



ROY COOPER
Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN
Secretary

STEPHEN W. MURPHEY
Director

MEMORANDUM

To: MFC Commercial Fishing Resource Fund Committee Members

Funding Committee for the North Carolina Commercial Fishing Resource Fund

From: William Brantley, DMF Grants Program Manager

Date: May 27, 2020

Re: June 3, 2020 Meeting to Review Draft Request for Proposals from the Commercial Fishing Resource Fund

The Marine Fisheries Commission's Commercial Fishing Resource Fund Committee and the North Carolina Commercial Fishing Resource Funding Committee will hold a joint meeting on Wednesday, June 3rd at 2:00 via Webex.

The purpose of the meeting is to review and vote on a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) from the Commercial Fishing Resource Fund. Project objectives include:

- Water quality
- Diamondback terrapin research
- Bycatch gear modifications
- Blue catfish invasiveness

Additional items for consideration in the RFP may include:

- Economic study on the importance of the H-2B visa program to the state's commercial fishing industry
- Continuation of the NC Commercial Fishing Public Relations campaign
- Other projects specified for inclusion in the RFP

Enclosed is your briefing book with the meeting materials. If you have questions regarding the upcoming meeting or briefing book contents, please contact the Division of Marine Fisheries' Administrative Services Office, William Brantley, at (252) 808-8015 or William.Brantley@ncdenr.gov.



MFC Commercial Resource Funding Committee
and
North Carolina Commercial Fishing Resource Funding Committee Meeting

Department of Environmental Quality
Webex Meeting
Wednesday, June 3 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- 2:00 p.m. Call to Order by both Committee's*
Conflict of Interest Reminder
Roll Call
Approval of Agenda**
Approval of Meeting Minutes from both Committees**
- 2:10 p.m. Committee Brief by DMF staff
- 2:20 p.m. **Review and Vote on Request for Proposals**
- Blue catfish invasiveness
 - Diamondback terrapin research
 - Shrimp bycatch reduction
 - Water Quality
 - Other objectives from committee members
- 2:45 p.m. Discussion Opportunity for Future RFP Objectives, including, but not exclusive to:
- Determination of actual acreage towed by shrimp trawlers in NC
 - Development or expansion of research on crab pot turtle excluder devices to include designs crafted by local crabbers
 - Development or expansion of the ecological effects of bycatch discards in shrimp trawling, offshore angling, and inshore angling
- 3:15 p.m. **Additional Items for Consideration****
- Issues from Committee Members
- 4:00 p.m. Adjourn

*Times indicated are merely for guidance. The Committees will proceed through the agenda until completed.

****Potential Action Items**

N.C.G.S. 138A-15(e) mandates at the beginning of any meeting of a board, the chair shall remind all members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest under Chapter 138. The chair also shall inquire as to whether there is any known conflict of interest with respect to any matters coming before the board at that time.

Minutes from January 2020 Meeting



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MEMORANDUM

TO: N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Commercial Resource Fund Committee and the Funding Committee for the N.C. Commercial Fishing Resource Fund

FROM: William Brantley, Grants Program Manager
Division of Marine Fisheries, NCDEQ

DATE: January 16, 2020

SUBJECT: MFC Commercial Resource Fund Committee and Funding Committee for the N.C. Commercial Fishing Resource Fund Meeting Minutes

The MFC Commercial Resource Fund Committee and the Funding Committee for the N.C. Commercial Fishing Resource Fund met at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality's Washington Regional Office. The following attended:

MFC Commercial Resource Fund Committee: Chairman Doug Cross, Sam Romano, Mike Blanton

Funding Committee for the N.C. Commercial Fishing Resource Fund Members: Chairman Ernest Doshier, Glenn Skinner, Steve Weeks, Gilbert Baccus, and Doug Todd

Absent: Andrew Berry

Public Comment: Larry Baldwin, Chris McCaffity via email

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chairman Doug Cross called the meeting to order for the MFC Commercial Resource Fund Committee. Chairman Ernest Doshier then called the meeting to order for the Funding Committee for the N.C. Commercial Fishing Resource Fund.

Chairmen Doshier inquired about and noted no conflicts of interest, Chairman Cross followed and noted no conflicts of interest. William Brantley conducted a roll call.

The meeting agenda was reviewed.

Mike Blanton made a motion to approve the agenda with a second by Sam Romano. Motion passed.

Glenn Skinner made a motion to approve the agenda. Doug Todd seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Minutes from the June 20, 2019 MFC Commercial Resource Fund (CRF) Committee meeting and the Funding Committee for the N.C. Commercial Fishing Resource Fund were reviewed.

Romano made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second from Blanton. Motion passed.

Skinner noted that in the June 20th minutes “Sam Romano” had seconded a motion to adjourn, not “Sam Weeks” as typed. Weeks noted under the “Public Relations Campaign” that the third sentence should read, “Steve Weeks,” not “Sam Weeks.”

Skinner made a motion to approve the minutes with these changes. Weeks seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chairman Cross asked for a vote to approve the minutes with these changes, motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brantley read into the record an emailed public comment from Chris McCaffity that asked for an online forum to be set up to discuss how funds will be used and subsequently voted on. McCaffity noted that votes should be binding to a 2/3 majority, a supermajority should be achieved or hold funds, and that the forum would offer a form of self-governance.

Larry Baldwin, Crystal Coast Waterkeeper of the Coastal Carolina Riverwatch spoke regarding fisheries and water quality. Baldwin noted that his organization had submitted a fisheries project for funding consideration and briefly described his organization’s proposal.

COMMITTEE BRIEF

Brantley briefed the committees on recent updates. Reappointments to the Committee for Ernie Doshier and Gilbert Baccus has been made by their organizations since the last meeting. Reappointments from the Carteret County Fishermen’s Association and the North Carolina Watermen United were needed for this year.

Brantley asked for time during the meeting to discuss a Memorandum for Record located in the meeting packet where the DMF suggested that the Committees adopt an annual funding schedule to keep their grant awarding practices in accordance with North Carolina Department of Administration’s guidelines as well as to assist with meeting efficiency. Brantley provided an example of an annual schedule. Deputy Director Lupton stated that a funding schedule would provide a structured plan to annotate their funding process, as well as offer other procurement advantages associated with publishing an RFP.

Skinner made a motion to adopt the Division’s suggested annual funding schedule, which would have projects begin with the state’s fiscal year. Weeks seconded. Motion passed.

Romano made a motion to accept the schedule. Blanton seconded. Motion passed.

Brantley updated the Committees with a status of their budget with obligations. The FY2019 transfer was \$699,074 to the Commercial Fishing Resource Fund. Current obligations committed from the Fund are \$1,447,204, leaving an available balance of \$1,410,017.56.

COMMERCIAL FISHERY STATISTICS

Alan Bianchi, Environmental Program Supervisor with the DMF License and Statistics section provided an update on the statistics program funded through the Fund. The Conservation Biologist funded from the Commercial Fishing Resource Fund (Fund) was the primary point of contact during the Hurricane Florence Aid program and assisted with \$11.4 million to eligible commercial fishermen. She also helped review the Trip Ticket Program, Annual Dealer Report, Semi-Annual Dealer Report, and License and Statistics Annual Report. The Environmental Technician I supported by the Fund serves as the Trip Ticket liaison to 80 seafood dealers in the Elizabeth City region. He reviewed 13,898 trip tickets and completed 1,508 edits. The Year 2 Funding Request for this project was \$125,000.

Weeks inquired about additional funds left over after the Year 1 timeline ended. Administrative and Maintenance Services Section Chief Beth Govoni stated that any unused funds remaining after the project period ends would remain in the Fund. Skinner issued concerns that were relayed to him that the Fund was not to be formed to fund positions for this program, and fishing restrictions could be the reason for declining license sales which once supported this program.

Skinner made a motion to approve Year 2 funding written as-is. Gilbert Baccus seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Romano made a motion to approve. Blanton seconded. Motion passed.

COMMERCIAL GEAR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Kevin Brown, Conservation Biologist II with the DMF Fisheries Management section provided an update on the gear development program funded through the Fund. Chairman Cross congratulated Brown on his recent publication, "Simple gear modifications for achieving greater than 40% bycatch reduction in an estuarine shrimp trawl fishery." Brown stated that he was not seeking another year of funding, just a no cost extension to contract one boat utilizing leftover funds from Year 1. Brown explained that the no cost extension would just extend the remaining Year 1 funds for an additional year.

Skinner relayed concerns from smaller vessel owners regarding tail bag size, and if different gears could be reviewed with consideration to those smaller vessel operators. Skinner then inquired about a proposal specifically targeted with assisting smaller boats.

Skinner made a motion to approve the no cost extension request for an additional year. Doug Todd seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Blanton made a motion to approve the extension for one year. Romano seconded. Motion passed.

COMMERCIAL FISHERY DISEASE AND PATHOLOGY: RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Brantley provided an update on the retainer fund. This designation was for \$25,000 for potential pathologic work within commercial fisheries. No funds were spent in Year 1.

Blanton made a motion to approve an additional year of funding. Romano seconded. Motion passed.

Skinner made a motion to approve an additional year of funding. Weeks seconded. Motion passed.

WATER QUALITY DISCUSSION

Brantley stated that the DMF had been asked to submit a proposal regarding water quality and commercial fisheries to the Committees. After discussion within the DMF, additional parameters were requested, as it is a broad subject area with many variables. Staff from the DMF's Shellfish Sanitation section, as well as Fisheries Management section were available in the audience to assist with the conversation. External funding opportunities could be explored to include other agencies, or municipalities. Skinner suggested the Committees coming up with various areas of concern and implementing them into an RFP.

Blanton mentioned the Albemarle Sound algal blooms, and if a consolidated effort between the Water Quality Committee, CHPP, and Nutrient Scientific Advisory Board may offer a synergistic effort between the various committees to address the robust problem of water quality. Deputy Director Lupton said the DMF would communicate to these groups to see if there were complementary efforts that could be included into an RFP.

DMF SOUTHERN FLOUNDER TAGGING GRANT UPDATE

Shelby White and Mike Loeffler, Biologists with the DMF Fisheries Management section, provided an update on the southern flounder tagging project funded through the Fund. White described some issues they had experienced while running trials to test tag retention to include fish mortality issues in the Edenton holding tank trials, however, they were experiencing much better results since moving the fish to holding tanks at the UNC-Wilmington facility. Loeffler stated that he expected to employ 100 tags this fall.

COMMERICAL FISHING PUBLIC RELATIONS UPDATE

Adam Tesh, President and Co-Founder of Blue Red Marketing, accompanied by colleagues, provided an update on the research they had been working on, followed by branding. Tesh provided metrics on the public's perception of commercial fishing throughout the state. Education and awareness would be important for the campaign. Video production from the project's scope had been recently completed. They filmed for 5 days, visited 7 towns, had 7 people on staff, 8 interviews were conducted, 2000 miles were traveled, 2200 photos collected, 24 hours of footage was collected, and they utilized 5 cameras and 1 drone from Wanchese to

Southport. Personalized branding and methodology to develop branding was discussed by Chuck Norman, Owner/Principal of S&A Communications.

Skinner made a motion to adopt Option 4a as the brand and logo. Baccus seconded. Motion passed.

Blanton made a motion to adopt Option 4a as the brand and logo. Romano seconded. Motion passed.

COMMERICAL FISHING ECONOMIC IMPACT UPDATE

Dr. Jane Harrison, principal investigator conducting the NC Commercial Fishing Economic Impact study, along with colleagues, gave an update to the project. Harrison spoke on the progress of the study, along with the surveys they are using to examine the industry. Dr. Chris Dumas provided information on the survey and asked for input from Committee members. Input was provided, and concerns were addressed.

UNC-W TERRAPIN GEAR MODIFICATION PROJECT

Dr. Amanda Willard, Professor from the Department of Biology and Marine Biology at UNC-Wilmington was asked to describe her proposal to the Committees. The proposal would use work groups for design of crab pot bycatch reduction devices targeted at terrapin, then evaluate the gears against controls and publish the data. Romano stated that this was Willard's project, and since he had assisted in guiding the project that he could answer questions, but he wanted to go on record to avoid any conflicts of interest. Budget line items were discussed by Committee members. Todd asked about the total for the project, which was \$130,867 over two years.

Skinner made a motion to approve \$130,867.13 over two years for the proposal as-is, with corrections to the Year One budget column. Todd seconded. Motion passed.

Cross made a motion to match the motion from the Funding Committee for the NC Commercial Fishing Resource Fund. Motion failed.

Skinner asked if the MFC Committee's motion was tabled due to consultation with their attorney, considering the Funding Committee for the NC Commercial Fishing Resource Fund's motion had passed, would it go to the Secretary for a decision? Deputy Director Lupton stated she would have to seek council on that but would express concerns that an RFP had not been issued for this proposal.

Cross made a motion to table this proposal to the next meeting and request a directed RFP to address terrapin interactions. Blanton seconded. Motion passed.

NC COASTAL FEDERATION CRAB POT COLLECTION PROJECT

Chairman Doshier needed to leave the meeting, and he asked Skinner to take over the Chairman role in lieu of his absence. Chairman Cross asked if this project was in the state budget for consideration for funding from appropriations. Contracting concerns were discussed since the crab closure would be occurring the following day. Brantley stated that contract approval could

take up to 90 days. Sara Bodin, Coastal Specialist with the NC Coastal Federation, was asked by the Committees how the timing would influence their proposal. Bodin stated that if approved, they would use the funding for the next crab pot collection.

Chairman Cross made a motion to table the proposal. Romano seconded. Motion passed.

Todd made a motion to table the proposal. Skinner seconded. Motion passed.

COASTAL CAROLINA RIVERWATCH WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FOR FISHERIES ASSESSMENT AND PLAN PROJECT

Chairman Cross stated that water quality had been discussed throughout the meeting, and the DMF was working to bring project concepts back to the Committees.

Chairman Cross made a motion to table the proposal until the DMF came back with project options discussed earlier in the meeting. Blanton seconded. Motion passed.

Skinner stated that he was named in the proposal, and he and the NC Fisheries Association would be acting in an advisory role and not benefit monetarily.

Baccus made a motion to table the proposal. Todd seconded. Motion passed

ISSUES FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Blanton brought up blue catfish and receiving a proposal to address the issue. Blanton asked that an RFP be issued to address the issue, gear development and sustainable harvest of the species.

Blanton made a motion for an RFP to address the invasive blue catfish issue. Cross seconded. Motion passed.

Chairman Cross made a motion to adjourn. Romano seconded. Motion passed.

Todd made a motion to adjourn. Weeks seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

WB

Draft RFP

North Carolina Commercial Fishing Resource Fund Request for Proposals Issued **June 15, 2020**

The North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission Commercial Resource Fund Committee and the Funding Committee for the North Carolina Commercial Fishing Resource Fund is issuing a request for proposals for consideration of funding from the North Carolina Commercial Fishing Resource Fund.

The Commercial Fishing Resource Fund is composed of a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the commercial fishing licenses issued by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF). The N.C. General Assembly created the fund to support the development of sustainable commercial fishing in the State.

Background

North Carolina's marine fishery resources are economically and socially important to many of the state's residents, visitors, and coastal communities. These resources support commercial fisheries that provide an important source of employment, income, recreation, and food.

This document serves to assist in preparing a proposal. Please read the enclosed information closely. Proposals will be evaluated, and applicants notified of acceptance or rejection within 90 days of the submission deadline. The Director's office of the NCDMF retains the authority to extend this deadline beyond 90 days.

Eligibility

This Request for Proposal is open to both public and private entities and is subject to the State's terms and conditions of contracting. Interested parties must submit a complete proposal, meeting the requirements listed below. Partnerships between eligible entities are permitted. The proposal must include a letter defining the roles and responsibilities of each partner. The NCDMF has no obligation to enter into any partnership agreement.

Proposal Requirements

1. Applicants must submit one electronic copy of the application in Microsoft Word and one as a PDF.
2. Use Times New Roman, 12-point font and provide centered page numbers on the bottom of each page.
3. All proposals must include a completed copy of the Application for Funding from the N.C. Commercial Fishing Resource Fund application cover sheet (**see page 8**) as **page 1** of the proposal.
4. Proposals are not to exceed 17 pages including figures, tables, drawings, vitae, letters of support, etc.
5. Indirect costs cannot exceed the indirect rate established for the Division of Marine Fisheries which is 15%.

6. An appraisal for the purchase of land must be included if applicable.
7. All construction proposals must provide a detailed design and description regarding plans for controlling storm water runoff, avoiding submerged habitat impacts, and protecting the wetland shorelines, prior to project approval. Final design plans (i.e. any engineered drawings, specific low-impact development techniques, materials, etc.) must be submitted prior to receipt of funds. If dredging is to be a part of the project, detailed justification and information on the area to be affected is required.
8. Any funds realized from the sale, lease, rental, or other grant of rights to real or personal property acquired or produced from this grant must be paid back to the Commercial Fishing Resource Fund.
9. All projects that involve site acquisition/improvements must occur in coastal or joint fishing waters, except projects specifically designed to enhance diadromous fish populations and habitats. A map of coastal and joint fishing waters may be found at <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/coastal-joint-inland-waters>.
10. Successful new multi-year projects will receive funding through a state contract that will obligate funds one year at a time. If selected for a first year of funding, the subsequent years funding of multi-year projects will be contingent upon the completion of satisfactory grant performance progress reports as required by grantor, approval by the Marine Fisheries Commission and the Funding Committee for the North Carolina Commercial Fishing Resource Fund for subsequent funding, and availability of funds.
11. Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with species and/or program leads regarding potential projects. Consultation with the leads does NOT guarantee funding or Division partnership in the project. **Division of Marine Fisheries will not provide letters of recommendation for projects.** For more information on the species and/or program leads, and partnerships contact William Brantley by phone at 252-808-8015 or via e-mail at William.Brantley@ncdenr.gov.

Each proposal shall include the following:

Each proposal shall be in Times New Roman 12 pt. font and include the following:

Applicant Name: Identify the name of the applicant and the applicant's organization.

Project Title: A brief statement to identify the project.

Project Period: The total period of the project proposed for funding. The project period may be for one or multiple years. However, multi-year projects approved for year one funding will be reviewed annually for subsequent year funding. **All contracts for projects selected for funding will begin no sooner than 60 days after full approval.** There are no exceptions to this starting date. Please note this time period when developing project milestones.

Objective: Address what is to be accomplished.

Approach: List all procedures necessary to attain each project objective, with sufficient detail, to be able to evaluate the likelihood of obtaining the objective.

Expected Results and Benefits: Identify and document the results or benefits expected from the proposed activities and how the project will help educate the public on North Carolina's sustainable commercial fishing industry. Proposals must clearly state how applicant will conduct research. **A statement detailing how the project will ultimately develop and support sustainable commercial fishing in the State must be included.**

Expected Methodology: Provide a written plan describing how all data, analyses, models, etc. generated from the project will be made available to the NCDMF in both raw and summarized format. The plan must include the format in which data will be submitted and acknowledge the requirements of the request for proposal. This section will also contain a narrative of what deliverables will be provided to the Marine Fisheries Commission Commercial Resource Fund Committee and the Funding Committee for the North Carolina Commercial Fishing Resource Fund at the conclusion of the project, and metrics used to determine success. Commercial Fishing Resource Fund proposals, reports, and research data are subject to the N. C. Public Records Act (N.C.G.S. § 132-1 et seq).

Milestone Schedule: An activity schedule for the duration of the project, starting with month one and concluding at the end of the requested award period including a maximum three-month report writing period (see Table 1 for template). Schedule should include submission of performance reports due no later than **February 15 and August 30**.

Cost Summary: Detail all costs to be incurred in the project, including, but not limited to personnel, equipment, supplies, travel expenses, etc. Prepare your budget carefully and make it as detailed as possible. **Page/publication costs will not be funded.** You may use Table 2 as a template for preparing your budget. Changes to the budget after submission are highly discouraged.

Other Information:

Any abandonment of the project, conversion of the project to another use, or allowance of uses prohibited by the contract shall automatically trigger repayment to the fund of an amortized portion of the total grant reflecting the remaining life of the project.

Proposal Submission

All proposals must be received electronically by the Division of Marine Fisheries no later than 5 p.m. EST on **August 1, 2020**. Proposals should be sent through email to William.Brantley@ncdenr.gov. Applications received after this will not be eligible for consideration of funding, so please allow sufficient time for email and attachments to send.

Applicants must submit a **separate** abstract of the proposed project to be included with the proposal in no more than 300 words. Submit one abstract to the Grants Program Manager in Microsoft Word via e-mail to William.Brantley@ncdenr.gov.

This RFP is based on the priorities established in the Strategic Plan for the North Carolina Commercial Fishing Resource Fund. The Strategic Plan can be referenced here: <http://portal.ncdenr.gov/web/mf/2019-commercial-fishing-resource-fund-cfrf>

Review Process

Only proposals guidelines and objectives established in this request for proposals will be considered. Proposals meeting these requirements will be evaluated based on their capability to enhance the sustainability of commercial fishing in the state. Proposals being considered for

funding but needing revisions, enhancements or clarification to improve the quality of the proposal will be returned to the applicant. The applicant will then have 30 days to make the changes and return to the Division of Marine Fisheries for consideration.

Voluntary amendments to proposals are not normally accepted. One may request an amendment, but a project requesting an amendment to the budget or scope of work will be considered **only** if determined to be meritorious.

Committee members will evaluate proposals at a meeting date TBD, and awards would begin no sooner than January 1, 2021.

Post Award

If your proposal is approved for funding, you will need to work with the Division of Marine Fisheries by supplying information for the preparation of a state contract to facilitate your receipt of funds. It is important for you to know that this program cannot reimburse you for work that has already begun or been completed. Even if your project is selected for funding, you cannot begin any work until there is a state contract in place or you will not be reimbursed. Should your proposal be selected for funding, a contract should be in place within six months following the date of your funding award letter. Disbursement of funds will be in agreement with your state contract and proposal budget.

If your project is selected for funding and a contract is in place, you will be required to provide semi-annual updates of progress. This report shall be formal and can be submitted via email. The information in each semi-annual update will only be work completed since the last semi-annual update. A formal written comprehensive final report will be required. You may be required to present the results of your project and/or research findings at a Commercial Fishing Resource Funding Committee meeting. You are required to submit your reports to William Brantley, Grants Program Manager, N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries. Commercial Fishing Resource Fund proposals, reports, and research data are subject to the N. C. Public Records Act (N.C.G.S. § 132-1 et seq).

Funding Year 2021 Eligible Proposal Opportunities

Program Area – Fish / Fishery

Target Species – Blue catfish

Objective: Investigate ecological issues and novel gear development and/or reduction of unwanted bycatch in current gears to continue harvest of the invasive blue catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*).

The purpose of this objective is to examine the abundance, distribution, habitat use, diet, and the impact on native species associated with increased abundance of the invasive blue catfish, as well as to investigate the efficiency of potentially new or underutilized gears and/or reducing unwanted bycatch in the current harvest of blue catfish.

The ASMFC (<http://www.asafc.org/uploads/file/5e20d31fFishFocusDec19Jan20.pdf>) recently suggested that blue catfish reduce biodiversity in waters they have overtaken, which can pose an economic and ecologic threat to native species and fisheries. The disruption of trophic dynamics and increased predation pressure has highlighted a research need that the Funding Committees have sought to fulfill. Applicants are encouraged to include an industry work group as a part of the proposal.

Program Area – Fish / Fishery

Target Species – Diamondback Terrapin

Evaluation of diamondback terrapin bycatch reduction devices to meet criteria developed in the Blue Crab FMP Amendment 3 for use in the North Carolina crab pot fishery

Objectives: To compare catch rates of crabs and diamondback terrapin bycatch from crab pots equipped with control and experimental bycatch reduction technologies to meet criteria developed in the Blue Crab FMP Amendment 3.

The purpose of this objective is to address bycatch of diamondback terrapins in the commercial crab pot fishery, with an emphasis on excluder devices or modified pot designs following the criteria developed in the Blue Crab FMP Amendment 3. The criteria encourage collaboration with an Industry Workgroup, consisting of North Carolina fisherman, academic researchers, and fishery managers to review and test existing excluder devices or work in partnership to examine novel bycatch reduction designs to minimize the impact to blue crab and stone crab catch while reducing terrapin bycatch. To be considered for approval by the NCDMF, the other devices or modified pot designs must be shown to minimize impacts to blue crab catch or cost to fisherman, while maintaining a level of diamondback terrapin exclusion and survival offered by existing approved excluder devices.

The diamondback terrapin is classified as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation for Nature (Roosenburg et. al, 2019. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2019*: e.T12695A507698). Additionally, the Monterey Bay Aquarium “Seafood Watch” program has listed NC’s blue crab adversely due to the potential for interactions with diamondback terrapin in crab pot areas. Concerns from these listings pose a need for industry involvement in identifying novel bycatch reduction methods. Applicants are encouraged to include an industry work group as a part of the proposal.

Program Area – Fish / Fishery

Target Species – Shrimp and/or Bycatch

Objective: Investigate, develop and evaluate bycatch reduction devices in the North Carolina shrimp trawl fishery, specific to the estuarine based vessels that fish management areas where no more than 90ft head rope is allowed.

The purpose of this objective is to build upon the existing science of bycatch reduction in order to identify and prioritize new gears or other solutions that could be implemented on smaller,

estuarine based shrimp trawl vessels, not impacted by the latest bycatch reduction device requirements specific to the Pamlico Sound.

NC DMF continues to evaluate and test shrimp trawl gear modifications to reduce bycatch in the fishery. The nature of North Carolina's coastal ecology and shrimp fishery allows for both ocean and estuarine trawling. A study is requested to examine if bycatch reduction modifications could be targeted to specific ecological areas. Applicants are encouraged to include an industry work group as a part of the proposal.

Program Area – Fisheries / Habitat

Target – Water Quality

Objective: Investigate and implement water quality planning initiatives or improvements to protect, manage, conserve, enhance, and map critical aquatic habitats that support fish, crustaceans, and shellfish that commercial fishing activities depend for a sustainable industry.

This objective is broadly written to produce proactive measures in having industry participation to manage and improve NC coastal water quality.

A common concern that exists among funding committee members is that water quality in NC's coastal waters is an issue that needs attention and action. Committee members whom will be evaluating proposals have mentioned concerns on point and non-point pollution sources, Albemarle Sound algal blooms, and nutrient loading. Suggested projects include but are not limited to those that would assist in the development of watershed restoration or management plans, funding to implement water quality improvement projects (eg. stormwater BMPs) in priority waters, funding for habitat trend assessment, consort with various stakeholder groups to educate the public, and building partnerships with other agencies to develop or collaborate on existing water quality-based projects. Also suggested were projects that could provide continuity and/or complementary services to recent work, such as those mentioned in Appendix VII of the "Proceedings of the Albemarle Sound Nutrient Criteria Development Workgroup: Phase 1" found here: https://files.nc.gov/apnep/documents/files/past-committees/Albemarle-Sound-Report_combined.pdf. Applicants are encouraged to include an industry work group as a part of the proposal.

Program Area – People

Target – Economics

Objective: Investigate the importance of the H-2B visa program for seasonal foreign workers for the state's commercial fishing industry.

This objective is broadly written to examine the economic impact of the H-2B program on watermen, commercial fishermen, dealer and processors.

The impacts and significance of H-2B visa workers to North Carolina's commercial fishing economy are unknown. This survey would seek out a socioeconomic analysis of the program,

short and long term benefits, availability of foreign workers under H-2B, the effects of visa limitations, and investigate solutions surrounding barriers to entry for petitioners.

Program Area – People - Committee can request a revised statement of work from current vendor if they so choose to extend current contract, and exclude this from the RFP**

Target – Public Relations

Objective: To expand and initiate research, education and outreach opportunities, and marketing initiatives relating to current issues affecting the sustainability of North Carolina’s commercial fishing industry, the North Carolina coast, and its communities.

The purpose of this objective is to announce a request for proposals from organizations with proven experience in public relations to continue a campaign to educate the public on North Carolina’s sustainable commercial fishing industry, fishery and gear research that the industry has participated in, and how the fishing industry has modified commercial fishing activities which resulted in less environmental impact; efforts to demonstrate North Carolina’s fishing resources can be sustainable for the present and future.

The Funding Committees anticipates proposals which include consultation from a public relations agency to develop a plan on North Carolina’s sustainable fishing industry. This program would educate fishing user-groups and the public, which subsequently would involve implementation of a sustainable, operational plan for the commercial fishing industry. The campaign needs to have a broad-based approach to include developing educational clinics, media promotions (print, video, web, social media, radio, etc.), displays for festivals, promotional items for fishing related events, and assistance in marketing North Carolina’s seafood as sustainable. This can include a commitment to staff events and the ability to carry out the campaign for multiple years.

**APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM THE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMERCIAL FISHING
RESOURCE FUND**

1. APPLICANT INFORMATION:		2. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR INFORMATION:	
Applicant's Legal Name: _____		Name of Project Administrator/Principal Investigator: _____	
Street: _____		Street: _____	
Mail (PO Box): _____		Mail (PO Box): _____	
City, State and Zip Code: _____		City, State and Zip Code: _____	
EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN): _____		Project Administrator/Principal Investigator Phone number with area code: _____	
		Project Administrator/Principal Investigator FAX number with area code: _____	
3. TYPE OF APPLICANT: <input type="checkbox"/> State agency <input type="checkbox"/> County or Municipality <input type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify and list partnering entity) _____		Project Administrator/Principal Investigator Email Address: _____	
4. TYPE OF APPLICATION: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation of previously funded CRFL Project <input type="checkbox"/> Award Revision (<i>Explain</i>): _____		5. PROJECT TITLE: _____	
6. PROPOSED PROJECT: Start Date: _____ Ending Date: _____ Number of years: _____		7. STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE, STRATEGY AND RESEARCH NEED: Management Goal (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Fish <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat <input type="checkbox"/> People Objective): _____ Strategy (e.g., F.1.1): _____ Research Need (list project need): _____	
8. SOURCES OF FUNDING: a. CFRF Funds Requested : \$ _____ b. Applicant Match: \$ _____ d. Other Match: \$ _____ e. TOTAL: \$ _____		9. AREA AFFECTED BY PROJECT (City, Counties, etc.): _____	
11. LIST STATE AND FEDERAL PERMITS REQUIRED FOR THIS PROJECT: (Indicate completion date)			
12. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT. THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN FULLY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND WILL COMPLY WITH ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS IF THE ASSISTANCE IS AWARDED.			
Full Name of Authorized Representative: _____		Authorized Administrator Email Address: _____	
Signature: _____		Date Signed: _____	Phone Number (with area code): _____
Following Boxes are for DMF Internal Office Use Only			
Date Received by NC DMF: _____	Tracking Number: _____	Year 1 Request From CFRF: \$ _____	

Budget template to be used as a guide to help applicants provide an itemized budget per project proposal. Budget page for each year of project is required as separate document. Additional needed items may be added and items not necessary are to be deleted.

Expense	Year 1		Subsequent Years	
	No. FTE*	Cost (\$)	No. FTE*	Cost (\$)
Personnel by position title (biologist, technician, computer programmer)		Include % amount of project		Include % amount of project
Fringe (social security, retirement, health)				
Tuition	See page 5 Cost Summary			
Travel (mileage, meals, lodging)	See page 5 Cost Summary			
Conference Cost	See page 5 Cost Summary			
Postage				
Printing/photocopying				
Vessels				
Vehicles				
Telephone				
Computer Equipment (PC, printer, etc.)				
Software				
Office Furniture				
Office Space				
Gas				
Uniforms/Clothing				
Safety Items				
Office Supplies				
Scientific Equipment				
Training				
Office Equipment (photocopier, fax, etc.)				
Maintenance Contracts				
Others				

Indirect (Rate= ___ of total direct costs)				
TOTAL COST				

*Full Time Equivalent

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Milestone schedule template to be used as a guide to help applicants provide a listing of planned activities. Milestone schedule for each year of project is required as separate document. Schedule should include submission of performance reports due February 15 and August 30.

Task	Year 1: January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021											
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June

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