

Dated: October 11, 2007.

**Kate Worthington,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Advisory Committees, U.S. Department of Commerce.*

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BILLING CODE 3510-DR-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XD49

#### Pacific Whiting; Advisory Panel

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS solicits nominations for the Advisory Panel (AP) on Pacific Whiting called for in the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and Canada on Pacific Hake/Whiting. Nominations are being sought for at least 6, but not more than 12 individuals to serve as United States representatives on the AP.

**DATES:** Nominations must be received on or before November 23, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit nominations or comments, identified by 0648-XD49, by any of the following methods:

- E-mail: [WhitingAP.nwr@noaa.gov](mailto:WhitingAP.nwr@noaa.gov)

Include 0648-XD49 in the subject line of the message.

- Fax: 206-526-6736, Attn: Frank Lockhart

- Mail: D. Robert Lohn, Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115-0070, Attn: Frank Lockhart.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Frank Lockhart at (206) 526-6142.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Title VI of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (MSRA), entitled "The Pacific Whiting Act of 2006," implements the 2003 "Agreement Between the Government of the Government of the United States of America and Canada on Pacific Hake/Whiting." Among other provisions, the Whiting Act provides for the establishment of an AP to advise the Joint U.S.-Canada Management Committee on bilateral whiting management issues. Nominations are being sought to fill at least 6 but no more than 12 positions on the Pacific whiting AP for terms of 4-years.

The Whiting Act requires that appointments to the AP be selected from

among individuals who are "(A) knowledgeable or experienced in the harvesting, processing, marketing, management, conservation, or research of the offshore whiting resource; and (B) not employees of the United States." Nominations are sought for any persons meeting these requirements.

Nomination packages for appointment to the AP should include:

1. The name of the applicant or nominee and a description of his/her interest in Pacific whiting; and
2. A statement of background and/or description of how the above qualifications are met.

The terms of office for the Pacific Whiting AP members will be for 4 years (48 months). Members appointed to the AP will be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses.

In the initial year of treaty implementation, NMFS anticipates that up to 3 meetings of the AP will be required. In subsequent years, 1-2 meetings of the AP will be held annually. Meetings of the AP will be held in the United States or Canada, so AP members will need a valid U.S. passport. Meetings of the AP will be held concurrently with those of the Joint Management Committee, once per year for a period not to exceed 5 days in duration.

The Pacific Whiting Act of 2006 also states that while performing their appointed duties as AP members, members "shall be considered to be Federal employees only for purposes of-

- (1) injury compensation under chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code;
- (2) requirements concerning ethics, conflicts of interest, and corruption as provided under title 18, United States Code; and
- (3) any other criminal or civil statute or regulation governing the conduct of Federal employees."

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: October 18, 2007.

**Emily H. Menashes,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 071018607-7608-01]

#### New NOAA Cooperative Institutes (CIs): (1) Alaska and Related Arctic Regions Environmental Research and (2) Earth System Modeling for Climate Applications

**AGENCY:** Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of funds.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) publishes this notice to provide the general public with a consolidated source of program and application information related to two competitive cooperative agreement (CA) award offerings. Both announcements will also be available through the Grants.gov Web site.

#### Cooperative Institute Competitions

NOAA is accepting applications for two separate competitions to establish: (1) A CI to study environmental issues associated with Alaska and related Arctic regions and (2) a CI focused on the development and use of Earth System Modeling applied to climate applications with timescales of decadal or longer. The application and award processes for each CI will be covered in this announcement. Both CIs are expected to provide the necessary capabilities to complement NOAA's current and planned activities in support of the 5-year Research Plan and the 20-year Research Vision.

NOAA's Climate Mission Goal in the Arctic requires knowledge of atmospheric circulation throughout the entire region; inflow and fate of Pacific and Atlantic water masses throughout the central Arctic Basin and peripheral seas; sea ice dynamics in all ice covered waters of the Arctic; and state of land cover, permafrost, glaciers and ice sheets throughout the Arctic region. NOAA's Ecosystem Mission Goal proposes documentation of population trends in exploited and protected species wherever they live in order to assess and manage these species. NOAA's Weather and Water Mission Goal proposes research to understand the coastal hazards, storms, and tsunamis that affect Alaska's population, ecosystems and coast. To achieve its mission in the Arctic, NOAA will need to engage many international partners. The regional Alaska CI will be