

days from the closing date of this solicitation.

All Federal NE Multi-species limited access individual DAS, fleet DAS and gillnet vessel fishing permit holders will be mailed a copy of the application form along with a copy of this **Federal Register** notice. Applications will also be made available at the NMFS offices identified below:

Fishing Family Assistance Center,  
National Marine Fisheries Service,  
Federal Building, Room 200, 21  
Limerock Street, Rockland, ME 04841;  
Tel: 207-594-2267.

Fishing Family Assistance Center,  
National Marine Fisheries Service,  
Marine Trades Center, Suite 311, 2  
Portland Fish Pier, Portland, ME 04101;  
Tel: 207-780-3423.

Fishing Family Assistance Center,  
National Marine Fisheries Service,  
Department of Employment and  
Training, 11-15 Parker Street,  
Gloucester, MA 01930; Tel: 508-283-  
2863.

Fishing Family Assistance Center,  
National Marine Fisheries Service, 15-  
A Market Place, Chatham, MA 02633;  
Tel: 508-945-5492.

Fishing Family Assistance Center,  
National Marine Fisheries Service,  
Greater New Bedford Reemployment  
Career Services, 693 Purchase Street,  
New Bedford, MA 02740; Tel: 508-979-  
1750.

Fishing Family Assistance Center,  
National Marine Fisheries Service, 118  
Point Judith Road, Narragansett, RI  
02882; Tel: 401-782-8640.

### III. Application Review and Scoring

All timely submitted and completed applications will be assigned a score calculated by the following method:

#### STEP A. Identify Bid

The bid is the dollar amount submitted by the applicant in the application.

#### STEP B. Calculate Vessel Performance

Vessel performance will be determined by averaging the annual gross revenues from the sale of regulated groundfish species for the highest 3 of the last 4 years (1991, 1992, 1993, 1994). Applicants may use annual regulated groundfish revenues from any 3 years between 1991-94.

#### STEP C. Determine Vessel Score

Vessel scores will be determined using the following formula:

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$$\text{Score} = \square\square\square\square (\text{bid})$$


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(average annual revenues from regulated groundfish species of highest 3 of last 4 years)

Only those years in which an applicant can prove 65 percent or more of a vessel's gross revenue was from the sale of regulated groundfish may be used. Provided below are three examples of how vessels will be scored using the formula described above.

#### Example 1

The owner of vessel A submits a bid for \$200,000. The average annual revenues for the best 3 out of 4 years (1991, 1992, 1993, 1994) were \$225,000.

Step A. Bid=\$200,000.

Step B. Ave. Rev.=\$200,000+\$225,000+  
\$250,000÷3=\$225,000

Step C. Score=\$200,000/\$225,000=.888

The score for vessel A is .888

#### Example 2

The owner of vessel B submits the same bid as vessel A (\$200,000). However, the average annual revenues for vessel B are \$283,333.

Step A. Bid=\$200,000

Step B. Ave. Rev.=\$200,000+\$300,000+  
\$350,000÷3=\$283,333.

Step C. Score=\$200,000/\$283,333=.705

The score for vessel B is .705.

#### Example 3

The owner of vessel C submits a bid in the amount of \$350,000. The average annual revenues are \$600,000.

Step A. Bid=\$350,000

Step B. Ave. Rev.=\$500,000+\$600,000+  
\$700,000÷3=\$600,000

Step C. Score=\$350,000/\$600,000=.583

The score for vessel C is .583.

Even though the bid for vessel C is higher than that of vessels A and B, vessel C scored lower because of its performance. Consequently, vessel C would be selected over vessel A or B and vessel B would be selected before vessel A.

Determining a bid amount is extremely important, since this will be a key factor in the success of an applicant. If the bid is too high in relation to the vessel's groundfish production, the bid may not be competitive. However, an applicant should carefully consider all costs involved with receiving a FCRDP grant. These costs include satisfying vessel liens and vessel scrapping costs. However, Federal assistance funds cannot be used to pay a Federal debt. Applicants may wish to consider selling vessel gear and equipment separately as a way of reducing the amount of a bid because only the vessel hull needs to be scrapped. Vessel owners may retain removable gear and equipment for private disposition. An applicant also needs to consider all tax implications. Applicants are advised to consult with their attorneys and/or accountants.

### IV. Ranking and Acceptance of Applications

Applications will be ranked, starting with the lowest score. NMFS will determine which applications will be accepted for further consideration based on the ranking of the applications. NMFS reserves the right to reject any or all applications and may solicit additional applications under a separate **Federal Register** notice if an insufficient number of acceptable applications are submitted that can meet all award requirements described in this notice. If additional applications are solicited, all applications submitted previously and not accepted will be considered rejected.

NMFS will notify accepted applicants in writing and make public the names of accepted applicants and their vessels, not the amount of their bids. However, accepted applicants are not guaranteed funding by simply being accepted. Accepted applicants will be subject to a thorough investigation described in section V. NMFS may initially accept more applications than it can fund. However, NMFS will investigate accepted applications in order of their ranking.

### VI. Investigation of Accepted Applications

A representative from the NMFS Financial Services Division will contact accepted applicants with regard to the following:

1. Ensuring that applicants meet all eligibility requirements and can document all claims made in their applications,
2. Determining what debts exist against the vessel offered for scrapping in the application, and
3. Determining how applicants will satisfy all vessel liens before scrapping vessels. Accepted applicants will have to provide written evidence of vessel lienors' willingness to satisfy vessel liens for specific amounts.

Documentation required to support accepted applications includes the following:

1. Federal multi-species limited access individual DAS, fleet DAS or gillnet vessel fishing permit. The applicant may provide a copy of the permit to NMFS, but the actual permit must be surrendered at the time of grant award closing.

2. Proof of Landings. NMFS will require proof that 65 percent or more of a vessel's gross revenues came from the sale of regulated groundfish species in 3 of the last 4 years (1991, 1992, 1993, and 1994). Landing slips or sales tickets may be used to verify claimed revenues.