2024 Scallop RSA Program Funding Opportunity Open Through October 23, 2023; Join Informational Webinar on September 8

NOAA Fisheries is soliciting proposals for the 2024 Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program. The funding opportunity opened on August 23, 2023 and will close on October 23, 2023. The solicitation and administrative aspects of the funding opportunity are being handled by the NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO). All project proposals should support the New England Fishery Management Council’s scallop research priorities as shown in the table below and outlined in this report.

NEW THIS YEAR: As a result of changes recommended by the Council in June 2023 and subsequently approved by NOAA Fisheries, RSA proposals that support regional scallop surveys for stock assessment purposes and specification setting can be funded for up to four years covering 2024-2027. Regional survey proposals may be submitted for the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, and/or the Mid-Atlantic area. The four-year opportunity does not apply to discrete, fine-scale surveys or other research priorities, which will continue to be funded under one-or-two-year awards.

Multi-year regional survey applications must describe the research needs for each year of the proposed project period and demonstrate that a multi-year award is in alignment with the Council’s research priorities.

INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR: NOAA Fisheries will host an informational webinar about the 2024 funding opportunity on Friday, September 8, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. The purpose is to help fishermen...
learn more about the new four-year opportunity, as well as overall Scallop RSA Program priorities, the RSA funding mechanism, and vessel permitting. GARFO and Council staff will be on the webinar to answer questions.

➢ A link to join the webinar is posted here. For those who would rather call in, the number is +1 (252) 777-0703. The PIN number is 897 771 961 #.

➢ The NOAA Fisheries webpage for this 2024 Scallop RSA Program solicitation can be found HERE.

FUNDING NOTICE: A link to the full 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity is posted on the GRANTS.GOV webpage.

RSA RECAP: Currently, 1.275 million pounds of scallops are “set aside” each year to support the Scallop RSA Program, which was established under the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan. No federal funds are used for this program. Instead, successful applicants are awarded pounds of scallops from the set-aside. Proceeds from harvested set-aside scallops are used to fund the research and compensate fishing industry partners working on RSA projects.

QUESTIONS? Contact GARFO’s Ryan Silva at (978) 281-9326, ryan.silva@noaa.gov.