

protected) mode. The instrument shall be capable of operation if the user is wearing gloves or if the instrument is enclosed in anti-contamination protection (e.g., plastic bag).

- Instruments shall be designed to prevent water ingress from rain, condensing moisture, or high humidity.

- Batteries shall be such that they provide operation for a minimum of 2 hours of continuous use.

- Capable of normal operation over temperature range from 20°C to +50°C and humidity from 40% to 93%.

- Unaffected by RF from 20 MHz to 1000 MHz, magnetic fields of 1 mT and electrostatic discharges of 6–8 kV.

Type D Instruments: Fixed or Transportable portal monitor systems. These types of monitors include fixed or transportable systems used for detection of radioactive materials concealed in people, packages and vehicles (including rail vehicles). These systems shall be capable of detecting gamma-rays emitted from radioactive sources; neutron detection is optional for all models except for vehicle monitoring. If portal monitors for vehicles are submitted for testing without neutron detection capabilities, instruments will be returned to the manufacturer without testing.

Preliminary Specifications for Type D:

- Pedestrian, vehicles, rail vehicles and package monitors equipped with gamma-ray detection are accepted for testing.

- Vehicle monitors shall be equipped with neutron detectors.

- Instruments shall communicate, save and store time history data for later retrieval including background readings prior to and/or after an alarm, alarm information shall include time and date.

- Monitor shall be capable of providing local indication and alarm signals (these signals should be available at a remote station at a distance of at least 50 m).

- Monitors shall continuously indicate its operational or non-operational condition.

- Capable of normal operation over temperature range from “30°C +55°C and humidity from 10% to 93%.

- Unaffected by RF from 20 MHz to 1000 MHz, magnetic fields of 1 mT and electrostatic discharges of 6–8 kV.

Dated: March 2, 2004.

Hratch G. Semerjian,

Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 04–5289 Filed 3–8–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 040303081–4081–01; I.D. 010904D]

RIN 0648–AR98

2005 Mid-Atlantic Research Set-Aside Program

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

ACTION: Notice and request for proposals.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that for fishing year 2005 the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) may set aside up to 3 percent of the total allowable landings (TAL) in certain Mid-Atlantic fisheries to be used for research endeavors under a research set-aside (RSA) program. The RSA program provides a mechanism to fund research and compensate vessel owners through the sale of fish harvested under the research quota. Vessels participating in an approved research project may be authorized by the Northeast Regional Administrator, NMFS, to harvest and to land species in excess of any imposed trip limit or during fishery closures. Landings from such trips would be sold to generate funds that would help defray the costs associated with research projects. No Federal funds would be provided for research under this notification. NMFS is soliciting proposals for research activities concerning the summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, *Loligo* squid, *Illex* squid, Atlantic mackerel, butterfish, bluefish, and tilefish fisheries.

DATES: Proposals must be received by NMFS no later than 5 p.m. EST, April 8, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Proposals must be submitted to NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For a copy of the full funding opportunity announcement for this request for proposals and/or an application kit contact Paul Perra (see **ADDRESSES**), or by phone at 978–281–9153, or fax to 978–281–9135, or via internet at paul.perra@noaa.gov. The text of the full funding opportunity announcement can also be accessed at NOAA's web site: <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/~amd/SOLINDEX.HTML>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS announces that for fishing year 2005 the Council may set aside up to 3 percent

of the TAL in certain Mid-Atlantic fisheries to be used for research endeavors under an RSA program. The RSA program provides a mechanism to fund research and compensate vessel owners through the sale of fish harvested under the research quota. Vessels participating in an approved research project may be authorized by the Northeast Regional Administrator, NMFS, to harvest and to land species in excess of any imposed trip limit or during fishery closures. Landings from such trips would be sold to generate funds that would help defray the costs associated with research projects. No Federal funds would be provided for research under this notification. NMFS is soliciting proposals for research activities concerning the summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, *Loligo* squid, *Illex* squid, Atlantic mackerel, butterfish, bluefish, and tilefish fisheries.

Electronic Access: Applicants should read the full text of the funding opportunity announcement for the NMFS program which can be accessed via web site: <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/~amd/SOLINDEX.HTML> or by contacting the program official identified above. This announcement will also be available through the Internet at <http://www.Grants.gov>.

Funding Availability: No Federal funds are provided for research under this notification. The Federal Government may issue an Exempted Fishing Permit or Letter of Acknowledgment, as applicable, which may provide special fishing privileges in response to research proposals selected under this program.

Statutory Authority: Issuing grants is consistent with sections 303(b)(11), 402(e), and 404(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1853(b)(11), 16 U.S.C. 1881a(e), and 16 U.S.C. 1881c(c), respectively.

CFDA: 11.454, Unallied Management Projects

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, hospitals, other nonprofits, commercial organizations, individuals, State, local and Indian tribal governments. Federal agencies or institutions are not eligible to receive Federal assistance under this notice. Also, a person is not eligible to submit an application under this program if he/she is an employee of any Federal agency or a Regional Fishery Management Council. However, Council members who are not Federal employees may submit an application.

Cost Sharing Requirements: None.

Intergovernmental Review: Required, if applicable. Applications under this

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

Limitation of Liability: In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if these programs are cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to provide special fishing privileges.

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 including special fishing privileges. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA website: <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 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.

Evaluation and Selection Procedures: NOAA published its first omnibus notice announcing the availability of grant funds for both projects and fellowships/scholarship/ internships for Fiscal Year 2004 in the **Federal Register** on June 30, 2003 (68 FR 38678). The evaluation criteria and selection procedures contained in the June 30, 2003 omnibus notice are applicable to

this solicitation. For a copy of the June 30, 2003, omnibus notice please go to: <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/~amd/SOLINDEX.HTML>.

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 October 1, 2001 (66 FR 49917), as amended by the **Federal Register** notice published on October 30, 2002 (67 FR 66109), are applicable to this solicitation.

Classification

Paperwork Reduction Act: This document contains collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). The use of Standard Forms 424 and 424A, 424B, SF-LLL, and CD-346 has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (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 requirements 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 an opportunity for public comments are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act or any other law for this notice concerning grants, benefits, and contracts (5 U.S.C. section 553(a)(2)). Because notice and opportunity for comment 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. section 601 *et seq.*) are inapplicable. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis has not been prepared.

Dated: March 04, 2004.

William T. Hogarth,
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 04-5293 Filed 3-8-04; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021704A]

Marine Mammals; File No. 1049-1718

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

ACTION: Receipt of amendment to application for a new permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Kate M. Wynne, University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, 118 Trident Way, Kodiak, Alaska 99615 has submitted an amendment to a permit application to add a request for takes of humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalis*) by attachment of scientific instruments for the purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Comments or requests for a public hearing must be received at the appropriate address or facsimile (fax) number (see **ADDRESSES**) on or before April 8, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on these applications should be mailed to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 1049-1718.

Comments may be submitted by facsimile at (301)713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period.

The permit application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301) 713-2289; and Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668, (907) 586-7221.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jill Lewandowski or Jennifer Jefferies at (301) 713-2289.