



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FUNDING AVAILABLE UNDER THE MARINE FISHERIES INITIATIVE (MARFIN) AND THE COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM (CRP)

NOAA Fisheries Service announces the availability of Federal assistance to award cooperative agreements under the Marine Fisheries Initiative (MARFIN) and the Cooperative Research Program (CRP). An omnibus notice of the two competitions, published in the *Federal Register* on June 12, 2006, lists the MARFIN priorities and the CRP priorities. The omnibus notice is available at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/grants/grants.htm> or from the State/Federal Liaison Branch at the mailing address above. CRP and/or MARFIN application packages are available from, and should be submitted through, www.grants.gov. If an applicant does not have Internet access, applications should be obtained from, and sent to, the State/Federal Liaison Branch.

CRP:

The CRP program is a means of involving commercial and recreational fishermen in the collection of fundamental fisheries information. Applicants are encouraged to address one of the priority areas (A. Finfish; B. Caribbean Fisheries; C. Recreational and Charter Fishery; and D. Commercial Shrimp Harvest) as they pertain to Federally managed species or species relevant to Federal fisheries management plans, but proposals in other areas will be considered. **CRP applications must be received by the State/Federal Liaison Branch by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard time (EST) on August 11, 2006.** Applications received after that time will not be considered for funding.

MARFIN:

The MARFIN program provides financial assistance for projects that optimize the use of fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico and off the South Atlantic involving the U.S. fishing industry (recreational and commercial).

MARFIN applicants are encouraged to address one of the priority areas (A. Bycatch; B. Reef Fish and other Fishery Resources Associated with Reef Environments; C. Red Snapper Research; D. Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fisheries; E. Gulf of Mexico Red Drum; F. Essential Fish Habitat, and G. Economic and Sociocultural Studies) as they pertain to Federally managed species or species relevant to Federal fisheries management. **MARFIN applications must be received by the State/Federal Liaison Branch by 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EST) on July 12, 2006.** Applications received after that time will not be considered for funding.

NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management, and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries Service provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

NOAA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of the nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, over 60 countries and the European Commission to develop a global network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.