

# **Request for Proposals**

## **Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Disaster Research**



**Issue Date:**  
July 3, 2025

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**Deadline for Pre-Proposal Submissions:**  
July 31, 2025, 5:00 PM (PDT)

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**Deadline for Full Proposal Submissions:**  
August 29, 2025, 5:00 PM (PDT)

## Proposal Schedule

ACTIVITY	DATE	NOTES
Request for Proposal (RFP) issued and distributed	July 3, 2025	
<b>Deadline for Written Questions</b>	July 17, 2025 - 5:00 PM (PDT)	Email questions to: <a href="mailto:marredondo@psmfc.org">marredondo@psmfc.org</a> with subject line: <b>"Upper Cook Inlet Salmon RFP Questions."</b>
Q&A Document with Responses Posted	July 24, 2025	Q&A document with responses posted at <a href="https://www.psmfc.org/procurements">https://www.psmfc.org/procurements</a>
<b>Deadline for Pre-Proposals</b>	July 31, 2025 - 5:00 PM (PDT)	Email pre-proposals to: <a href="mailto:marredondo@psmfc.org">marredondo@psmfc.org</a> with subject line: <b>"Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Pre-Proposals".</b> <b>Hard copy or faxed proposals will not be accepted.</b>
Pre-Proposal Review	August 1 - 8, 2025	
Full-Proposals Requested from Selected Applicants	August 15, 2025	
<b>Deadline for Full-Proposals</b>	August 29, 2025 - 5:00 PM (PDT)	Email Full-Proposals to: <a href="mailto:marredondo@psmfc.org">marredondo@psmfc.org</a> with subject line: <b>"Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Full-Proposals".</b> <b>Hard copy or faxed proposals will not be accepted.</b>
Full-Proposal Review	September 1 - 12, 2025	
Applicants Notified of Recommendations	September 17, 2025	
Anticipated Project Period	October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2028	

## **Funding Opportunity Description**

### **Summary**

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), in cooperation with NOAA and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), is offering approximately \$882,000 in grants to support research on Kenai late-run Chinook salmon and management of Upper Cook Inlet District mixed-stock fisheries. Funding is available for up to 3 years and must conclude by September 30, 2028.

### **Research Priority Areas**

1. Research that improves understanding of the relative importance of specific mechanisms that drive productivity of Kenai late-run Chinook salmon, which could include:
  - how ocean/climate conditions impact future runs;
  - freshwater and early marine survival bottlenecks, habitat use, and movement patterns; and
  - the role of diet, health, and disease on survival and spawning success.
2. Research to inform non-adult abundance estimates of Kenai Chinook salmon that can be used in developing or improving forecasting tools.
3. Improved methods for estimating adult salmon harvest and abundance including genetic analysis for stock composition and further assessment and review of the Kenai late-run Chinook salmon estimates for all age classes.
4. Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) analyses examining risks and tradeoffs of different management approaches for Upper Cook Inlet District mixed-stock fisheries to refine stock specific management and understand impacts of various management actions.
5. Improved harvesting methods that minimize Chinook salmon mortality.

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### **Eligible Applicants**

Eligible applicants include researchers from U.S. academic institutions, research labs, for-profit companies, nonprofits, and state/local agencies. Foreign entities and U.S. federal government agencies (including Regional Fishery Management Councils) are not eligible. Collaborative proposals with multiple investigators are welcome.

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## **Application and Submission Information**

### **Pre-Proposal Requirements**

**Deadline:** July 31, 2025, 5:00 PM (PDT)

**Submission:** Email to [marredondo@psmfc.org](mailto:marredondo@psmfc.org)

**Email Subject:** "Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Pre-Proposals"

**Format:** 2-page limit including:

- Applicant name and contact info
- Project title
- Brief summary of topic and approach
- Project proposals must address how the research will mitigate the effects of the disaster on the fishery (limited to 1 paragraph).
- Estimated funding requested

Note: Multiple pre-proposals may be submitted, but only one project may be funded per lead PI.

## **Full Proposal Requirements**

**Deadline:** August 29, 2025, 5:00 PM (PDT)

**Submission:** Email to [marredondo@psmfc.org](mailto:marredondo@psmfc.org)

**Email Subject:** "Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Full-Proposals"

Proposals must be clear, concise, and prepared in a minimum 12-point font. Tables and visuals (e.g., charts, maps, graphs, and photographs) are included in the five-page limit for the project description. Sections such as the project summary, budget and justification, data management plans/access agreements, and information on prior, current, or pending support do not count toward this limit. Appendices may include résumés or letters of endorsement. Any additional material beyond what is requested will be disregarded.

### **A. Project Summary (1-page limit)**

Include the following:

- Organization name
- Principal Investigator(s) (PI) name(s) and contact information (address, phone, email)
- Project title
- Project objectives
- Summary of proposed work
- Project proposals must address how the research will mitigate the effects of the disaster on the fishery.
- Budget details:
  - Total funds requested from PSMFC
  - Current and pending support (if applicable)
  - Cost sharing (optional; specify cash or in-kind)
  - Total project cost

### **B. Project Description (5-page limit)**

Provide a complete and accurate description of the proposed research. Include:

- Specific objectives and performance measures
- Expected significance
- Relationship to longer-term project goals
- Relation to other planned or ongoing work

## C. Project Budget

Submit a detailed narrative for each budget category. Justify how funds will be used for each participating organization or agency.

### 1. Salaries and Wages

Include name, job title, role, responsibilities, effort (percent/time), base salary, and total compensation. Salaries must:

- Follow organizational policy and 2 CFR § 200.430
- Be reasonable, allocable, and well documented
- Reflect actual time on the project
- Include incentive pay only when documented, reasonable, and allowable

### 2. Fringe Benefits:

- Type of benefits (e.g., health, retirement, FICA, unemployment, workers' comp, life insurance, paid leave)
- Calculation method (e.g., percent of salary or flat rate) Fringe costs must comply with 2 CFR § 200.431, be allocable to project effort, and be supported by documentation.

### 3. Travel

Travel must directly support project goals. Include:

- Traveler name and role
- Dates and purpose
- Destination(s)
- Itemized costs: lodging, airfare, per-dem, ground transport, other related expenses

Travel must:

- Follow federal and organizational travel policies
- Be booked at lowest reasonable cost
- Be justified with clear links to project outcomes
- Use federal per diem rates unless a higher rate is justified
- Exclude international travel

#### 4. Contractual

For each contract:

- List contractor name, role, and type of contract (e.g., fixed price)
- Summarize scope of work and deliverables
- Provide cost breakdown and justification

Contracts must:

- Follow procurement rules under 2 CFR § 200.318
- Be competitively awarded unless justified
- Avoid conflicts of interest
- Include payment and performance terms
- Be distinguished from subawards if applicable

#### 5. Supplies

Describe tangible items under \$10,000/unit. For each category (e.g., lab supplies, safety gear):

- Group and itemize
- Justify relevance to project objectives

#### 6. Equipment

For items \$10,000 or more:

- List each item with description, quantity, cost, and justification
- Equipment must be essential, special purpose (if applicable), and comply with 2 CFR §§ 200.313 and 200.439
- Maintain proper records and disposition procedures

#### 7. Indirect Costs

Include:

- A copy of the current federally approved NICRA, or
- Use the 15% de minimis MTDC rate (if no NICRA exists), or
- Propose a negotiated rate with justification

Indirect costs must be:

- Consistent, allowable under 2 CFR § 200.414, and applied to the MTDC base

- Limited to necessary admin and facility expenses (e.g., utilities, HR, compliance)

Proposals with high indirect rates may be considered less competitive. Applicants are encouraged to minimize indirect costs to maximize funding for direct project implementation.

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### **Instructions, Conditions & Notices**

- **Submit questions** by **July 17, 2025, 5:00 PM PDT** to Michael Arredondo ([marredondo@psmfc.org](mailto:marredondo@psmfc.org)) Subject: "**Upper Cook Inlet Salmon RFP Questions**"
- **Answers** posted by **July 24, 2025** at [www.psmfc.org](http://www.psmfc.org)

### **Proposal Revisions/Withdrawals:**

- Proposals may be revised/withdrawn any time before award.
- Must be submitted in English and U.S. dollars.
- All proposals must be valid for **120 days** from submission.

### **Late Submissions:** Will not be considered unless:

- Received before award
  - Acceptance does not delay acquisition
  - Was under PSMFC control prior to deadline or is the only proposal received
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### **Evaluation Criteria (100-point scale)**

- Qualifications, experience, relevance to priorities: 30 pts
  - Technical approach and work plan: 40 pts
  - Cost and budget: 30 pts
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### **Conflict of Interest**

Reviewers must avoid actual or perceived conflicts of interest. Disclosure is required, and conflicted members must recuse themselves from discussion.