



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

WEST COAST COOPERATIVE RESEARCH

ACTUAL ISSUE DATE: July 1, 2005



PROPOSED SCHEDULE

July 1, 2005 Request for Proposal (RFP) issued and distributed

September 21, 2005 Deadline for proposals

EMAILED proposals MUST be sent to:

**Subject: West Coast Coop Research RFP
front_office@psmfc.org**

MAIL—SEND One (1) original to:

**Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
ATTN: FRONT OFFICE-RFP-West Coast Coop Research
205 SW Spokane, Suite 100
Portland, Oregon 97202**

Faxed proposals WILL NOT be accepted.

September 28, 2005 Proposal Review Committee Meeting

September 30, 2005 Project Finalists Selected

Twelve (12) months/one (1) year Project must be completed from date of Award
Twelve (12) months/one (1) year Data must be released to Pacific States Marine
after completion of this project. Fisheries Commission and will be made available
to the public.



DESCRIPTION, ELIGIBILITY, SPECIFICATIONS, CRITERIA, and PROCEDURES

DESCRIPTION

Background

The purpose of this Request for Proposals is to assist the fishing industry in the collection of needed West Coast groundfish data, which serves to improve the information base for fisheries management while providing assistance to the industry. Additional scientific data, both in essential fish habitat and stock assessment, is needed for the effective management of the U.S. groundfish fisheries off the Washington, Oregon, and California coasts, pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 USC 1801-1883) and the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (the Commission or PSMFC) wants to encourage and fund effective partnerships among commercial fishermen, researchers, and other stakeholders to become active participants in cooperative research and to further the knowledge base of West Coast groundfish.

Fishermen and scientists have recognized that the sum of their understanding of the fishery ecosystem is greater than their individual knowledge. The Commission and the NOAA Fisheries/NMFS are interested in re-establishing trust and working relationships between industry and scientists. All parties would like to acquire better information on the fishery ecosystem and fish stocks. There is a desire to develop greater consensus about the criteria of effective research and viable data.

Cooperative fishery research will offer a new source of revenue to fishermen and diversify their financial base, which is important when fishing options are so tightly constrained on the West Coast. Scientists and fishermen will have the opportunity to draw on each other to answer tough questions and creatively devise research projects.

ELIGIBILITY

The purpose of this proposal is to assist the fishing industry in the collection of needed West Coast groundfish data, therefore:

1. This RFP is not open to federal agencies or their federal employees.
2. This RFP is open to state agencies and their state employees.
3. There must be significant participation by the industry. (Each proposal must show the percentage of funds allocated to industry partners.)



SPECIFICATIONS

Examples of Projects - High Priority Areas for Cooperative Research

The following is a summary of areas of particular concern for cooperative research funding:

- Research related to by-catch reduction
- Technical innovation to reduce biological impacts of certain gear
- Socio-economic analysis
- Viability analysis for sablefish and ling cod

Cooperative research is not limited to these areas of particular concern.

For more information on research priorities, see the Groundfish Research Plan at:

<http://www.noaa.gov/research/divisions/from/grresearchplan.cfm>

<http://www.noaa.gov/publications/researchplans/gfsp2002.pdf>

The Pacific Fishery Management Council's research plan provides the basic framework for this cooperative research funding.

Exempted Fishing Permits

Projects may involve fishing operations that are not consistent with groundfish regulations. In these cases, sponsors must obtain an exempted fishing permit (EFP) from the NOAA Fisheries/NMFS before the project may be funded. For information on the EFP process, contact the Northwest Region Office, Phone (206) 526-6140.

At-Sea Observers

Contractor may propose or be required to carry one or more observers as part of its data collection project. PSMFC anticipates that it will provide observers to the data collection projects through its subcontractor. Proposers are encouraged to identify anticipated observer requirements in their proposals including the estimated number of days-at-sea, scheduling requirements, and any other relevant information that will help PSMFC to meet requests for observers. This information should be included with the Proposer's Budget.

Insurance Coverage

In the event that PSMFC provides an observer to the Contractor for the purposes of this agreement, Contractor shall ensure that the vessel owner agrees to notify owner's insurance provider that owner's vessel will be carrying an observer. PSMFC, through its observer company, will provide insurance for its observer, however, this coverage is only for claims brought by the observer against its employer. This coverage is not intended to include claims or actions brought by the observer against the vessel owner. This section is not intended to indemnify or hold owner harmless for claims or actions brought by the observer against the owner.

Reports

Contractor(s) will be required to submit quarterly or semi-annual progress reports upon commencement of their agreement with PSMFC, and to submit a final project report to PSMFC within thirty (30) working days of completion of their research project. PSMFC will specify and



agree upon the required format and contents of both the quarterly or semi-annual progress report (s) and the final project report(s) prior to commencement of the agreement.

Contractual Requirements

If your proposal is selected, a contract will be signed between you and PSMFC. This contract contains a number of federal requirements related to contracting. These contract requirements can be reviewed at PSMFC's website, <http://www.psmfc.org/rfp/> or you can call—503-595-3100—and a copy of these requirements will be sent to you.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

In order for the proposal to be considered, there must be significant participation by the fishing industry (each proposal must show the percentage of funds allocated to industry partners).

The following criteria and evaluation weightings will be used for evaluating both solicited and unsolicited proposals:

- (a) Scientific Merit (10 percent): Intrinsic scientific value of the proposed work and the likelihood that it will lead to fundamental advancements, new discoveries or will have substantial impact on progress in that field;
- (b) Research Performance Competence (20 percent): The capability of the investigator and collaborators to complete the proposed work as evidenced by past research accomplishments, previous cooperative work, timely communication, and the sharing of findings, data, and other research products;
- (c) Relevance (20 percent): Likelihood that the research will make substantial contributions or develop products leading to improved management of coastal resources;
- (d) Technical Approach (20 percent): The proposed work has focused science objectives and a complete and efficient strategy for making measurements and observations in support of the objectives. The approach is sound and logically planned throughout the cycle of the proposed work;
- (e) Level of Industry Participation (20 percent).
- (f) Costs (10 percent): Adequacy of the proposed resources to accomplish the proposed work and the appropriateness of the requested funding with respect to the total available funds.

PROPOSAL SELECTION PROCEDURES

All procedures will be evaluated and scored individually in accordance with the assigned weights of the above evaluation criteria by independent peer mail review and/or by independent peer panel review. Both Federal and non-Federal experts in the field may be used in this process. The peer mail reviewers will be several individuals with expertise in the subjects addressed by particular proposals.

Recommendations for funding are then forwarded to the selecting officials for the final funding decision.



NOTE:

Emailed proposals **MUST** be sent to:
RE: West Coast Cooperative Research
front_office@psmfc.org

ALL proposals must be received by September 21, 2005 by 4:00 PM

MAIL OR DELIVER TO:
PSMFC FRONT OFFICE—RFP
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
205 SE Spokane, Suite 100

in the prescribed format with a summary sheet containing the following information:

**WEST COAST COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT
SUMMARY INFORMATION**

Name of Solicitation

Project Title/Project Sponsor

Type of Contractor: (e.g. state agency, nonprofit organization, private enterprise)

Contact Persons

Address

Telephone/Fax Number

E-mail Address

Funding Request

Objective

Work Schedule

Area

Type of Fishery



PROJECT PROPOSAL FORMAT

TITLE

OBJECTIVE

Describe the objective(s) or hypothesis of the proposed data collection project.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

Describe in detail the scientific methods and materials to be used and the expected results. Provide sufficient detail so that proposal evaluators can assess the adequacy of experimental design, data analysis, project oversight and reporting.

SCHEDULE

Describe target completion dates for major tasks and the final product. Projects may not extend beyond **October 2007**.

NEED FOR THE INFORMATION

Explain why the data need to be collected and how groundfish management may be improved by this effort.

DIRECT FINANCIAL BENEFITS TO THE INDUSTRY

Explain the extent of collaboration with the groundfish industry on this project and how the industry is expected to benefit financially from this project. Examples of direct financial assistance include employing fishermen to collect data, chartering commercial or CPFV vessels to collect data, and providing access to healthy stocks.

QUALIFICATIONS OF PROJECT PERSONNEL

Summarize the relevant experience of the scientific personnel. Provide project references on all similar contracts performed in the last two years.



BUDGET

	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT OF COST SHARE TOTAL
PERSONNEL COSTS:		
SALARIES		
BENEFITS		
TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS:		
OPERATING EXPENSES		
(Specify by line item, such as: Supplies Printing Communications Insurance Travel Etc.)		
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS:		
SUBTOTAL:		
Administrative Overhead		
TOTAL ESTIMATED BUDGET:		
Percent Cost Share:		