
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

PRESS RELEASE



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NMFS Solicits Proposals for MAFMC 2007 Research Set-Aside Program

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced that it is accepting proposals under the Mid-Atlantic Council's Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program for research activities to be conducted in 2007. Applications must be received by NMFS Northeast Regional Office on or before **5 p.m. EST on February 21, 2006.**

The Council, in coordination with NMFS and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, 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 are sold to generate funds that help defray the costs associated with research projects. No Federal funds are 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. NMFS and the Council will give priority to funding research proposals in the following general subject areas: (1) Bycatch and discard reduction; (2) mesh and gear selectivity; (3) fishing impact on habitat; (4) cooperative stock assessment surveys; (5) improved recreational fishery data; (6) tagging studies; and (7) other research relevant to the Mid-Atlantic fisheries as further discussed in the full funding opportunity announcement.

For details on how to apply please visit the Mid-Atlantic Council's Research Set-Aside web page:

<http://www.mafmc.org/mid-atlantic/rsa/rsa.htm>

or visit the Grants.gov website (<http://www.grants.gov>) and click on 'Search for Grant Opportunities' and then search for the 'Funding Opportunity Number':

NMFS-NERO-2006-2000437