

**VIRGINIA RECREATIONAL FISHING DEVELOPMENT FUND
SUMMARY PROJECT APPLICATION***

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| <p>NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:</p> <p>Virginia Marine Resources Commission 2600 Washington Ave, Newport News VA 23607</p> | <p>PROJECT LEADER (name, phone, e-mail):</p> <p>Joe Grist (757) 247-2237 joe.grist@mrc.virginia.gov</p> |
| <p>PRIORITY AREA OF CONCERN:</p> <p>Research Analysis</p> | <p>PROJECT LOCATION:</p> <p>VMRC</p> |
| <p>DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF PROJECT:</p> <p>SAS licensing and training for VMRC technical staff</p> | |
| <p>PROJECT SUMMARY:</p> <p>To license and train VMRC technical staff, in Fisheries Management, in the use of statistical analysis software offered by SAS®, to improve available methods and abilities of staff to analyze fisheries dependent and independent datasets.</p> | |
| <p>EXPECTED BENEFITS:</p> <p>By increasing the tools available to the VMRC technical staff, and improve their ability to conduct advanced analysis, the use of SAS programs will allow for faster and enhanced evaluations of the current Microsoft Access database, as well as the ability to replicate and conduct further analysis of Marine Recreational Fishery Statistical Survey datasets and results.</p> | |
| <p>COSTS:</p> <p>Total Costs: \$38,500.00</p> <p>Detailed budget must be included with proposal.</p> | |

Updated 6/1/05

*This form alone does not constitute a complete application, see application instructions or contact Sonya Davis at 757-247-8155 or sonya.davis@mrc.virginia.gov : Due dates are June 15 (Jul. – Nov. Cycle) and December 15 (Jan. – May Cycle)

A request for funding for SAS licensing and training.

Need:

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission manages a large region, with multifaceted fisheries, and is involved in numerous data collection and management programs. The VMRC does this with a limited staff and support budget.

SAS software has proven to be a valuable resource in other state agencies, one that is capable of analyzing multi-variable datasets with millions of records in a matter of seconds. The software capabilities are varied, from simple data error checks to advanced statistical analysis. Whereas VMRC staff is currently limited in its ability to perform advanced and timely analysis using Microsoft products, having the resources provided by SAS software would greatly enhance staff's, facilitation of analysis and projections for management options.

Objective:

To improve the ability of VMRC staff to perform statistical analysis of fishery data.

Estimated Benefits:

Currently, VMRC staff has limited ability to work with raw data from the National Marine Fisheries Service Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS). Any questions regarding MRFSS data requires staff to make a request to the MRFSS office for assistance, a process which can take a great deal of time. The data itself is available; however, SAS software is necessary to process it. Having the software to interpret MRFSS data will provide staff with the ability and flexibility to work on management options when required.

The software operates using a programmer language developed specifically for SAS. This is the reason why training in using the software, or certain aspects of the software, is so important. One of the real benefits of the programming language is the adaptability of it. As staff creates programming code to run analysis on data, that code can simply be modified or added onto in the future. And the use of SAS would not be limited to just MRFSS datasets, but it would allow staff to analyze additional datasets from both within and outside the agency that pertain to fisheries management in Virginia and coastwide.

There are numerous other programs that use SAS to manage their data as well, such as the trawl surveys at VIMS, many of the projects at ODU, and all of the commercial and recreational data from North Carolina DMF. Although this data can be put into formats other than SAS for VMRC staff to interpret, obtaining the data in SAS would provide staff the ability to analyze raw data, and not data that had to be transformed and reduced to meet our current abilities..

Estimated Cost:

| Item | Total Cost |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| SAS Licensing for 5 individuals | \$19,000.00 |
| SAS Training for 5 individuals | \$15,000.00 |
| SAS 2-Year Maintenance Renewal | \$ 4,500.00 |
| TOTAL | \$38,500.00 |