

## Privacy Act Statement

**Authority:** The Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program and Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions (Undergraduate Scholarship Program and Cooperative Science Centers) are authorized by section 314 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (S.3084). The Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program is authorized by 16 U.S.C. 1445c-1 and 16 U.S.C. 1445c. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) established the Recruiting, Training, and Research (RTR) in response to a shortage of fisheries scientists identified in a report (P.L. 109-479, sec. 217) authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Act of 2007.

**Purpose:** NOAA education programs have a strong record of producing graduates who are both diverse and academically excellent and NOAA wishes to ensure that future scholars are similarly successful. The American Innovation and Competitiveness Act also requires that NOAA to maintain a comprehensive system to evaluate the outcomes of its educational programs, not merely the number of activities and participants. This must include measurable objectives, milestones and performance metrics to evaluate progress. To this end, NOAA OEd wishes to determine whether, following completion of a NOAA education program, students pursue and complete advanced degrees in NOAA related sciences and obtain professional positions pertinent to NOAA's mission.

**Routine Uses:** In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(4) and (11), the Department of Commerce proposes to collect this information for the purposes of evaluating scholarship applicants and for determining educational and professional attainment of NOAA education program participants following graduation. This includes disclosure to other Federal agencies or contractors of the Department of Commerce as needed. Maintenance and disclosure of this information is subject to the routine uses identified in the Privacy Act System of Records Notice entitled "COMMERCE/NOAA-14 Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program; Office of Education, Educational Partnership Program (EPP); Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program and National Marine Fisheries Service Recruitment, Training, and Research Program". For more information, please refer to: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-09-17/pdf/2015-23133.pdf>.

**Disclosure:** Furnishing date of birth, race and ethnicity information is voluntary. All other information is required in order to 1) evaluate program applicants for merit, 2) evaluate the progress of grantees under special conditions of the award.