

Request for Proposals for FY2008 funding under Fisheries and the Environment (FATE)

The FATE Steering Committee is requesting proposals to describe research projects for funding during FY2008 under the NOAA Fisheries program on Fisheries Oceanography known as Fisheries and the Environment (FATE). FATE is a research program that develops and evaluates ecological and oceanographic indices to be used to improve fishery stock assessments and advance understanding of marine ecosystem dynamics. Background material on the FATE program can be found on the FATE web site: <http://fate.nmfs.noaa.gov/>. This goal of the FATE program is to provide information necessary to effectively adapt management to mitigate the ecological, social, and economic impacts of major shifts in the productivity of living marine resources. In response, the FATE Steering Committee seeks proposals that analyze the response of fish and shellfish to environmental change, development of ecosystem indicators, construction of next generation forecasting models, and techniques to incorporate ecosystem indicators into stock assessments or ecosystem assessments.

We are particularly interested in two types of proposals. 1) Proposals to support collaborations between ecologists or oceanographers and scientists actively engaged in agency stock assessments with a goal of improving stock assessments through use of FATE indices. These proposals should include a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) stock assessment scientist as one of the investigators. 2) Proposals for synthesis of existing data sets that result in development and validation of ecological indicators which contribute to an integrated ecosystem assessment in all or part of a Large Marine Ecosystem within U.S. waters. Proposals requesting a continuation of FATE funding should clearly identify how their results to date are contributing to FATE goals, especially to improving stock assessments. Note that FATE does not have a sufficient budget to support long-term ocean observations and does not support fishery oceanographic process studies. Additional details can be found on the FATE website.

Proposals should address *Background, Approach, Benefits* (i.e., addressing how the results will be used in stock assessment, how they will benefit management, and/or help in addressing ecosystem assessments), *Deliverables, Budget, and Budget Justification*. The budget should include travel funds for an investigator to attend the annual FATE science meeting during the summer of 2009 (and 2010 if a two year proposal). Please include a two-page curriculum vitae for all participants in the project (including a list of collaborators over the past 48 months). The duration of the proposed research should not exceed two years and should clearly state objectives and include statements of work for both years one and two. Proposals should be in Times New Roman with 12 point font. Project description must not exceed 5 pages (exclusive of references, budgets, CV, etc). Proposals not meeting these regulations will be rejected. At least one of the investigators must be a NOAA employee and if other investigators are not NOAA employees, please include a statement as to how funds would be transferred if the proposal is selected for funding. Funding is contingent upon availability of Federal appropriations. It is estimated that \$800,000 will be available for supporting 8 to 16 studies. **The Proposals should be e-mailed to Kenric Osgood, NMFS, Science and Technology, Marine Ecosystems Division** Kenric.Osgood@noaa.gov, **by Friday, 7 December 2007**, preferably as PDF files. The proposals will be reviewed both by external reviewers who are familiar with the FATE program,

and by the FATE Scientific Steering Committee. Proposals will be rated according to the following criteria: Scientific and technical merit (0.40); Importance, relevance and applicability to improved stock assessments and/or improved ecosystem assessments (0.30); Project costs (0.15); and Project management and qualifications of applicant(s) (0.15). Proposal evaluation will be completed by 15 February 2008 with funding decisions by 1 March 2008.