce the 20-page limit on the narrative. Project proposals must include the following information in this order:

- a. Name of Responsible Party (include specific information about the community represented and documented authorities certifying the responsible party to act on its behalf).
- b. Address (mailing address that will be used to contact responsible parties).
- c. Telephone number (if cell contact, the name of the subscriber).
- d. Fax number, if available.
- e. E-mail address, if available.
- f. Introduction or Background – explain the purpose and need for the Project in terms of the challenge(s) that hinder the recipient’s ability to participate in the fisheries, including a discussion of the historical impediments to capacity building faced by the participating community.
- g. Project Description – describe the scope of work (Statement of Work) in detail, incorporating a discussion of its primary goals, individual tasks and performance milestones, address project management and administration, including the vitae of key personnel, contributions/donations, equipment purchases (or leasing), subcontracting (including justification if noncompetitive), and travel requirements.
- h. Methods – describe the methods, procedures, and any special equipment that will be used or tested in support of the Project goals.
- i. Anticipated Benefits – describe the benefits expected from the successful completion of the Project in terms of the funding priorities of this notice, including advancement of capacity-building within the indigenous community and support for traditional fishing practices.
- j. Proposed Budget – list by category of expenditures the total cost to accomplish the purposes and objectives contained in the Project Description. Cost sharing is not required. However, if cost sharing occurs it must be indicated as Federal and non-Federal shares, divided into cash and in-kind contributions. Travel costs must be reasonably explained in terms of actual trip details or, if such detail is unavailable, the basis for such charges including destination or estimated mileage, method of travel, cost per mile and duration,

number of travelers, and per diem rate for lodging, meals, and incidental expenses. Direct costs must be detailed to the extent practicable, including the information regarding the rate of and total compensation received by Project personnel. The grant application should also itemize the costs and rate of compensation received for services that will be provided by individuals who are not residents of the participating community or not descended from the aboriginal people indigenous to the area. Indirect costs are anticipated and should be identified. (If the applicant has not previously established an indirect cost rate with a Federal agency and their proposal is recommended for funding, the negotiation and approval of a rate will be subject to the procedures in the application cost principles and section B.5. of 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).) Fees or profits are not allowable categories. An individual may participate in more than one Project. However, the total time that may be contributed by any individual to Projects funded under this authority shall not exceed 100 percent of what is customarily considered full-time employment in the community receiving the award.

## 2. Required Elements

a. Standard Forms. The applicants must submit the following forms: **SF-424** (*Application for Federal Assistance*); **SF- 424A** (*Budget Information for non-construction programs*) or **SF-424C** (*Budget Information for construction programs*); **SF-424B** (*Assurances for non-construction programs*) or **SF-424D** (*Assurances for construction programs*); **CD-511** (*Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying*); **CD-512** (*Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transaction and Lobbying*). Where applicable, the applicant shall also submit a form **SF-LLL** (*Disclosure of Lobbying Activities*).

b. DUNS Number. All applications must have a DUNS, Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System, when applying for Federal grants on or after October 1, 2003. No application is deemed complete without the DUNS number and only the Office of Management and Budget may grant exceptions. See the October 30, 2002, Federal Register, Vol. 67, No. 210, pp. 66177B66178 for additional information. Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-0866-705-5711 or via the Internet (<http://www.dunandbradstreet.com>).

c. 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 which are seeking NOAA federal assistance opportunities. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following 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](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](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 analysis, 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 and implementing feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. The failure to do so shall be grounds for the denial of an application.

### 3. Submission Dates and Times

The deadline for receipt of applications at the Pacific Islands Region, National Marine Fisheries Service Office is 5 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time on October 25, 2004.

### 4. Intergovernmental Review

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

### 5. Funding Restrictions

Eligible applicants are limited to communities in the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Area, as defined at section 305(i)(2)(D) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), 16 U.S.C. 1855(i)(2)(D); and meet the standards for determining eligibility set forth in section 305(i)(2)(B) of the Act; 16 U.S.C. 1855(i)(2)(B). The eligibility criteria developed by the Council and approved by the Secretary to participate in western Pacific community development programs was published in the Federal Register on April 16, 2002 (67 FR 18512, 18513).

### 6. Other Submission Requirements

Permits, Pre-approvals, and Clearances: The applicant is required to obtain the necessary permits, approvals and/or clearances that authorize the actions and activities required to carry out the project as proposed. This shall include meeting the requirements of applicable Federal law and all local regulations. To ensure that such permits, approvals, and clearances, where required, are obtained prior to the release of funds to the recipient, specific requirements in the form of Special Award Conditions may be attached to the NOAA award documents.

When requested, the applicant must also be available to respond to questions during all phases of review and evaluation of applications.

### V. Application Review Information

#### A. Evaluation Criteria

An advisory panel , will evaluate proposals by assigning scores up to the maximum indicated for each of the following criteria:

1. Importance and/or relevance and applicability of the proposed project [35 Points]: This criterion ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to foster and promote use of traditional indigenous fishing practices and/or develop or enhance Western Pacific community-based fishing opportunities benefiting the island communities in American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, and the Northern Mariana Islands. For the Western Pacific Demonstration Projects, describe the benefit to the community. Including anticipated short-term and long-term goal(s) in meeting the needs of the respective community, and a discussion of how they address the funding priorities cited in section 1.B of this announcement. Proposals must also address the effectiveness of the procedures and criteria to monitor and evaluate project performance in terms of meeting its proposed purposes and objectives.

2. Technical/scientific merit [35 Points]: This criterion assesses whether the approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and objectives. For the Western Pacific Demonstration Projects, proposals should provide a clear definition of the project design, strengths and/or weaknesses and the means that are to be employed for involving the community in securing productive results.

3. Overall qualifications of the Applicants [15 Points]: This criterion assesses whether the applicant and project personnel possess the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project. For the Western Pacific Demonstration Projects, proposals should address the performance and demonstrated accomplishments of the responsible party and proposed project staff based on past activities and/or formal training and experiences in technical, managerial and organizational areas.

4. Project costs [10 Points]: This criterion evaluates the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time frame. The allowability and reasonableness of the costs associated with the required tasks to be performed and its overall relationship with the cost effectiveness for successfully completing the project.

5. Outreach and education [5 Points]: This criterion assesses whether the project involves a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nation's natural resources. For the Western Pacific Demonstration Projects, proposals should provide identification of anticipated benefits, potential users, likelihood of success, and methods of disseminating results.

#### B. Review and Selection Process

An initial administrative review/screening is conducted by NMFS to determine compliance with the requirements/completeness. Proposals and grant applications failing to meet the required standards of eligibility and consistency (in format and required documentation) shall be returned

to the applicant without further review. Within approximately 15 days of the closing date of the Federal Register notice, NMFS shall forward copies of complete project proposals and accompanying grant applications to the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council for action.

All proposals will then be evaluated and ranked in accordance with the above evaluation criteria by an Advisory Panel (AP) convened pursuant to Section 111(b)(3)(A) of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, Pub. L. 104-297, as amended and published at 16 U.S.C. 1855 note. The AP shall conduct a competitive merit review and technical evaluation of each proposal. The AP's ratings are used to produce a rank order of the proposals. The AP may also develop recommendations for the fair and equitable allocation of available funding for each fiscal year covered by this notice based on geographic distribution and/or diversity of the projects and submit its recommendations to the Council for action.

Within approximately 45 days from the date of receipt of the AP's ranking and recommendations, the Council will submit the administrative record of the AP merit review process to NMFS. Project proposals and grant applications not recommended by the AP for further consideration for Federal funding will also be transmitted to the NMFS Selecting Official along with documentation citing the AP's findings supporting its decision.

The Selecting Official selects proposals after considering the AP's rank order, recommendations and the selection factors listed below. In making the final selections, the Selecting Official will award in rank order unless the proposal is selected out of rank order based upon one or more of the selection factors. The Selecting Official will select no less than three and no more than five proposals for Fiscal Year 2004. Contingent upon appropriations and the availability of funds, the Selecting Official will use the AP's rank order and recommendations to consider funding no less than three and no more than five proposals for Fiscal Year 2005.

If the Selecting Official accepts a proposal and/or a grant application for a project not in accordance with the rank given or the recommendation of the Advisory Panel, the Selecting Official will consult with the Council's designee and provide a detailed written explanation of the reasons for the action based on the selection factors below. The authority for approving a grant award for projects rests solely with NOAA.

### C. Selection Factors

The merit review ratings shall provide a rank order to the Selecting Official for final recommendation to the NOAA Grants Officer. The Selecting Official shall award in the rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based on one or more of the following factors:

1. Availability of funds.
2. Balance/distribution of funds:
  - (a) geographically,
  - (b) by type of institutions,

- (c) by type of patterns,
- (d) by research areas, and
- (e) by project types.

3. Whether this project duplicates other projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA or other federal agencies.
4. Program priorities and policy factors (See Section I.B).
5. Applicant's prior award performance.
6. Partnerships and/or participation of targeted groups.
7. Adequacy of information necessary for NOAA staff to make a NEPA determination and draft necessary documentation before recommendations for funding are made to the Grants Officer.

#### D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Subject to the availability of funds, review of proposals should occur during November and December 2004, and funding should begin during the Spring 2005 for most approved projects. May 1, 2005 should be used as the proposed start date on proposals, unless otherwise directed by the Program Officer.

### VI. Award Administration Information

#### A. Award Notices

The official notice of award is signed by the NOAA Grants Officer and is the authorizing document and the only authorizing document that allows the project to begin. It is provided by postal mail to the appropriate business office of the recipient organization. NOAA/NMFS will notify unsuccessful applicants, in writing, by postal mail. Proposed applications that are not selected for funding will be kept on file in the PIRO Program Office for a period of 24 months from the date received, then destroyed.

#### B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Administrative and national policy requirements for all Department of Commerce awards are contained in 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), as amended by the Federal Register notice published on October 30, 2002 (67 FR 66109). You may obtain a copy of these notices by contacting the agency contact under \_\_\_\_, or by going to the website at: [www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/aces140.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces140.html). Applicants whose proposed projects may have an environmental impact should furnish sufficient information to assist the Selecting Official in assessing the potential environmental consequences of supporting the project. The National Environmental Policy Act is applicable to the Western Pacific Demonstration Project applications. See Section IV.B.2.c. (National Environmental Policy Act) above for the necessary information.

**Limitation of Liability:** In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if this program 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. Applicants are hereby given notice that funding for the Fiscal Year 2005 program is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2005 appropriations.

In the event that an application contains information or data that the applicant does not want disclosed prior to award for purposes other than the evaluation of the application, the applicant should mark each page containing such information or data with the words “Privileged, Confidential, Commercial, or Financial Information - Limited Use” at the top of the page to assist NOAA in making disclosure determinations. DOC regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) are found at 15 CFR part 4, “Public Information,” which sets forth rules for DOC to make requested materials, information, and records publicly available under FOIA. To the extent permitted under FOIA, the contents of applications and proposals submitted by successful applicants may be released in response to FOIA requests. Based on the confidential information identified by the applicant, the confidentiality of the information provided will be protected to the degree possible.

### C. Reporting

Financial reports are to be submitted to the NOAA Grants Officer and Performance (technical) reports are to be submitted to the NOAA Program Officer (Scott W.S. Bloom).

Financial and performance reports are semi-annual. Recipients are required to submit a final report and award closeout to the NOAA Program Officer within 90 days of the project end date. The final report shall serve as an overall evaluation of the recipient’s success in achieving the goals and objectives of the approved project, specifically describing the work that was performed and its resulting benefit in terms of meeting the needs of the community as described in its proposal and grant application. The level of detail should allow for NOAA’s assessment of the overall success of the project and potential application to other indigenous island communities. Reports should be submitted in electronic format, where possible, to allow for its timely distribution throughout the Western Pacific community and to stimulate wide-spread discussion about the lessons gained from the demonstration project.

### VII. Agency Contact(s)

The point of contact is Scott W.S. Bloom (NMFS), NOAA Program Officer for Western Pacific Demonstration Projects, Pacific Islands Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1601 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 1110, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814; or by telephone at 808-973-2937, or by e-mail at [Scott.Bloom@noaa.gov](mailto:Scott.Bloom@noaa.gov)