

Issued November 1, 2010

Request for Applications

To conduct research under the project entitled

“The Rhode Island Commercial Fishing Industry – Development of a Profile”

A project to develop, in a timely manner, an up to date profile of the Rhode Island commercial fishing industry that characterizes all fishing sectors (finfish, shellfish, crustaceans), including the harvesting and processing capacity of the industry, support businesses, the people engaged in this livelihood, the communities dependent on fishing, and the overall significance of the commercial fishing industry to local, state, and regional economies.

A project supported by the

Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation

Funding provided by
NOAA Award # NA10NMF4720480

Project Duration: January through June 2011

Research Budget: \$74,000

Application Deadline: Tuesday, November 30, 2010 – 5:00 PM

Contact:

Peg Petruny-Parker, Executive Director
Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation
P.O. Box 278
Saunderstown, RI 02874
Phone: (401) 515-4662
Fax: (401) 515-4663
E-mail: pparker@cfrfoundation.org

I. Project Description:

Background Information

Within the last year, the staff of the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation (CFRF) and members of the CFRF's Board of Directors have begun to caucus with Rhode Island commercial fishermen, fisheries researchers, and personnel from state, regional, and federal agencies to discuss research needs and priorities as related to commercial fisheries in the southern New England region. During these initial discussions, one of the major themes that emerged was the need to develop an up to date profile of the commercial fishing industry in the northeast, particularly in Rhode Island. The profile envisioned would include all fishing sectors (finfish, shellfish, and crustaceans), and would characterize the harvesting and processing capacity of the industry, support businesses, the people engaged in this livelihood, the communities dependent on fishing, and the overall significance of the commercial fishing industry to local, state, and regional economies.

Fishermen, managers, and scientists alike conveyed the urgent need to compile and synthesize current data to develop such an industry profile while also identifying information gaps that need to be filled. In raising this subject they pointed to current policy issues and decisions this type of information would support, and the importance of synthesizing information on the existing commercial fishing industry and its support businesses in order to plan for the future and assess the potential impacts of various fishery and marine resource management strategies. Those engaged in these preliminary discussions also emphasized the need to define the relationship of commercial fishing to local, state, and regional economies, and the urgent need for this type of information in order to better inform decision-making connected with economic development, potential buy out programs, marine spatial planning initiatives, infrastructure investments, and community planning, particularly waterfront development.

But perhaps most importantly, those calling for the development of this type of up to date industry profile pointed to the need to better understand the overall harvesting, processing, and marketing capacity that currently exists, and how it relates to the existing and projected levels of resource availability. Profiling the industry appears to be an essential step in understanding where we currently are in terms of achieving a balance between fishing pressure and resource availability, and knowing how to make adjustments if necessary. At the same time, development of an up to date profile of the commercial fishing industry is needed to plan for future conditions as stocks are rebuilt, to identify and develop new marketing opportunities, to assess the potential impacts of proposed offshore and coastline development projects, and to better inform municipal, state, and federal capital investment decisions.

Overall Goals and Objectives

The primary goal of the project described in the sections below is to develop, in a timely manner, an industry profile of the Rhode Island commercial fishing industry that can be used in policy and economic development discussions and resource management decision-making processes by members of the commercial fishing industry; federal, state, and regional resource managers;

elected officials; policy advisors at the state and federal levels of government; community and economic development planners; and interested others. The information gathered and synthesized in this project is intended to be used in policy and management decisions related to 1) various fishery management strategies; 2) potential industry buy out programs; 3) economic development initiatives; 4) infrastructure investments; and 5) community and marine spatial planning.

Focusing on the state of Rhode Island and its commercial fishing industry, the project is intended to serve as a pilot study that will uncover a basic methodology for using information to characterize the industry (economically, socially, and in relation to the resources it is dependent on) that could, in turn, be applied to other states in the northeast region to develop a broader regional commercial fishing industry profile. The process of pulling together data from a variety of sources including state, regional, and federal regulatory agencies will also serve to foster longer term working relationships among people stationed at these different levels of government, and will hopefully be a first step towards coordinating data collection efforts for the commercial fishing industry. Through the process of synthesizing data, data gaps will also be identified, and this too will serve in directing and coordinating future data collection efforts.

In synthesizing data collected into a baseline profile of the commercial fishing industry in Rhode Island, the project is intended to provide information essential in answering key questions including the following:

- Who is engaged in the commercial fishing industry in Rhode Island, and what types of jobs, businesses, skills, and investments are involved?
- How does Rhode Island's current harvesting and processing capacity relate to resource availability?
- How much income is generated and how much does commercial fishing contribute to Rhode Island's overall economy?
- How is commercial fishing activity distributed through the state, and how is it geographically related to marine waters off of Rhode Island's coastline?
- What state agencies, academic institutions, and private organizations are involved in supporting the commercial fishing industry in the state, what types of activities do they undertake, how many and what types of positions are involved, and what level of funding is invested in these entities?

Types of Information to be compiled

Harvesting and processing capacity:

- Size and horsepower of commercial fishing fleet and age of vessels
- Types and amounts of gear being employed
- Species being targeted and the amount being landed
- The time actually spent fishing to land the harvest by individual fishing vessel
- Processing facilities – where they are located and their current capacities

- Total amount of fish landed in Rhode Island and the total amount of fish processed in Rhode Island
- Percentage of landings in RI landed by vessels based in RI
- Total amount of fish landed by RI vessels at ports outside of the state of RI
- Identification of infrastructure support – fish processing capacity (e.g. waste water treatment) and transportation network – How much is there and where is it located?

Available resource:

- Species targeted
- Harvest limits:
 - Total Allowable Landings
 - Number of traps allowed in Lobster Management Area 2 and Lobster Management Area 3
 - Daily possession limits for shellfish

Economic significance:

- Value of landings by species
- Number of people directly employed in harvesting and processing fish
- Identification of support business (what goods or services they supply to the commercial fishing industry, where they are located, how many people they employ)
- Number of vessels and crew engaged in commercial fishing full time vs. part time (sole source of income vs. supplemental source of income)
- Personal incomes derived from fishing activity – harvesting, processing, selling of catch
- Tax revenue flow
- Total income derived from commercial fishing vs. other economic sectors within Rhode Island economy
- Marketing strategies – Amount of resources currently being devoted to marketing strategies/programs for locally harvested fish. Who is involved in this activity and what are they working on?

Geographic profile:

- The locations where fishing occurs (connection between fish landed and area of ocean the fish were caught in)
- Ports where fish were landed and the infrastructure capacity of these ports
- Working waterfront capacity to support commercial fishing industry– How much is there and where is it located?
- Amounts of locally derived fish and amounts of imported fish to area retailers
- Identification of communities (both along the coast and inland) where fishing industry is part of local economy and culture
- Amount and type of product trucked from RI ports to other processing locations

Demographic profile:

- Percent of household income derived from commercial fishing
- Ages of those engaged in commercial fishing industry

- Education level of those engaged in commercial fishing industry
- Residence - where those working in this industry live
- Number of dependents in households involved in commercial fishing industry
- Race/ethnicity of those involved in commercial fishing industry
- Number of those in industry who hold vessel operator permits
- Number of license holders who are working as crew members
- Number of people working as independent contractors in the commercial fishing industry

Fisheries management and research investment:

- Identification of state agencies, academic institutions, and private organizations involved in supporting the commercial fishing industry in the state
- Identification of the types of activities they undertake and services they provide
- Number of positions and pay grade of the positions involved in these activities
- Amount of funding invested in these entities

Structure of Project

Role of the CFRF:

The CFRF will serve in an administrative capacity for the overall project, with the selected Project Research Team acting as a sub-award recipient. In this capacity, the CFRF staff will also work to facilitate a working relationship between the Project Research Team and key state, regional, and federal fishery management agencies, and RI fishing community leaders, and will serve as support staff to the Project Steering Committee.

All final decisions regarding the choice of a Project Research Team, project budget and scope of work, and work products and deadlines will reside with the Board of Directors of the CFRF.

Project Steering Committee:

Oversight of the project will be carried out by the Project Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from the commercial fishing industry, RI Senate policy office, RI Department of Environmental Management, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the RI Economic Development Corporation, and the CFRF Board of Directors. The responsibilities of the Project Steering Committee include:

- Finalizing the project's scope of work
- Reviewing and evaluating proposals received
- Making a recommendation to the Board of Directors of the CFRF regarding the best Project Research Team to conduct the project
- Giving direction to the Project Research Team on available sources of information
- Monitoring progress on the project and making recommendations on any needed changes to the scope of work
- Reviewing project results and making recommendations for future follow up activities such as education/outreach tasks, distribution of findings, recommended measure to fill information gaps, etc.

Project Research Team:

The Project Research Team is envisioned to be comprised of one full time person working for 6 months, together with 1-2 part-time research/technical assistants. The person working full time on the project will be considered that main contact person for the Project Research Team, and will be responsible for: 1) overseeing others working on the team; 2) making sure all work is completed on time; 3) presenting research findings and required project documents; and 4) submitting invoices to the CFRF in accordance with requirements listed in a Work Agreement with the CFRF.

Work Tasks - Project Research Team

The selected Project Research Team will be required to complete the following tasks:

- 1) Compile and synthesize information as listed above including data from federal, state, and regional agency databases, and from previous social and economic surveys or any survey work that may be undertaken as part of this project;
- 2) Develop a set of written documents, in accordance with guidelines to be issued by the CFRF at the time of finalizing a Work Agreement, that will summarize the project findings (due June 30, 2011 unless otherwise noted) including the following:
 - an interim progress report summarizing key findings mid-way through the project (Due date: March 15, 2011);
 - a comprehensive report on the data collected and methodologies used;
 - a summary document highlighting the key facts that can be distributed to a general audience including members of the commercial fishing industry, managers, elected officials, policy advisors, and economic development and community planners;
 - an analysis of missing information and key data collection needs moving forward;Note: Documents will be required to be submitted both electronically (pdf format) and in hard copy form, including all graphics and appendices.
- 3) Participate in 1-2 education/outreach activities to share findings of project research with stakeholders and general audience (Time frame: July – September 2011).

In addition, over the course of the project, the Project Research Team leader will be expected to meet and work with the Project Steering Committee at the start of the project (anticipated to be early January 2011), and at times to be scheduled during March and June 2011. In addition, the Project Research Team leader will be required to communicate with the Executive Director of the CFRF on a regular basis regarding progress being made. These communication tasks should be planned for and included in the Project Research Team's proposed work plan.

Adjustments may be made to the work plan for the project at the March 2011 meeting with the Project Steering Committee, pending any recommendations that may be made at that time.

Expected project outcomes

The expected outcomes include the following:

- Development of an up to date profile of the commercial fishing industry in Rhode Island using existing information that can be used to better inform resource management and public policy decisions;
- Development of a methodology for developing a state profile that can be used for other states and that can ultimately be used to develop a regional profile of the commercial fishing industry in the northeast;
- Identification of existing data and sources, and identification of information gaps that can help direct future data collection efforts; and
- Establishment of better working relationships among state, regional, and federal agency personnel, researchers, policy advisors, and members of the commercial fishing industry.

Total Budget Allotment for Project Research Team

The total budget allotment for the Project Research Team is **\$74,000**. This includes costs for the following:

- Salaries/wages/benefits
- Travel
- Equipment
- Supplies/equipment

Under this project, the CFRF will not reimburse any indirect costs incurred by supporting institutions or companies that members of the Project Research Team may be associated with. The CFRF will also not cover any tuition costs for students that may be involved in the project.

II. Procedures for Applying

Application Information – Project Research Teams are asked to supply the following information:

1. *Identification of Project Research Team* – List of Project Research Team members and their roles
2. *Work Plan* – An outline of the tasks and timeline to complete the project scope of work as delineated (Note: This can also include any ideas of what could be added to the list of information delineated above.)
3. *Experience* – A summary of the experience the Project Research Team brings to the project (Note: Resumes for each Project Team member should be attached separately).
4. *Proposed Project Budget* – Proposed project budget must be within the total allocated budget amount of \$74,000. The proposed budget should present costs in the categories of salaries/wages/benefits; travel; equipment; and supplies, and should include a budget justification to explain line items.
5. *References* – A list of three references for the Project Research Team including all contact information.

Application Length: Applications must be limited to a total of 8 pages (single spaced, minimum of a 11 font size, normal margins) including the title and budget pages but not including attachments such as resumes.

Format: Single spaced, at least a size 11 font, normal margins in pdf format.

Submittal of application - One copy submitted electronically to Peg Parker at pparker@cfrfoundation.org

Deadline for submittal: Tuesday, November 30, 2010, 5:00 PM

III. Other information

Final decisions – The CFRF anticipates issuing a final decision on the recipient Project Research Team near the beginning of January 2011.