



PACIFIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

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2020 Marine Aquaculture Pilot Projects RFP Questions & Answers 11/30/20

1) *In the "Scope of Work" section, it is written that "The primary location of the proposed projects must be in the marine waters/estuarine environment." Would you consider a project in which marine species were being aquacultured in tanks at a marine-adjacent facility or in conjunction with an established aquarium as meeting these requirements?*

A: Yes, marine-adjacent facilities are acceptable.

2) *Would a proposal be rejected if the project uses fabricated or manufactured seawater?*

A: Projects that utilize manufactured seawater would still be considered under this RFP.

3) *The RFP suggests that maps and pictures must be included in our three pages of the proposal. We have a site survey and feel it is an important part of our proposal but lengthy with maps and photographs. Can that also be an appendices or not?*

A: Site surveys can be included in the appendices.

4) *Do you have a format example or preference for: "specific objectives and performance measures for the period of the proposed work and the expected significance"*

A: No, we don't have a specific format that this information must be presented in.

5) *Would mapping the nearshore areas for habitat and ecosystem factors for development of seaweed/kelp farms fit the "Planning work for programmatic permitting development" requirement?*

A: Yes, this would fit that requirement.

6) *Is the PSMFC interested in both commercial applications as well as potential restoration, or it is mostly interested in commercial applications?*

A: PSMFC is more interested in commercial applications with this funding opportunity.

7) *Our major concern though is that we want to combine field observations and genetics to address this question, but worry that the 1 year timeframe is too short. Do you have any insights into the ability to extend these grants for a 2 year period (we would not be requesting additional funding, just time to complete our goals in light of ongoing COVID restrictions).*

A: We believe that there is a very good chance that an additional year will be added. However, we will not know with 100% certainty until early 2021.

8) *Would research of the potential for marine mammal-aquatic farm interactions be supported?*

A: Yes, this would be allowed for the FY21 PSMFC Aquaculture Pilot Project grant.

9) *If direct research projects, to aid providing educated permitting process, would not be appropriated under #1, would staff support for permit reviews or a workshop to develop permitting protocols fit under this category?*

A: A proposal for staff support for permit review would not be encouraged however a workshop to develop permitting protocols would be allowed for the FY21 PSMFC Pilot Project grant competition.

10) *Are we merging everything into 1 single pdf? And if yes, are we allowed to add a title page with a table of content as long as the summary is 1pg and the project narrative is 3pg? Or would you like to have the summary and narrative in one pdf and the appendices in a separate pdf?*

A: It's not mandatory, but it would be helpful if everything was merged into a single PDF. A title page and table of contents is acceptable and wouldn't count against the page limits for the summary and narrative.

11) *I would like to get clarification if the development and extending information on processing methods for marine cultured species would be an appropriate proposal. For example for most of our cultured products in California are sold to the live market while shelf life stable products for similar species are imported. Producers would had the means to develop new revenue streams around these products.*

A: This project would be allowed because it supports the success of pilot project efforts. Proposers would be well advised to coordinate with their local NOAA Seafood Inspection office as well as State Public Health agency to insure the pilot project would be informed by such public health requirements.

12) *I'm interested in submitting a proposal this year for the PSMFC pilot aquaculture study. My partner and I have discussed at length a creative way to support the repopulation of Lingcod (*Ophinodon elongatus*) in near-shore environments for future farming practices. We both frequently fish a handful of species during the commercial fishing season(s) and share a passion to potentially create a study that just might help repopulate this heavily targeted species.*

Our thesis is a simple one with limited variables that we feel would give detailed (visual) results to the behaviors of this compelling species by creating artificial relief habitats to study breeding practices, reef fidelity, hunting, life-cycle movements etc. (we will leave this to the proposal for further detail)

We both have extensive knowledge of our local waterways within the Monterey Bay Area (more specific to the Santa Cruz region) in which we part-time commercial fish in. With that, we share in the passion to help potentially re-sustain our hyperlocal fish markets through PSMFC's program grant offering.

The only concern I have is the competitiveness of the grant. It seems from speaking with others that universities, and scientific communities typically are awarded these limited slots. I just wanted to know ahead of time if all proposals are considered— or at least further understand the criterial needs to put our best foot forward.

A: All proposals that fit within the funding priorities of this opportunity are considered. That being said, PSMFC believes that this proposal would fall outside this opportunity's funding priorities. This funding opportunity is for commercial aquaculture applications, not restoration aquaculture proposals.