

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 10, 2012

Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

Request for Approval to Enter into a Grant Agreement
Between the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the National Marine Fisheries Service
For \$100,000 in Federal Funds for Improvements to the
Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation's Online Vessel Registration System and
Data Sharing Agreement

SUMMARY:

Submitted for your consideration is a request to enter into a Grant Agreement (Grant) between the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The Grant will run from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. The Grant (\$100,000 in Federal funds and \$0 in State funds) is for computer upgrades to the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation's (DOBOR) Online Vessel Registration System. In return, DOBOR will provide certain vessel registration data to NMFS so that they may conduct surveys for the purpose of fisheries resource management. Fishermen will also benefit by not having to pay a \$15 registration fee required under the National Saltwater Angler Registry Program.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Grant is to improve non-commercial fishery data collection in offshore waters and secondarily, to provide the basis for the State of Hawaii to request an exemption to the National Saltwater Angler Registry Program through the following actions:

1. Improve DOBOR Vessel Registration paper-based and online vessel registration system to support improved collection of non-commercial fishing data.
2. Streamline DOBOR's online vessel registration system by developing an application to provide for new vessel online registration. Currently, only vessel renewals are available online.
3. Computer kiosks will be provided at the certain harbors statewide to allow for walk-in customers to register their vessels and pay for services at the counter. This will reduce staff time by allowing the registrant to process their application online at the harbor or main office.

4. Support NMFS's mission regarding fishery management by providing the name, address, and contact number of vessel registrants for the purpose of conducting surveys. The surveys consist of catch data and effort data.
5. Support outreach and education of boaters and fishermen of the importance of data collection and fishery management.
6. Provide the basis for an exemption to the National Saltwater Angler Registry Program. By being included in the federal registry, fishermen benefit by not having to pay the \$15 program registration fee.

REMARKS:

Benefits to the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation. Grant money provided to DOBOR will go toward computer upgrades to improve public access and streamline the vessel registration process. Improvements will streamline DOBOR's online registration by developing an application to provide for new vessels to register online. Currently, only registration renewals are available online. Computer kiosks will be provided at the certain harbors statewide to allow for walk-in customers to register their vessels and pay for services at the counter. This will reduce staff time by allowing the registrant to process their application online at the harbor or main office.

Benefits to the National Marine Fisheries Services. The primary purpose of this Grant is to provide non-commercial vessel registration data so that NMFS may conduct surveys and to compile recreational fishing catch and effort data. Unlike commercial fisheries where catch data is provided directly to the Division of Aquatic Resources through monthly catch reports by all licensed commercial fishermen, recreational fishing data is largely unknown. The impact of recreational fishing activities on Hawaii's fishery resources may be substantial due to the number of vessels and popularity fishing has in Hawaii. Conducting routine interviews with private boat fishermen (using vessel registration information) provides Agency Partners with baseline data to responsibly manage Hawaii's fishery resources. Catch data (species caught, length, weight and catch disposition) would be integrated with effort data (hours fished, areas fished, target species, gear types and fisher demographics) to estimate of fishing pressure and total landings of Hawaii's recreational fisheries.

NOAA follows strict protocols to maintain the security of personally identifiable information. The registry collects personal information, such as name, address, and phone number under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The purpose of collecting this information is to verify the identity of registrants. Personal information submitted to NOAA is confidential and protected under the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) and Section 92F, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The contact information provided to NOAA may not be disclosed to the public. The information is neither sold nor used for any purpose other than conducting fishing surveys.

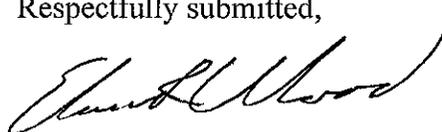
By entering into this Grant Agreement, Hawaii will be fulfilling Federal requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act with regards to the provision of standardized recreational catch and effort data to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) by all U.S. coastal states.

Benefits to Fishermen. The vessel registration data given to NMFS provide the basis for an exemption to the National Saltwater Angler Registry Program. Fishermen benefit by not having to pay the \$15 program registration fee. Fishermen who have a current and valid saltwater license will be automatically entered into the registry which will allow NOAA to contact fishermen and survey recent fishing activities. That information is a part of NMFS's mission to estimate the health of fish stocks and to check that protections put in place to preserve fisheries will be fair, effective, and based on sound science. The registry will help to demonstrate anglers' economic, conservation and marine stewardship impacts.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Board authorizes the Chairperson to enter into a Grant Agreement with the NOAA for the Improvements to the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation's Online Vessel Registration System and Data Sharing Agreement.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward R. Underwood
Administrator

Approved For Submittal:



William J. Ailā, Jr., Chairperson