

NOTICE

CRD NOTICE: 11-05

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO PAY \$0.15 PER POUND FOR THE PROCESSING OF
COW NOSED RAYS HARVESTED IN THE WATERS OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA FOR THE 2011 OYSTER
REPLENISHMENT PROGRAM.**

Notice is hereby given that the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) intends to contract to pay \$0.15 per pound for the processing of up to 200,000 pounds of cow nosed rays, which are harvested from the waters of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The cow nosed ray has been identified as a significant impediment to oyster restoration efforts within the Commonwealth. This program is intended to provide infrastructure assistance for the development of a fishery for the cow nosed ray. Processors may apply for this assistance in lots of 20,000 pounds.

THE COMMISSION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES IN THIS PROGRAM AT ANY TIME.

General:

Cow nosed rays must be harvested within the Commonwealth of Virginia waters.

The cow nosed rays must be processed for sale between May 1, 2011 and September 30, 2011.

The price per pound paid for the processing of cow nosed ray will be \$0.15 per pound of whole fish, in lots of 20,000 pounds. Processors may apply for one to ten lots.

Payment will be made in accordance with the Prompt Pay Act to the contractor after verification of the purchase and processing of individual lots of 20,000 pounds and upon receipt of proper documentation by the Conservation and Replenishment office. Checks will be mailed to the contractor.

Verification of registration with the Virginia Department of Minority Business Enterprises, as a small, woman, or minority owned company will be required, as well as a signed contract and current Tax Form (W-9) will have to be completed and on file at the Marine Resources Commission main office for each selected participant, prior to payment being made.

The Marine Resources Commission will provide all contractors with information, so that they, if not already registered, can promptly register as a small, woman, or minority owned company with the Virginia Department of Minority Business Enterprises.

In order to participate in the cow nosed ray infrastructure assistance program for the 2011 season, the offeror must submit, in writing, information describing the following qualifications:

- 1) A processing facility located in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- 2) A description of their experience in handling and processing other commercial seafood species within the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- 3) A description of their plan to process for sale at least 20,000 pounds of cow nosed rays.
- 4) Processor must have at least three years experience in the processing and retail sales of cow nosed rays.

Response Deadline:

All persons or firms expressing written interest in this program must respond by mail, fax or e-mail, no later than Friday, April 22, 2011 at 12 Noon.

Lottery:

All persons or firms expressing written interest in this program will be ranked based on the description provided. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission is seeking adequate capacity to process up to 200,000 pounds (ten lots of 20,000 pounds) of cow nosed rays. If more than one (1) cow nosed ray processing facility expresses a desire to participate in this program, and are qualified, the total quantity of pounds shall be divided among those expressing written interest in the project in accordance with their capabilities. A lottery will be held in the event applicants express interest in processing more than 200,000 pounds (ten lots of 20,000 pounds) of cow nosed rays.

If a number of facilities express interest in processing more than five lots or more than 200,000 pounds of cow nosed rays, then a lottery will be held on Friday, April 22, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at the VMRC Conservation and Replenishment Department on the 3rd floor.

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