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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No.]

RIN 0648-ZA

Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship, National Sea
Grant College Program

AGENCY: Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice and Amendment of FRN 000522149-1259-03.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that applications may be
submitted for a Fellowship program which was initiated by the
National Sea Grant Office (NSGO), National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), in fulfilling its broad
educational responsibilities and legislative mandate of the
Sea Grant Act, to provide educational experience in the
policies and processes of the Legislative and Executive
Branches of the Federal Government to graduate students in
marine and aquatic-related fields. This notice also announces
that the Federal Register notice that solicited applications

for the program for FY 2002, published on November 14, 2001 (66 FR 57039), is amended to allow excess funds to be used for Fellowship related expenses.

DATES: Deadlines vary from program to program, but applications from prospective fellows to Sea Grant Colleges are generally due early to mid-April. Contact your state's Sea Grant program for specific deadlines (see list below). Selected applications from the sponsoring Sea Grant program(one original and two copies) are to be received in the NSGO no later than 5:00 pm EDT on May 14, 2003. Awards are anticipated to start on February 1, 2004. Applications may be modified to reflect the amended items while the March 26, 2003 notice should be consulted for all other requirements necessary for submitting an application.

ADDRESSES: Applications should be addressed to your local Sea Grant program. Contact the appropriate state's Sea Grant program from the list below to obtain the mailing address, or the address may be obtained on the web site

<http://www.nsgo.seagrant.org/SGDirectors.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Nikola Garber, Knauss Fellows Program Manager, National Sea Grant College Program, R/SG, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, Tel. (301) 713-2431 ext. 124; e-mail: nikola.garber@noaa.gov.

Also call your nearest Sea Grant program or visit the web site
<http://www.nsgo.seagrant.org/Knauss.html>.

SEA GRANT PROGRAMS

ALABAMA, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium

(228) 818-8843

ALASKA, University of Alaska (907) 474-6840

CALIFORNIA, University of California, San Diego

(858) 534-4440

CALIFORNIA, University of Southern California

(213) 821-1335

CONNECTICUT, University of Connecticut (860) 405-9128

DELAWARE, University of Delaware (302) 831-2841

FLORIDA, University of Florida (352) 392-5870

GEORGIA, University of Georgia (706) 542-5954

HAWAII, University of Hawaii (808) 956-7031

ILLINOIS, University of Illinois (217) 333-6444

INDIANA, University of Illinois (217) 333-6444

LOUISIANA, Louisiana Sea Grant (225) 578-6710

MAINE, University of Maine (207) 581-1422

MARYLAND, University of Maryland (301) 403-4220 Ext. 10

MASSACHUSETTS, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

(617) 253-7131

MASSACHUSETTS, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

(508) 289-2557

MICHIGAN, University of Michigan (734)615-4084

MINNESOTA, University of Minnesota (218) 726-8710

MISSISSIPPI, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium
(228) 818-8843

NEW HAMPSHIRE, University of New Hampshire (603) 862-0122

NEW JERSEY, New Jersey Marine Science Consortium
(732) 872-1300 Ext. 21

NEW YORK, New York Sea Grant Institute, SUNY
(631) 632-6905

NORTH CAROLINA, North Carolina State University
(919) 515-2454

OHIO, Ohio State University, (614) 292-8949

OREGON, Oregon State University, (541) 737-2714

PENNSYLVANIA, Pennsylvania State University, (814) 898-6160

PUERTO RICO, University of Puerto Rico (787) 832-3585

RHODE ISLAND, University of Rhode Island (401) 874-6802

SOUTH CAROLINA, South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium
(843) 727-2078

TEXAS, Texas A&M University (979) 845-3854

VERMONT, University of Vermont (802) 656-0682

VIRGINIA, Virginia Graduate Marine Science Consortium (434)
924-5965

WASHINGTON, University of Washington (206) 543-6600

WISCONSIN, University of Wisconsin-Madison (608) 262-0905

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship,

National Sea Grant College Program

Purpose of the Fellowship Program

In 1979, the National Sea Grant Office, NOAA, in fulfilling its broad educational responsibilities, initiated a program to provide a unique educational experience in the policies and processes of the Legislative and Executive Branches of the Federal Government to graduate students who have an interest in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions affecting these resources. The U.S. Congress recognized the value of this program and, in 1987, Public Law 100-220 stipulated the Sea Grant Federal Fellows Program was to be a formal part of the National Sea Grant College Program Act. The recipients are designated Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellows pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1127(b).

The National Sea Grant program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under number 11.417: Sea Grant Support.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Following receipt of notice from the NSGO, the local Sea Grant program will send an announcement to all participating Sea Grant institutions and campuses.

ELIGIBILITY

Any student who, on April 1, 2003, is in a graduate or professional program in a marine or aquatic-related field at a United States accredited institution of higher education in the United States may apply.

LENGTH OF ASSIGNMENT

The length of the assignment is for one-year and is non-renewable. The inclusive dates of the official fellowship are February 1 through January 31; however, these dates can be slightly adjusted to accommodate academic semester needs.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested students should discuss this fellowship with their local Sea Grant Program Director. Applicants from states not served by a Sea Grant program should contact the Knauss Fellows Program Manager at the NSGO; subsequently, the applicant will be referred to the appropriate Sea Grant program. Applications must be submitted with signature to the local Sea Grant program by the deadline set in the local Sea Grant announcement (usually early to mid-April). Each Sea Grant program may select and forward to the NSGO no more than five (5) applicants based on the evaluation criteria used by the NSGO in the national competition.

Selected applications (one original and two copies) are to be received in the NSGO from the sponsoring Sea Grant program, no later than 5:00 pm EDT on May 14, 2003. Note that

applications arriving after the closing dates given above will be accepted for review only if the applicant can document that the application was provided to a delivery service that guaranteed delivery to the appropriate address (see ADDRESSES) prior to the specified closing date and time; in any event, applications received by the NSGO later than two business days following the closing date will not be accepted. The competitive selection process and subsequent notification to the Sea Grant programs will be completed by June 25, 2003. All unsuccessful applications will be destroyed one year after submission date.

STIPEND AND EXPENSES

The local Sea Grant program receives and administers the overall grant of \$38,000 per student on behalf of each Fellow selected from their program. Of this amount, the local Sea Grant program provides \$32,000 to each Fellow for stipend and living expenses (per diem). The additional \$6,000 will be used to cover mandatory health insurance for the Fellow and moving expenses; any remaining funds shall be used during the Fellowship year, first to satisfy academic degree-related activities, and second for Fellowship-related activities. Indirect costs are not allowable for either the Fellowships or for any costs associated with the Fellowships, including placement week. No matching funds are required. During the

Fellowship, the host may provide supplemental funds for work-related travel by the Fellow.

APPLICATION

An application must include:

(1) Personal and academic curriculum vitae (not to exceed two pages using 12 pt. font, 1 inch margins).

(2) A personal education and career goal statement emphasizing the applicant's abilities and the applicant's expectations from the experience in the way of career development (1000 words or less, 12 pt. font). Placement preference in the Legislative or Executive Branches of the Government may be stated; this preference will be honored to the extent possible.

(3) Two letters of recommendation, including one from the student's major professor; if no major professor exists, the faculty person academically knowing the applicant best may be substituted.

(4) A letter of endorsement from the sponsoring Sea Grant Program Director.

(5) Official copy of all undergraduate and graduate student transcripts.

Applications that are bound or contain staples will not be accepted. However, paperclips are acceptable.

All applicants will be evaluated solely on their application

package according to the criteria listed below. Therefore, letters of endorsement from members of Congress, friends, relatives and others will not be accepted. Prior contacts/arrangements made with possible host offices will be cause for immediate disqualification from the process.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation criteria will include:

- (1) Quality of the applicant's personal education and career goal statement.
- (2) Endorsement/content of the letter from the applicant's Sea Grant Program Director, the applicant's major professor and second letter of recommendation.
- (3) Strength of academic performance and diversity of educational background including extracurricular activities, awards and honors (from the curriculum vitae and transcripts).
- (4) Experience in marine or aquatic-related fields, oral and written communication skills, and interpersonal abilities.

The four evaluation criteria will be given equal weight.

SELECTION

Each step in the selection process is based on the evaluation criteria listed. A panel is appointed by the Director of the NSGO with input from the Sea Grant Association and the National Sea Grant Review Panel. The panel will include representation from the Sea Grant Association and the current,

and possibly past, class of Fellows. Each panel member is assigned applications to review before the panel meeting. During the panel meeting each application will be individually discussed. Following this discussion, an individual score will be provided by each panel member. Once all applications have been discussed and scored, a numerical ranking will be created based on the average of the panel member scores by the Knauss program manager or designee. The successful applicants will be in general selected based on the numerical ranking, however, the Knauss program manager may select lower ranking applicants based on the following factors: academic discipline and geographic representation. The successful applicants will then be placed into either the legislative or executive group by the Knauss Program Manger based upon the applicant's stated preference, the application materials submitted, and the individual comments of the panel members. The number of fellows assigned to the Congress will be limited to 10.

FEDERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Fellows receive funds directly from their sponsoring Sea Grant program and are considered to be subrecipients of Federal assistance. Therefore, fellows are not employees of their host agency or NOAA. The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the Federal Register notice of October

1, 2000 (66 FR 49917), as amended by the Federal Register notice published on October 30, 2002 (67 FR 66109), are applicable to this solicitation.

MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS STATEMENT

Pursuant to Executive Orders 12876, 12900, and 13021, DOC/NOAA is strongly committed to broadening the participation of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI), and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU) in its educational and research programs. The DOC/NOAA vision, mission, and goals are to achieve full participation by Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) in order to advance the development of human potential, to strengthen the Nation's capacity to provide high-quality education, and to increase opportunities for MSIs to participate in and benefit from Federal Financial Assistance programs. DOC/NOAA encourages applicants from MSIs to participate. Institutions eligible to be considered HBCU/MSIs are listed at the following Internet website:

<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCR/minorityinst.html>

CLASSIFICATION

Prior notice and an opportunity for public comment are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act or any other law for this notice concerning grants, benefits, and contracts

according to 5 U.S.C § 553(a)(2). Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required for purposes of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

This action has been determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

This program is excluded under E.O. 12372.

This document contains collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. Application requirements have been approved by OMB under Control Number 0648-0362. Public reporting burden for an application is estimated to average 2 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Ms. Nikola Garber (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT above). The use of SF-LLL has been separately approved by OMB under Control Number 0348-0046.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a

penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Dated:

Louisa Koch
Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

MEMORANDUM FOR: James R. Mahoney
Assistant Secretary for Oceans and
Atmosphere

FROM: Louisa Koch
Acting Assistant Administrator

SUBJECT: Federal Register Notice for the Dean
John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship
Program

I recommend that you concur with the publication of a Notice in the Federal Register for the solicitation of applications to the Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program.

The National Sea Grant College Program Office (NSGCPO), in fulfilling its broad educational responsibilities, initiated the program in 1979 to provide an educational experience in the policies and processes of the Legislative and Executive branches of the Federal government. In 1987, the United States Congress recognized the program's value and stipulated that the Sea Grant Fellows Program become a formal part of the National Sea Grant College Program act. Legislative branch fellows are funded by the NSGCPO while Executive branch fellows are funded by their hosting agency.

Based upon previous authorizations, this action is not expected to be controversial.

This Notice has been sent to the Department of Commerce, Office of General Counsel, for concurrent review.

Cleared by NOAA General Counsel: _____

Date

James R. Mahoney

Date

Concur

Do not
concur

Assistant Secretary for
Oceans and Atmosphere

Attachment

MEMORANDUM FOR: Louisa Koch
 Acting Assistant Administrator
 for NOAA Research

FROM: Nikola M. Garber
 Program Support Assistant
 Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy
 Fellowship Program

SUBJECT: Federal Register Notice of the Dean John A.
 Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program's
 Class of 2004 Application Solicitation

Attached are three original copies of the Notice of application solicitations for the Class of 2004 Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program to be published in the Federal Register as prescribed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act Section 10 (a)(2).

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached 3 original copies of the Federal Register Notice.

Attachments

cc:
R. Baird