

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (Annual Appropriations, IJJA Funds, and IRA Funds)

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NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Federal Agency Name(s): National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce

Funding Opportunity Title: Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (Annual Appropriations, IIJA Funds, and IRA Funds)

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NMFS-WCRO-2024-2008271

Federal Assistance Listings Number: 11.438, Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery - Pacific Salmon Treaty Program

Dates: Final applications should be submitted via Grants.gov and must be received no later than 11:59 pm Eastern Time on March 04, 2024. For applications submitted through Grants.gov, a date and time receipt indication will be the basis of determining timeliness. The proposal must be validated by Grants.gov in order to be considered timely. PLEASE NOTE: It may take Grants.gov up to two (2) business days to validate or reject the application. Please keep this in mind in developing your submission timeline.

For those not having access to the internet, one signed original and two hard copy applications must be postmarked or received by the established due date for the program at the following address: Kyle Bowers, Federal Program Officer, NMFS West Coast Region, 800 E. Park Blvd, Plaza IV, Suite 220, Boise, ID 83712-7768. Use of U.S. Mail or another delivery service must be documented with a receipt. (Note that late-arriving hard copy proposals provided to a delivery service on or before 11:59 pm Eastern Time on the closing date for applications will be accepted for review if the applicant can document that the proposal was provided to the guaranteed delivery service by the specified closing date and time and if the proposal is received by the Grants Program Manager no later than 5:00 pm Eastern Time, two business days following the closing date.)

No facsimile or electronic mail proposals will be accepted. The proposed start date should be no earlier than September 1, 2024, unless an earlier date is requested by the applicant (and approved by the NOAA Grants Officer) or otherwise directed by the NOAA Grants Officer.

Funding Opportunity Description: NOAA announces the availability of Federal funding, authorized pursuant to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. 117-58 (November 15, 2021) (hereinafter, the “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law” or “BIL”); Inflation Reduction Act

(hereinafter, the “IRA”), Pub. L. 117-169 (August 16, 2022); Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act, Pub. L. 118-15 (September 30, 2023); and the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024, Pub. L. 118–15 (November 16, 2023), for necessary expenses associated with the restoration of Pacific salmon populations. The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) program makes such funding available to the States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, California, and Alaska, and federally recognized Tribes of the Columbia River and Pacific Coast (including Alaska) for projects necessary for the conservation of salmon and steelhead populations listed as threatened or endangered, or identified by a State as at-risk to be so-listed; for maintaining populations necessary for exercise of tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing; or for the conservation of Pacific coastal salmon and steelhead habitat. This announcement outlines the priorities and guidelines that will be used to award funding to eligible entities.

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Program Objective

PCSRF was established in Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 to address a coast-wide need to restore and conserve Pacific Chinook salmon, coho salmon, chum salmon, sockeye salmon, pink salmon and steelhead, and their habitat. PCSRF supplements existing state and tribal programs to foster development of federal-state-tribal-local partnerships in salmon recovery and conservation by providing grants for restoration of anadromous salmonids to the eligible states and tribes.

Under this solicitation, NMFS seeks applications for projects from eligible States, Indian tribes, representative Tribal Commissions, and Tribal Consortia (Consortia) so that it can allocate the FY 2024 Federal funds for PCSRF grants based on scientific and merit principles. An applicant may only submit one application to the Federal government for PCSRF program funding. Applications from both the representative Tribal Commission or Consortium and a Tribe represented by that Commission or Consortium will not be accepted. In the event that applications are submitted by both a representative Tribal Commission or Consortium and a Tribe, NMFS will contact both parties for resolution of which entity will submit a single application on behalf of the Tribe.

B. Program Priorities

The objective of the FY 2024 PCSRF funding is to supplement state and tribal programs for salmon restoration by allocating federal funding to projects and activities that provide demonstrable and measurable benefits to Pacific anadromous salmonids (i.e., Chinook salmon, coho salmon, chum salmon, sockeye salmon, pink salmon and steelhead) and their habitat. These projects and activities are those necessary for conservation of salmon and steelhead populations listed as threatened or endangered, or identified by a state as at-risk to be so-listed; for maintaining populations necessary for exercise of tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing; or for conservation of Pacific coastal salmon and steelhead habitat.

Within the objectives of the overall PCSRF grant program, annual appropriation funds may be used to fund projects under all three PCSRF priorities. BIL and IRA funds will specifically be used to provide federal financial assistance to states and tribes to support Priority One projects (see below) that protect, restore, and conserve Pacific salmon and steelhead and their habitats, using approaches that enhance ecosystem resilience to climate

hazards. Priority One projects seek to promote important and lasting changes that make a difference for the recovery and conservation of Pacific salmon and steelhead. BIL and IRA funding will also be used to support tribal capacity (Priority Three) specific to tribes' role as fishery managers and stewards of tribal trust resources for cultural, spiritual, subsistence, and recreational purposes. Activities that build tribal capacity include participating in salmon recovery and conservation planning, project development including providing Indigenous Knowledge, and managing project design, implementation, and project effectiveness monitoring. BIL and IRA funding should not be used for administrative costs associated with a pass-through recipient's program or project(s).

Successful proposals will best address the evaluation criteria (Section V.A.), including addressing the program priorities listed below. Applicants should address the following set of program priorities:

1. Priority One

Eligible projects are those that address factors limiting the productivity of Pacific anadromous salmonid populations that are:

- a) Listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and/or
- b) Necessary for the exercise of tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing.
- c) Additional Information:
 - (1) Priority One projects benefiting ESA-listed populations shall address the limiting factors and priority actions specified in NOAA approved, interim, or proposed Recovery Plans, and/or in the most recent 5-year reviews.
 - (2) Priority One projects benefiting populations important to the exercise of tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing may include efforts to restore or maintain such populations while limiting factors are being assessed. Tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing includes tribal trust fishing opportunities as outlined in Secretarial Order 3206.
 - (3) Priority One projects may also include the development of project-specific engineering or designs that are a necessary precursor to implementing on-the-ground habitat improvement projects (excludes development of generic designs).
 - (4) Planning, coordination, landowner outreach, assessment, research, and monitoring projects are not eligible under Priority One.
 - (5) Typically, these are habitat improvement projects. The PCSRF Program is focusing particular emphasis on habitat improvement projects that achieve lasting benefits through the restoration of self-sustaining natural ecosystem functions and processes.
- d) Examples of habitat improvement projects that result in self-sustaining ecosystem

functions and processes include:

- (1) A levee-setback project that provides access to off-channel habitat and improves survival for overwintering juveniles,
- (2) Re-establishing floodplain connection and function, restoring natural river-channel migration, and
- (3) The restoration and protection of riparian habitats in identified priority areas.

2. Priority Two.

Eligible projects consist of:

- a) Watershed-scale or larger effectiveness monitoring and the biological response of anadromous salmonid populations to habitat restoration actions,
- b) Population-scale status and trend monitoring that directly contribute to population viability assessments for ESA-listed anadromous salmonids or populations,
- c) Monitoring necessary for the exercise of tribal-treaty fishing rights or native-subsistence fishing on anadromous salmonids, or
- d) Conducting watershed-scale or larger restoration planning.
- e) Additional Information:
 - (1) Project-scale effectiveness monitoring, or status and trend monitoring at a scale less than the population are not eligible under this priority and should be categorized under Priority Three.
- f) Examples of Priority Two projects include:
 - (1) Life Cycle and Harvest Monitoring,
 - (2) Stock Assessments,
 - (3) Strategic Action Plans, and
 - (4) Intensively Monitored Watershed Monitoring

3. Priority Three.

Eligible projects include all other projects consistent with the Congressional authorization with demonstrated need for PCSRF funding.

- a) Additional Information:
 - (1) Priority Three projects build capacity by supporting the implementation of activities under Priorities One and Two.
 - (2) Priority Three projects benefiting ESA-listed populations shall address the limiting factors and priority actions specified in NOAA approved, interim, or proposed Recovery Plans and/or the most recent 5-year reviews.
 - (3) Priority Three projects benefiting populations important to the exercise of tribal

treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing may include efforts to restore or maintain such populations while limiting factors are being assessed.

Tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing includes tribal trust fishing opportunities as outlined in Secretarial Order 3206. Special emphasis will be given to activities that build tribal capacity to participate in salmon recovery, conservation planning, and project development including providing Indigenous Knowledge, and managing project design, implementation, and project effectiveness monitoring.

b) Examples of Priority Three projects include:

- (1) Project planning and coordination,
- (2) Landowner outreach,
- (3) Underserved and historically marginalized community engagement including broadening access to information (e.g. through translation of communications and products including local traditional ecological knowledge), and
- (4) Small scale assessment, research, and status/ trend monitoring (i.e., monitoring at less than watershed or population scale).

Grant applications may be submitted for one or more of the above PCSRF Program Priorities. However, a separate proposal narrative and budget must be included in the application for each priority. Grant applications will be evaluated separately for each priority. NMFS anticipates a greater proportion of the available FY 2024 PCSRF funding will be distributed to the higher-ranked PCSRF Program Priorities.

States and Tribal Commissions or Consortia must have at least 10% of their applications apply to monitoring.

C. Program Authority

16 U.S.C. 3645(d)(2); Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. 117-58 (November 15, 2021); Inflation Reduction Act, Pub. L. 117-169 (August 16, 2022); Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act, Pub. L. 118-15 (September 30, 2023); and the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024, Pub. L. 118-15 (November 16, 2023).

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

NOAA Fisheries, West Coast Region anticipates that up to \$106 million in funding will be available under this notice. The amount of funds available for competitive awards will depend on the final fiscal year 2024 appropriation. Depending on the number of applications

and amount of funding requested for each PCSRF Program Priority, NOAA may limit or proportion the distribution of FY 2024 PCSRF funds to each PCSRF Program Priority. There are no restrictions on minimum funding requests, but NOAA will not accept proposals with federal funding requests of more than \$30,000,000 for the entire award. Funds will be administered by NOAA Fisheries, West Coast Region.

Neither NOAA nor the Department of Commerce is responsible for direct costs of application preparation. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds. The number of awards to be made as a result of this solicitation will depend on the number of eligible applications received, the amount of funds requested, and the merit and ranking of the applications as described in Section V.

B. Project/Award Period

The PCSRF program announcement is for programs and projects to be conducted for a 1-year or up to a 5-year period, with an anticipated start date no earlier than September 1, 2024.

C. Type of Funding Instrument

The funding instrument will be a grant agreement, as described in 2 CFR § 200.1, meaning that NOAA will not be substantially involved in carrying out the activity contemplated by the federal award.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are the States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, California, and Alaska, and Federally-recognized tribes of the Columbia River and Pacific Coast (including Alaska).

B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

State applicants are required to match or document in-kind contributions of at least 33% of received Federal funds. Indian tribes, representative tribal commissions and consortia are exempt from any cost share requirement.

Matching funds consist of PCSRF projects funded totally or partially by state appropriated funds; PCSRF projects that are funded totally or partially by sub-recipient or contractor funds; or PCSRF projects funded partially by other pre-approved sources of federal funding.

In-kind contributions must be applied directly to a PCSRF project in order to be considered match. State funding for a PCSRF program administration project may be used as matching funds.

Applicants should refer to 2 CFR § 200.306 for cost sharing or matching policies. Refer to Section IV.F "Funding Restrictions" and Section VI.B. "Indirect Costs" for information on indirect costs. Refer to Section II.B "Project/Award Period" and Section VI.A. "Pre-Award Costs" for information on pre-award costs.

For applications including non-federal match funds within the proposed budget, the ratio of approved NOAA funds to non-federal match funds will be legally binding within the award document signed by NOAA Grants Officer if the application is selected for funding. NOAA is under no obligation to amend the match contributions once the award document is signed by the recipient, but the amount may be amended based on extenuating circumstances. Successful applicants should be prepared to carefully document matching contributions.

C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility

1. Eligible states must submit applications through one designated state entity identified by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NMFS. Applications from multiple State agencies within one state will not be accepted.
2. Indian Tribes must demonstrate eligibility in their application for consideration. They may act on their own behalf when applying for PCSRF funding or may allow their representative Tribal Commission or Consortium to act for them through an MOU agreement with NMFS. Applications requesting funding for a Tribe from both the representative Tribal Commission or Consortium as well as a Tribe represented by that Commission or Consortium will not be accepted. In the event that applications are submitted by both a representative Tribal Commission or Consortium and a Tribe, NMFS will contact both parties for resolution of which entity will submit a single application on behalf of the Tribe.
3. Applications submitted through Grants.gov must be submitted by the due date and time provided in Section IV.D. Late applications may not be considered for funding. Applicants should consider the possibility of unforeseen impacts that could affect internet access and use of Grants.gov on or before application due dates. Applicants should be aware that localized hazardous weather, monthly scheduled Grants.gov weekend maintenance, or other situations that impact the ability to submit application packages may not result in changes to the application deadline. Information regarding electronic submission through Grants.gov is contained in Section IV.G. All applications MUST contain ALL required forms. Failure to

submit forms may result in disqualification from this competition. See Section IV.G for more details.

4. NOAA will not accept proposals with a federal funding request of more than \$30 million over the entire award period.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

Complete application packages, including required federal forms and instructions, can be found on www.Grants.gov. If a prospective applicant is having difficulty downloading the application forms from www.Grants.gov, contact www.Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or support@Grants.gov. Instructions for these forms are available at <https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/sf-424-family>. Information about the recommended format for applications is contained in Section IV.B.

For further information on PCSRF please visit <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/pacific-coastal-salmon-recovery-fund> or contact Jennie Franks, PCSRF Program Coordinator, NMFS, West Coast Region at (503) 231-2344 or jennie.franks@noaa.gov. Questions regarding this announcement should be directed to Kyle Bowers at (208) 495-5898 or kyle.bowers@noaa.gov.

B. Content and Form of Application

A complete, standard NOAA financial assistance application package should be submitted, as described below. Each proposal must include the following Federal application forms. The Standard Forms (SF)-424 may be downloaded from <https://www.grants.gov/forms>.

- a) SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance
- b) SF-424A: Budget Information for Non-construction Programs
- c) SF-424B: Assurances for Non-construction Programs
- d) CD-511: Certification Regarding Lobbying
- e) CD-512 (if applicable): Certification Regarding Lobbying Lower Tier Covered Transactions
- f) SF-LLL (if applicable): Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

In addition to the Federal application forms, NOAA recommends the following components

as part of a complete application package. Pages must be composed in at least 12-point font with 1-inch margins. Components should be organized into a maximum of five (5) PDF files outlined below:

PDF 1. Title Page, Project/Program Summary (3-page limit)

PDF 2. Project/Program Narrative (30-page limit)

PDF 3. Budget Narrative (no page limit)

PDF 4. Project Designs (no page limit)

PDF 5. Supplemental Materials (25-page limit)

The application should follow the organization of the evaluation criteria (see Section V.A) to receive a consistent review against competing applications. The information provided below may help you address the evaluation criteria.

Consideration will only be given to material that is physically included in an application. Information provided via an internet link will not be considered nor will it influence the application evaluation. Letters of support will not be considered under this competition.

PDF 1. Title Page and Program/Project Summary (3-page limit)

1. Title Page(s) (3 Page Limit): Include the following:

- a) Applicant name and Demonstration of Eligibility (Indian Tribes only for latter requirement)
- b) Funding Opportunity Title:
- c) Funding Opportunity Number:
- d) Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:
- e) Program/Project Title:
- f) Program/Project Duration:
- g) Program/Project Contacts:
- h) Program/Project Objectives: (short paragraphs describing the planned use of funds under each priority proposed)
- i) Program/Project Proposal Total Amount and Sub-Totals for each Priority: (include PCSRF funds requested and state matching funds for each Priority)
- j) Program/Project Justification and Need for Funding:
- k) Program/Proposed Project Outcomes: (brief description of anticipated benefits to anadromous salmonids)

PDF 2. Program or Project Narrative (30-page limit)

Program or Project Narrative (30 Page Limit): Descriptive document on how the applicant intends to carry out the proposed program or project(s). Pages exceeding the 30-page limit will not be taken into consideration when reviewing the application proposal. Proposals are evaluated based on the criteria described in Section V.A. Please review the evaluation criteria for a full description of topics to include in the program or project narrative. If proposing more than one project within the application, project narratives must describe the anticipated outcomes for each project under each of the three PCSRF program priorities for which PCSRF funding is proposed for importance/relevance and applicability of the proposal to the program goals and the technical and scientific merit of each proposed priority.

States and Tribal Commissions or Consortia:

1. Overall Qualifications of the Applicant

- a) Pacific Salmon Recovery and Conservation Qualifications. Within the project narrative, applicants should describe the Pacific salmon recovery and conservation qualifications of the project team (staff and/or partners), including experience with program administration, description of existing anadromous salmonid programs and how the proposed PCSRF funds will supplement those programs, description of the applicant's competitive and non-competitive project solicitation process, timelines, project selection criteria, technical reviews of proposed project merit and feasibility, funding decisions, and how these elements will be managed and administered to ensure that funds are effectively and efficiently applied to this funding opportunity. For state and tribal commission or consortia applicants, this should include how the processes will be used to ensure at least ten percent (10%) of the proposed funding is for monitoring. Resumes or curriculum vitae (CVs) for up to five (5) key personnel should be included within PDF 5. Supplemental Materials, and the documents should highlight relevant education, experiences, and training.
- b) Management Capacity. Within the program narrative, applicants should describe the program team's ability to successfully manage a federal award. Applicants should demonstrate a strong capacity to maintain financial and administrative records and fulfill reporting requirements. This may include reference to reports that the applicant has completed on their past accomplishments, including how the projects implemented with PCSRF funds adhered to the allocation of funds by PCSRF Program Priority proposed in prior PCSRF awards. Within the attached resumes or CVs, applicants should highlight relevant experience with management of federal funds or other significant grant awards. Applicants should address whether the program team has the capacity to complete the proposed work on time, even in the face of adverse conditions.

2. Project Costs.

Applicants should follow the guidance provided under PDF 3. Budget Narrative.

3. Importance/Relevance and Applicability of Proposal to the Program Goals. Project narratives must describe the anticipated outcomes for each proposed project and specify anticipated outcomes for projects.

Program Proposal by PCSRF Program Priority. A separate narrative and budget should be provided for each PCSRF Program Priority identified in Section I.B (PCSRF Program Priorities) that the proposed program intends to address. The applicant must describe the following under each priority:

- a) Proposed amount of funding (including state matching funds) for projects to address a given priority.
- b) Description of the proposed program's activities and how they address a given priority, including the rationale and justification for how the program/projects will address the priority (i.e., clarify why the activities are appropriate for the given priority).
- c) Priority One proposals should identify the specific salmonid population(s) and explain what population-specific limiting factors will be addressed and describe the anticipated outcomes. Provide the following information, as appropriate.
 - (1) For ESA-listed anadromous salmonid populations, include the name of the approved, interim, or proposed Recovery Plan(s) that identifies the factors limiting productivity.
 - (2) For anadromous salmonid populations needed for tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing, identify the specific tribal or native subsistence fisheries and explain how the proposed program will benefit or sustain the affected populations.
 - (3) Describe how the proposed program will encourage and select large-scale strategies that maximize benefits through the implementation of coordinated projects that address multiple priority limiting factors.
 - (4) Describe how the proposed program will include the restoration and protection of riparian habitats in priority areas for salmonids.
 - (5) Describe how habitat restoration activities under Priority One will be designed to achieve lasting benefits through the restoration of self-sustaining natural ecosystem functions and processes (e.g., re-establishing floodplain connection and function, restoring natural river-channel migration, re-establishing ecologically functional riparian buffers).
 - (6) Describe how program funds invested under Priority One will maximize benefits by leveraging additional coordinated investments from other entities and programs.
 - (7) Priority One projects may also include the development of project-specific engineering or designs that are a necessary precursor to implementing on-the-ground habitat improvement projects (excludes development of generic designs).
- d) Priority Two proposals should:

(1) For eligible monitoring projects, specify the geographic extent (watershed/population scale or larger) of the monitoring effort and how the monitoring will contribute to: viability assessments for ESA-listed salmonids; monitoring necessary for tribal or native subsistence fishing; or analyses of the effectiveness of habitat restoration efforts.

(2) For eligible restoration planning projects, specify the geographic extent (watershed scale or larger) of the planning effort and how the planning will contribute to addressing the limiting factors for the species in that geography.

e) Priority Three proposals should:

(1) provide details on exactly how the proposed activities are consistent with the Congressional authorization and demonstrate the need for PCSRF funding.

(2) Documents that demonstrate the need for the proposed work should be cited (and provided upon request).

f) Proposals that include non-competitive projects or program components should describe why a non-competitive process is appropriate and how the non-competitive projects are associated with species recovery priorities identified in NMFS recovery plans.

g) Description of the expected measurable outcomes and benefits to the anadromous salmonids for each proposed priority. The description should be supported quantitatively when possible (e.g., number/types of limiting factors identified in recovery plan(s) being addressed, estimated miles/acres of habitat proposed for restoration, number/types of treaty/subsistence fisheries, number/names of watersheds/populations to be monitored, etc.).

h) Description of project solicitation and selection criteria and processes that will be used to ensure that projects selected for funding under the proposed program will effectively address the intended PCSRF priority.

4. Technical/Scientific Merit. Program narratives must describe the anticipated outcomes for each proposed program and specify anticipated outcomes for projects under the appropriate PCSRF priority.

a) Program(s) Methodology. Applicants should provide evidence to support the feasibility of the proposed program(s), and address whether the program(s) are technically sound and safe for the public.

b) Proposals should describe how the proposed program will encourage and select large-scale strategies to maximize benefits through the implementation of coordinated projects to achieve lasting benefits beyond the award period. Applicants should clearly identify the different project phase(s) (e.g., feasibility study, engineering and design, on-the-ground implementation) to be funded through the proposed program(s).

c) Program Detail. The program narrative should include a timeline with key milestones and deliverables identified and detail how the actions will be completed within the specified time period. The proposed actions should be fully described for each proposed program. This includes identifying all consultation and permitting requirements in the program's process

and sub-award requirements.

d) Sustainability. The narrative should describe future management, beyond the award period, including mechanisms to protect, maintain, or sustain the proposed project(s) to be funded under the program so the effects of the funded proposal can benefit the target species and their habitat into the future. Applicants should also describe how the proposed program(s) provide for ecosystem resilience to extreme weather events or adaptation to potential climate change impacts.

Individual Tribes:

1. Overall Qualifications of the Applicant

a) Pacific Salmon Recovery and Conservation Qualifications. Within the project narrative, applicants should describe the Pacific salmon recovery and conservation qualifications of the project team (staff and/or partners), including experience with planning, design, engineering, implementation, and/or monitoring for Pacific salmon projects. Resumes or curriculum vitae (CVs) for up to five (5) key personnel should be included within PDF 5. Supplemental Materials, and the documents should highlight relevant education, experiences, and training.

b) Management Capacity. Within the project narrative, applicants should describe the project team's ability to successfully manage a federal award. Applicants should demonstrate a strong capacity to maintain financial and administrative records and fulfill reporting requirements. This may include reference to reports that the applicant has completed on their past accomplishments, including how the projects implemented with PCSRF funds adhered to the allocation of funds by PCSRF Program Priority proposed in prior PCSRF awards. Within the attached resumes or CVs, applicants should highlight relevant experience with management of federal funds or other significant grant awards. Applicants should address whether the project team has the capacity to complete the proposed work on time, even in the face of adverse conditions.

2. Project Costs.

Applicants should follow the guidance provided under PDF 3. Budget Narrative.

3. Importance/Relevance and Applicability of Proposal to the Program Goals. Project narratives must describe the anticipated outcomes for each proposed project and specify anticipated outcomes for projects.

Program Proposal by PCSRF Program Priority. A separate narrative and budget should be provided for each PCSRF Program Priority identified in Section I.B (PCSRF Program

Priorities) that the proposed program intends to address. The applicant must describe the following under each priority:

- a) Proposed amount of funding for projects to address a given priority.
 - (1) Description of the proposed project(s) activities and how they address a given priority, including the rationale and justification for how the program/projects will address the priority (i.e., clarify why the activities are appropriate for the given priority).
 - (2) Priority One proposals should identify the specific salmonid population(s) and explain what population-specific limiting factors will be addressed and describe the anticipated outcomes. Provide the following information, as appropriate.
 - i. For ESA-listed anadromous salmonid populations, include the name of the approved, interim, or proposed Recovery Plan(s) that identifies the factors limiting productivity.
 - ii. For anadromous salmonid populations needed for tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing, identify the specific tribal or native subsistence fisheries and explain how the proposed project(s) will benefit or sustain the affected populations.
 - iii. Describe how the project(s) will encourage and select large-scale strategies that maximize benefits through the implementation of coordinated projects that address multiple priority limiting factors.
 - iv. Describe how the project(s) will include the restoration and protection of riparian habitats in priority areas for salmonids.
 - v. Describe how habitat restoration activities under Priority One will be designed to achieve lasting benefits through the restoration of self-sustaining natural ecosystem functions and processes (e.g., re-establishing floodplain connection and function, restoring natural river-channel migration, re-establishing ecologically functional riparian buffers).
 - vi. Describe how project(s) funds invested under Priority One will maximize benefits by leveraging additional coordinated investments from other entities and programs.
 - vii. Priority One project(s) may also include the development of project-specific engineering or designs that are a necessary precursor to implementing on-the-ground habitat improvement projects (excludes development of generic designs).
4. Technical/Scientific Merit. Project narratives must describe the anticipated outcomes for each proposed project and specify anticipated outcomes for projects under the appropriate PCSRF priority.
- a) Project Methodology. Applicants should provide evidence to support the feasibility of the proposed techniques, and address whether the methods are technically sound and/or innovative, and safe for the public. The narrative should also describe clear project goals and objectives, the sustainability of the proposed methods, and descriptions should address the susceptibility of the project(s) to effects of climate change.

- b) Proposals should describe how the proposed project(s) will achieve measurable benefits to anadromous salmonids beyond the award period. Applicants should clearly identify the different project phase(s) (e.g., feasibility study, engineering and design, on-the-ground implementation) to be funded through the proposed project (s). For projects including or solely focused on tribal organizational capacity building, the proposal should describe a measurable approach to increased tribal participation and how it will lead to measurable benefits to anadromous salmonids.
- c) Project Detail. The project narrative should include a timeline with key milestones and deliverables identified and detail how the actions will be completed within the specified time period. If multiple projects are included within one proposal, the proposed actions should be fully described for each project.
- d) Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation. Applicants should describe the performance metrics that will be used to evaluate the success of the proposed project based on the PCSRF project database metrics. Proposals requesting funding for on-the-ground implementation activities should include a Monitoring Plan (2-page limit) as part of the Supplemental Materials.
- e) Sustainability. The narrative should describe future management, beyond the award period, including mechanisms to protect, maintain, or sustain the proposed project(s) so the effects of the funded proposal can benefit the targeted anadromous salmonids and their habitats into the future. Applicants should also describe how the proposed design, methodology, and techniques provide for ecosystem resilience to extreme weather events or adaptation to potential climate change impacts at the project site. An operations and maintenance plan should be considered when applicants are proposing to install structures that require ongoing operation and maintenance.

PDF 3. Budget Narrative (no page limit)

Reviewers will evaluate project costs by reviewing the budget narrative. Project costs must be separated by each year of the project period and divided into the following categories, also referred to as SF-424A Object Classes: Personnel, Fringe Benefits, Travel, Equipment, Supplies, Contractual, and Other. The sum of funds requested under these Object Classes should be recorded as Total Direct Costs. The costs required for organizational operation that cannot be easily associated with an individual project or program should be recorded as Indirect Costs. Organizations with a federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) are required to include a copy of the approved NICRA or provide documentation on a new proposed rate agreement before indirect costs can be accrued in PDF 5.

Supplemental Materials. Organizations without a NICRA may claim the 10% de minimis rate for calculating indirect charges on the Modified Total Direct Costs or may negotiate a rate, as outlined below (see 2 CFR § 200.1 for definitions). Refer to Sections IV.F. and VI.B. of this announcement for more information about indirect costs. These totals should also be

recorded on the SF-424A. NOAA staff will review budget information in recommended applications to determine if costs are allowable, allocable, reasonable, and realistic. Please refer to the budget narrative guidance for developing a proper budget justification, which is located at https://coast.noaa.gov/data/coasthome/funding/_pdf/forms/budget-narrative-guidance-for-NOAA-grants.pdf.

Recipients are encouraged to attend the biennial in-person PCSRF grantee meeting, and should outline travel-related expenses in their application as appropriate. States and Tribal Commissions/Consortia: Travel expenses related to attendance of the biennial in-person PCSRF grantee meeting do not fall within the 3% limitation on administrative expenses.

If any portion of the project will be conducted through consultants, subcontracts and/or sub-awards, you must follow the requirements set out at 2 C.F.R. § 200.331 through 200.332, as applicable.

PDF 4. Project Designs (no page limit)

If available or applicable, project designs should be included in the application in order for reviewers to comprehensively assess the technical merit of the proposed restoration actions. Construction specifications, scopes of work for services, and cost estimates may also be provided. Please do not attach feasibility studies or watershed plans; the critical components of those documents should be summarized in the project narrative.

PDF 5. Supplemental Materials (25-page limit)

All supplemental materials should be combined into a single PDF, including a cover page that lists all of the documents and associated page numbers. The cover page does not count toward the 25-page limit. The compiled PDF should be uploaded under the “Other Attachments Form” in Grants.gov.

Include resumes or CVs for up to five (5) key personnel (maximum of 1 page per person), as described in the guidance (Section IV.B.3) under Overall Qualification of Applicant.

Include a Data Management Plan (2-page limit). See Section VI.B.5 of this announcement for a complete description of NOAA’s Data and Publication Sharing Directive for NOAA Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and Contracts.

If applicable, include a Monitoring Plan (2-page limit) for proposals that involve on-the-ground implementation, as described in the guidance (Section IV.B.2) for the

“Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation” sub-criterion under Technical/Scientific Merit.

Include any other relevant supporting materials, such as: a federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement; documentation of confirmed sources of formal, non-federal matching contributions or informal leveraged funds; additional site photos; etc.

States and Tribal Commissions or Consortia Only: A current copy of a signed MOU with NMFS (if applicable).

C. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

Applicants should: (1) be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) before submitting an application; (2) provide a valid unique entity identifier on an application; and (3) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal awarding agency. NOAA may not make a federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time NOAA is ready to make a federal award, NOAA may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant. Applicants should allow a minimum of two weeks to complete the SAM registration; registration is required only once but must be periodically renewed.

D. Submission Dates and Times

The application deadline is March 04, 2024, at 11:59 PM Eastern time. See Section III.C for more information.

E. Intergovernmental Review

Applications submitted by state and local governments are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." Any applicant submitting an application for funding is required to complete item 19 on SF-424 regarding clearance by the State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) established as a result of EO 12372. To find out about and comply with a State's process under EO 12372, contact the official listed in Section VII of this announcement for referral information.

F. Funding Restrictions

As program entities, the states and Tribal Commissions or Consortia will limit administrative expenses to no more than three percent (3%) of the federal funds received.

The 3% limitation on administrative expenses is not applicable to individual tribes applying directly on their own behalf for projects.

Administrative expenses are defined as all costs, including direct and associated indirect costs, incurred by the State, Commission, or Consortium in administering the PCSRF grant and managing the distribution of the PCSRF grant funds to sub-recipients, contractors, programs, or projects that undertake PCSRF activities. Administrative expenses include activities such as sub-agreement and contracts management and monitoring, accounting, program oversight, site visits, program support and overhead costs, and competitive funding allocation processes including the processing and administrative review of project applications and proposals.

Data management activities related to PCSRF reporting requirements, including the PCSRF web-based project tracking database system (found at www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/pcsrp), do not fall within the administrative expenses. This includes the costs for implementing new project reporting requirements under Phase II of the PCSRF database.

Cultural Resource compliance support related to NMFS' undertaking of issuing federal funds does not fall within the administrative expenses. This includes the costs for developing and implementing a programmatic agreement with NMFS under the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106.

G. Other Submission Requirements

Applicants should submit applications electronically through www.Grants.gov. Users of [Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) will be able to create an online application workspace to submit the application. If an applicant has problems accessing the online workspace at [Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov), contact [Grants.gov](mailto:support@Grants.gov) Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or support@Grants.gov. Applications must be submitted by the due date and time provided in Section IV.D. Late applications may not be considered for funding. We highly recommend that applicants do not wait until the application deadline to begin the application process through [Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov), as registration with SAM is required (Section IV.C).

The proposal must be validated by [Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) in order to be considered timely. PLEASE NOTE: It may take [Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) up to two (2) business days to validate or reject the application. Please keep this in mind in developing your submission timeline.

For applicants that do not have access to the internet, one signed original and two hard copy applications must be postmarked or received by the established due date for the program at the following address: Kyle Bowers, Federal Program Officer, NMFS West Coast Region,

800 E. Park Blvd, Plaza IV, Suite 220, Boise ID 83712-7768. Use of U.S. mail or another delivery service must be documented with a receipt. (Note that late-arriving hard copy proposals provided to a delivery service on or before 11:59 pm Eastern Time on the closing date for applications will be accepted for review if the applicant can document that the proposal was provided to the guaranteed delivery service by the specified closing date and time and if the proposal is received by the West Coast Region Grants Program Manager no later than 5:00 pm Eastern Time, two business days following the closing date.) No facsimile or electronic mail proposals will be accepted.

After electronic submission of the application, applicants will receive an automatic acknowledgment from Grants.gov that contains a Grants.gov tracking number. Applications submitted through Grants.gov will be accompanied by THREE automated responses (the first confirms receipt; the second validates that the submission is acceptable and timely; and the third confirms that the application has been forwarded to NOAA for further processing). If all notifications are not received, applicants should contact the Grants.gov help desk to confirm the application was successfully submitted. After submitting the application package, applicants should download a copy of the submitted application for offline record keeping and to verify the contents of the submission zip file. Grants.gov recommends downloading the submitted application via the Details tab of the workspace and verifying the contents of each file in the zip.

Submission time will be documented by electronic submission to Grants.gov. All applications MUST contain ALL required forms. Failure to submit forms may result in disqualification from this competition. Applicants are responsible for tracking their own applications. Please notify the contact official in Section VII of this announcement by email if you are experiencing difficulties with Grants.gov or your organization is not able to use this system.

V. Application Review Information

A. Evaluation Criteria

Reviewers will assign scores to applications ranging from 0-100 points based on the following evaluation criteria. The maximum score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses. Each criterion also includes the factors the reviewers will consider to determine how well an application meets the criterion. The components of a proposal addressing each priority will be evaluated separately and the respective points under each priority for Importance/Relevance and Technical Merit evaluation criteria will be averaged to produce one total overall score for Importance/Relevance and Technical Merit evaluation criteria.

NMFS anticipates a greater proportion of the available FY 2024 PCSRF funding will be distributed to higher scoring proposals addressing the higher priorities. For proposals that mis-prioritize activities, reviewers will be instructed to use a consistent methodology for adjusting scores accordingly. For proposals that list activities under multiple priorities without breaking out the funding by priority, reviewers will be instructed to determine the appropriate priority for each activity and evaluate it accordingly.

We encourage applicants to make explicit connections to the evaluation criteria in their applications. Applications that best address these criteria will be most competitive. Applicant types (states, tribal commissions/consortia, individual tribes) will be reviewed by different reviewers to eliminate potential biases in comparing applications. Top range scores indicate the application fully addressed the criterion, a score of 0 indicates the criterion was not addressed at all.

1. Overall qualifications of the applicant (20 Points): This criterion ascertains whether the applicant and their project/program management team possess the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to support the proposed award. For this competition, applications will be evaluated based on the following (as demonstrated by attached resumes, past project experience, and accomplishments of the key technical and financial staff):

a) Salmon Recovery and Conservation Qualifications. Does the project/program team (staff and/or partners) demonstrate the necessary education and experience in stakeholder collaboration, planning, design, engineering, construction, and/or monitoring efforts, in order to successfully carry out the scale and scope of the project/program? Does the proposal demonstrate that the project/program team has the capacity to complete the proposed work, even in the face of adverse conditions?

b) Management Capacity. Does the applicant describe the necessary experience, qualifications, facilities, equipment, and administrative resources available to successfully fulfill the responsibilities associated with managing a federal grant award? Does the applicant demonstrate an ability to manage the requested amount of funds, maintain financial and administrative records, and fulfill reporting requirements?

2. Project Costs (20 points): This criterion evaluates the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the program or project(s) needs and time-frame. For this competition, applications will be evaluated on the following:

a) A justification and rationale for the amount of funding proposed by geographical area to meet the PCSRF program priorities. The justification and need for funding should be supported by evidence and described quantitatively when possible (e.g., miles/acres of habitat needing restoration; number or extent of ESA-listed Pacific salmon or Pacific salmon at risk; stocks important for tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing, etc.). The description should also address the applicant's other sources of funding for salmonid

programs and projects.

b) Detailed budgets by program or project(s) that itemize the proposal costs including administrative and overhead costs within prescribed limits.

c) A description (for state and Tribal Commissions or Consortia) of their monitoring effort that will account for at least ten percent (10%) of the funding proposed.

d) A description (for state applications) of the sources and amounts of matching funds (including details on sources and determinations on estimated value of any in-kind contributions) that will be applied to achieve the minimum matching requirements of 33% of the federal funds requested.

e) A description (for state and Tribal Commissions or Consortia) of how the proposed program will maximize benefits by leveraging additional coordinated investments from other entities and programs.

3. Outreach and education (0 Points): Outreach and education, as defined by NOAA under the standardized evaluation and selection process, is not being evaluated under this competition. Outreach and education efforts remain valid PCSRF activities under Priority Three; however, such activities do not contribute to an applicant's program-level evaluation score.

4. Evaluation of Proposals under each PCSRF Priority (60 points)

a) Importance and/or relevance and applicability of proposed project to the program priorities (30 Points): This criterion ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and its relevance to the applicable PCSRF Program Priority. Proposals will be evaluated based on how relevant and effective the proposals are in providing demonstrable and measurable benefits to the highest priority needs of anadromous salmonids in respective geographic areas. Successful applications will include the following information in their project narratives:

(1) Narrative descriptions (for Priority One proposals) that clearly articulate how program/projects will:

i. Address factors limiting the productivity of Pacific anadromous salmonid populations that are (either one or both):

(a) ESA-listed anadromous salmonids

(i) Identify how the proposal advances the priority recovery actions as detailed in approved, interim, or proposed Recovery Plans and/or the most recent 5-year reviews.

(b) Necessary for the exercise of tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing.

(i) Identify the fishery(ies) with the greatest need for projects to restore or maintain the target salmonid population(s).

(c) Achieve lasting benefits through the restoration of self-sustaining natural ecosystem functions and processes (e.g., re-establishing floodplain connection and function, restoring natural river-channel migration, re-establishing ecologically functional riparian

buffers).

(d) Describe (for State and Tribal Commissions or Consortia) how the proposed program will encourage and select large-scale strategies that maximize benefits through the implementation of coordinated projects that address multiple priority limiting factors.

(2) Narrative descriptions (for Priority Two proposals) that clearly:

i. Justify the type and location of monitoring proposals and identify how the results of proposed monitoring will inform population-level status and trends assessments, watershed- scale restoration effectiveness evaluations, and/or monitoring necessary for the exercise of tribal-treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing.

ii. Describe the contribution larger scale restoration planning will have on the conservation of the associated anadromous salmonid populations.

(3) Narrative descriptions (for Priority Three proposals) that demonstrate and justify an urgent need for funding to achieve a measurable benefit for the conservation and restoration of anadromous salmonids.

b) Technical/scientific merit (30 Points): This criterion assesses whether the activity or approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and objectives. Proposals will be evaluated on whether there is a technically sound approach to manage and implement proposed projects; whether there is sufficient information to evaluate the project or program technically; and, if so, the strengths and/or weaknesses of the project or program approach to securing productive results. Successful applications will include the following information in their project narratives:

(1) Narrative descriptions (for Priority One proposals) that clearly articulate the selection and design of viable projects that will effectively address limiting factors for ESA-listed anadromous salmonids and/or restore or maintain salmonid populations necessary for the exercise of tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing.

i. Describe how habitat restoration activities under Priority One will be designed to achieve lasting benefits through the restoration of self-sustaining natural ecosystem functions and processes (e.g., re-establishing floodplain connection and function, restoring natural river-channel migration, re-establishing ecologically functional riparian buffers).

(2) Narrative descriptions (for Priority Two proposals) that clearly articulate the proposed monitoring methodology and design for producing scientifically valid results at the watershed or population scales.

(3) Narrative descriptions (for Priority Three proposals) that clearly articulate proposed methodologies designed to achieve measurable benefits to anadromous salmonids, and substantiate the urgency and need of the proposed activities.

B. Review and Selection Process

Administrative Review: Applications will undergo an initial administrative screening to determine if the packages are eligible and complete. NOAA, in its sole discretion, may

continue the review process for applications with non-substantive issues that may be easily rectified or cured. Applications are screened to ensure that they were received by the deadline date, that the applicant is eligible to apply, and that the application includes a project narrative, budget, and supporting documentation as outlined in Section IV.B. NOAA is not required to screen applications before the submission deadline to identify deficiencies that would cause the application to be rejected or receive a poor evaluation. However, if deficiencies are identified by NOAA or the applicant before the deadline, the applicant may correct any deficiencies by submitting a revised application. After the deadline, the application must remain as submitted; no changes can be made to it.

Technical Review: Applications that satisfy the administrative review will advance for a technical review. Eligible applications will undergo a technical review and ranking process to determine how well they meet the program priorities and evaluation criteria of this solicitation and the mission and goals of NOAA. Eligible applications will be independently evaluated by three or more technical reviewers based on the evaluation criteria listed in Section V.A. No consensus advice will be given. Applicant types (states, tribal commissions/consortia, individual tribes) will be reviewed by different reviewers to eliminate potential biases in comparing applications. The reviewers' ratings will be averaged to determine the final technical score for each application and produce a rank order of the proposals. Technical reviewers will be required to certify that they do not have a conflict of interest and that they will maintain confidentiality of the applications.

Panel Review: After the proposals have been evaluated and ranked, NMFS will solicit comments and input on funding recommendations from a panel of at least three (3) Federal full-time employees comprised of the NMFS Alaska and West Coast regions. NMFS will provide the panelists with the applications, a summary of the technical review evaluations and the rank order of the proposals.

For applicants in areas supporting species in NMFS' "Species in the Spotlight: Survive to Thrive" initiative (<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/endangered-species-conservation/species-in-the-spotlight>), applications may be considered based on how relevant the proposed activities are to stabilizing the relevant anadromous salmonid species and preventing their extinction, as well as supporting Chinook salmon populations that contribute to the prey base of Southern Resident Killer Whales (https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/srkw_priority_chinook_stocks_conceptual_model_report___list_22june2018.pdf).

For applicants in areas addressed by the Columbia Basin Partnership, proposals will be evaluated on whether the proposed activities advance the goals adopted by the Columbia

Basin Partnership.

Proposals will be evaluated on whether climate change impacts are being addressed in the design and implementation of projects that support salmon and steelhead species that are most vulnerable to climate change. For more information on species most vulnerable to climate change, see Crozier LG, McClure MM, Beechie T, Bograd SJ, Boughton DA, et al. (2019) Climate vulnerability assessment for Pacific salmon and steelhead in the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem. PLOS ONE 14(7): e0217711. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0217711>

The panel review will prioritize programs and projects that have established partnerships with tribes and that have diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives identified. NOAA is committed to the goals of advancing equity and support for underserved communities. NOAA encourages applicants to include and demonstrate principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility through proactive, meaningful, and equitable community engagement in the identification, design, and/or implementation of proposed projects. NOAA also encourages applicants to appropriately consider and elevate local or Indigenous knowledge in project design, implementation, and evaluation. Guidance on Indigenous Knowledge is available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/OSTP-CEQ-IK-Guidance.pdf>

For BIL and IRA funds, the panel review will prioritize Priority One programs and projects as well as projects for tribal capacity (Priority Three) specific to tribes' role as fishery managers and stewards of tribal trust resources for cultural, spiritual, subsistence, and recreational purposes. Particular emphasis will be given to activities that build tribal capacity to participate in salmon recovery, conservation planning, and project development including providing Indigenous Knowledge, and managing project design, implementation, and project effectiveness monitoring. Hence, awards may not necessarily be made to the highest-scored applications.

C. Selection Factors

The Assistant Administrator for NMFS will be the Selecting Official who makes the final award recommendation to the Grants Officer authorized to obligate funds. The Selecting Official will review the rank order, funding recommendations and comments from the Panel Review and determine the applicants to be funded and how much funding shall be awarded to each selected applicant. In making the final selections, the Selecting Official will recommend awarding in rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based upon one of the selection factors below:

1. Availability of funding;

2. Program priorities and policy factors set out in Sections I.A. and I.B.;
3. Balance/distribution of funds by: a) geographic area, b) type of institutions, c) type of partners, d) research areas, or e) project types;
4. Applicant's prior award performance;
5. Partnerships and/or participation of targeted groups, including tribes and underserved communities; and
6. Adequacy of information necessary for NOAA staff to make a NEPA determination and draft necessary documentation (Section VI.B) before recommendations for funding are made to the NOAA GMD.

D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Successful applicants will be notified through NOAA's grants management system. The NOAA Grants Officer will issue the grant award, Form CD-450, which is the authorizing financial assistance award document. Funding is expected to begin during September 2024, for most approved awards, subject to the availability of funds. September 1, 2024, will be used as the start date on awards, unless a later date is requested by the applicant (and approved by the NOAA Grants Officer) or otherwise directed by the NOAA Grants Officer.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

1. Upon completion of the review and selection process, successful applicants will receive notification from a NMFS Regional representative that their application is being recommended for funding selection to the NOAA Grants Management Division. This notification is not an authorization to begin project operations, and is not a guarantee of funding. Official notification of selection, signed by the NOAA Grants Officer, is the authorizing document that allows a project to begin. Notifications will be issued to the Authorizing Official of the project electronically via NOAA's grants management system or in hard copy. Projects should not be initiated in expectation of Federal funding until the Applicant's Authorized Representative has received the official notice of the award from the NOAA Grants Officer and has reviewed and accepted the terms of the award. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified that their proposal was not recommended for funding or was not reviewed because it did not meet the minimum requirements described in section IV.B (Content and Form of Applications). Applications not selected for funding shall be destroyed.

2. Applicants may be asked to modify proposal components, objectives, work plans, or budgets prior to final approval of an award to address technical review and/or panel review

comments, and to conform to the PCSRF Program Priorities and available award funds. The exact amount of funds to be awarded, the final scope of activities, the project duration, and specific NOAA cooperative involvement with the activities of each project will be determined in pre-award negotiations among the applicant, the NOAA Grants Office, and NOAA/NMFS program staff.

3. Award documents provided by the Grants Officer may contain special award conditions for activities outlined within the proposal. These special award conditions may also include other compliance requirements for the award as applicable and will be applied on a case-by-case basis. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review award documents carefully before accepting a Federal award so they are fully aware of the relevant Standard Terms and Conditions as well as any Special Award Conditions that have been placed on the award.

4. PRE-AWARD COSTS. Per 2 CFR § 200.458, NOAA authorizes award recipients to expend pre-award costs up to 90 days before the period of performance start date at the applicant's own risk without approval from NOAA, and in accordance with the applicant's internal policies and procedures. Such costs are allowable only to the extent that they would have been allowable if incurred after the date of the Federal award. This does not include direct proposal costs (as defined at 2 CFR § 200.460). Neither NOAA nor the Department of Commerce is responsible for direct proposal preparation costs. Pre-award costs will be a portion of, not in addition to, the approved total budget of the award. Pre-award costs expended more than 90 days prior to the period of performance start date require approval from the Grants Officer. This does not change the period of performance start date.

5. GRANTS OFFICER SIGNATURE. Proposals submitted in response to this solicitation are not considered awards until the Grants Officer has signed the grant agreement. Only Grants Officers can bind the Government to the expenditure of funds. The Grants Officer's digital signature constitutes an obligation of funds by the federal government and formal approval of the award.

6. Limitation of Liability. Funding for programs listed in this notice is contingent upon the availability of funds. In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if this program fails to receive funding or is canceled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds. Recipients and sub-recipients are subject to all Federal laws and agency policies, regulations and procedures applicable to Federal financial assistance awards.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The recipient and any sub-recipients must, in addition to the assurances made as part of the application, comply and require each of its contractors and subcontractors employed in the completion of the project to comply with all applicable statutes, regulations, EOs, OMB circulars, terms and conditions, and approved applications. Department of Commerce (DOC) Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions may be found at: <https://www.commerce.gov/oam/policy/financial-assistance-policy>. The PCSRF Program will also add special award conditions in addition to the DOC Standard Terms and Conditions.

The recipients must comply with EO 12906 regarding any and all geospatial data collected or produced under grants or cooperative agreements. This includes documenting all geospatial data in accordance with the Federal Geographic Data Committee Content Standard for digital geospatial data.

1. Pre-award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements. The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the Federal Register notice of December 30, 2014 (79 FR 78390) are applicable to this solicitation and may be accessed online at www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-30/pdf/2014-30297.pdf.

2. Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements. Through 2 C.F.R. § 1327.101, the Department of Commerce adopted Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, which apply to awards in this program. Refer to <http://go.usa.gov/SBYh> and <http://go.usa.gov/SBg4>.

3. Terms and Conditions

a) DOC Terms and Conditions

Successful applicants who accept a NOAA award under this solicitation will be bound by Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions. This document will be provided in the award package in NOAA's grants management system. Current versions are available at <http://www.ago.noaa.gov> and at <https://www.commerce.gov/oam/policy/financial-assistance-policy>.

b) Bureau specific Terms and Conditions

Successful applicants who accept an award under this solicitation will be bound by bureau-specific standard terms and conditions. These terms and conditions will be provided in the award package in NOAA's grants management system. For NOAA awards only, the

Administrative Standard Award Conditions for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Financial Assistance Awards U.S. Department of Commerce are applicable to this solicitation and may be accessed online at <https://www.noaa.gov/organization/acquisition-grants/financial-assistance>.

4. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq., as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508), requires that Federal agencies include in their decision-making processes appropriate and careful consideration of all environmental effects of proposed actions, analyze potential environmental effects of proposed actions and their alternatives, avoid or minimize adverse effects of proposed actions, and restore and enhance environmental quality to the extent practicable. Therefore, NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for applicant projects or proposals which are seeking NOAA federal funding opportunities. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA website: <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/>, including NOAA Administrative Order 216-6A for NEPA, http://www.corporateservices.noaa.gov/ames/administrative_orders/chapter_216/216-cfr6A.html, and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/NEPA-40CFR1500_1508.pdf.

Consequently, as part of an applicant's package, and under its description of its program activities, applicants are required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non-indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to coral reef systems). In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. Failure to do so shall be grounds for not selecting an application. In some cases, if additional information is required after an application is selected, funds can be withheld by the Grants Officer under a special award condition requiring the recipient to submit additional environmental compliance information sufficient to enable NOAA to make an assessment on any impacts that a project may have on the environment.

5. NOAA's Data Sharing Policy

a) Environmental data and information collected and/or created under NOAA grants agreements must be made discoverable by and accessible to the general public, in a timely fashion (typically within two years), free of charge or at no more than the cost of reproduction, unless an exemption is granted by the NOAA Program. Data should be available in at least one machine-readable format, preferably based on widely used or open standard format, and should also be accompanied by machine-readable documentation (metadata), preferably based on widely-used or international standards.

b) Proposals submitted in response to this Announcement must include a Data Management Plan of up to two pages describing how these requirements will be satisfied. The Data Management Plan should be aligned with the Data Management Guidance provided by NOAA in the Announcement (Section IV.B., Project Narrative, paragraph (2)(f)). The contents of the Data Management Plan (or absence thereof), and past performance regarding such plans will be considered as part of proposal review. A typical plan should include descriptions of the types of environmental data and information expected to be created during the course of the project; the tentative date by which data will be shared; the standards to be used for data/metadata format and content; methods for providing data access; approximate total volume of data to be collected; and prior experience in making such data accessible. The costs of data preparation, accessibility, or archiving may be included in the proposal budget unless otherwise stated in the Guidance. Accepted submission of data to the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) is one way to satisfy data sharing requirements; however, NCEI is not obligated to accept all submissions and may charge a fee, particularly for large or unusual datasets.

c) NOAA may, at its own discretion, make publicly visible the Data Management Plan from funded proposals, or use information from the Data Management Plan to produce a formal metadata record and include that metadata in a Catalog to indicate the pending availability of new data.

d) Proposal submitters are hereby advised that the final pre-publication manuscripts of scholarly articles produced entirely or primarily with NOAA funding will be required to be submitted to NOAA Institutional Repository after acceptance, and no later than upon publication. Such manuscripts shall be made publicly available by NOAA one year after publication by the journal.

e) Publications, Videos and Acknowledgement of Sponsorship. Publication of the results or findings of the funded award activities in appropriate professional journals, outreach materials, or press releases, and production of video or other media is encouraged as an important method of recording and reporting scientific information. These are also constructive means to expand access to federally funded research. The recipient is required to submit a copy of any publication to the funding agency. The recipient is also responsible for assuring that every publication of material (including Internet sites and videos) based on or developed under an award, except scientific articles or papers appearing in scientific,

technical or professional journals, contains the following acknowledgement and disclaimer: “This project received funding under award [number]. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA.” The final report is a public document and may be posted, partially or in its entirety, on the NOAA website.

f) More information can be found on NOAA’s Data Management Procedures at: https://nosc.noaa.gov/EDMC/documents/Data_Sharing_Directive_v3.0_remediated.pdf and at NAO 212-15 Management of Environmental Data and Information: <https://www.noaa.gov/organization/administration/nao-212-15-management-of-environmental-data-and-information>.

6. Minority Serving Institutions. The Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (DOC/NOAA) is strongly committed to increasing the participation of Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), i.e., Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal colleges and universities, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian institutions, and institutions that work in under-served communities.

7. NOAA Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response Policy. NOAA requires organizations receiving federal assistance to report incidents of sexual harassment, or any other kind of harassment, regarding a Principal Investigator (PI), co-PI, or any personnel associated with the award.

8. Required Use of American Iron, Steel, Manufactured Products, and Construction Materials. If applicable, and pursuant to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (“IIJA”), Pub. L. No. 117-58, which includes the Build American, Buy American (BABA) Act, Pub. L. No. 117-58, §§ 70901-52 and OMB M-22-11, recipients of an award of Federal financial assistance from the Department of Commerce (DOC) are hereby notified that none of the funds provided under this award may be used for a project for infrastructure unless: 1) all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States – this means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States; 2) all manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States – this means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States; and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation; and 3) all construction materials are manufactured in the United States – this means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States. The Buy America preference only applies to articles,

materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project. As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought to the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does a Buy America preference apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

Waivers. When necessary, recipients may apply for, and DOC may grant, a waiver from these requirements. DOC will notify the recipient for information on the process for requesting a waiver from these requirements. 1) When DOC has made a determination that one of the following exceptions applies, the awarding official may waive the application of the domestic content procurement preference in any case in which DOC determines that: a. applying the domestic content procurement preference would be inconsistent with the public interest; b. the types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or c. the inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent. A request to waive the application of the domestic content procurement preference must be in writing. DOC will provide instructions on the format, contents, and supporting materials required for any waiver request. Waiver requests are subject to public comment periods of no less than 15 days and must be reviewed by the Made in America Office. There may be instances where an award qualifies, in whole or in part, for an existing waiver described at whitehouse.gov/omb/management/made-in-america.

Definitions. “Construction materials” includes an article, material, or supply – other than an item of primarily iron or steel; a manufactured product; cement and cementitious materials; aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel; or aggregate binding agents or additives – that is or consists primarily of: non-ferrous metals; plastic and polymer-based products (including polyvinyl chloride, composite building materials, and polymers used in fiber optic cables); glass (including optic glass); lumber; or drywall. “Domestic content procurement preference” means all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States; the manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States; or the construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States. “Infrastructure” includes, at a minimum, the structures, facilities, and equipment for, in the United States, roads, highways, and bridges; public transportation; dams, ports, harbors, and other maritime facilities; intercity passenger and freight railroads; freight and intermodal facilities; airports; water systems, including drinking water and wastewater systems; electrical transmission facilities and systems; utilities; broadband infrastructure; and buildings and real property.

Infrastructure includes facilities that generate, transport, and distribute energy. "Project" means the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the United States.

9. **Review of Risk.** After applications are proposed for funding by the Selecting Official, the Grants Office will perform administration reviews, including an assessment of risk posed by the applicant under 2 CFR § 200.205. These may include assessments of the financial stability of an applicant and the quality of the applicant's management systems, history of performance, and the applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities. Special conditions that address any risks determined to exist may be applied. Applicants may submit comments to the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS) about any information included in the system about their organization for consideration by the awarding agency.

10. **Indirect Cost Rate.** If an applicant has not previously established an indirect cost rate with a Federal agency, they may choose to negotiate a rate with the Department of Commerce or use the de minimis indirect cost rate of 10% of MTDC (as allowable under 2 C.F.R. §200.414). The negotiation and approval of a rate is subject to the procedures required by NOAA and the Department of Commerce Standard Terms and Conditions. The NOAA contact for indirect or facilities and administrative costs is:

Michele Mazzocchetti
NOAA Grants Management Division
1325 East West Highway 9th Floor
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
or michele.mazzocchetti@noaa.gov

11. **Reviews and Evaluation.** The applicant acknowledges and understands that information and data contained in applications for financial assistance, as well as information and data contained in financial, performance and other reports submitted by applicants, may be used by the Department of Commerce in conducting reviews and evaluations of its financial assistance programs. For this purpose, applicant information and data may be accessed, reviewed and evaluated by Department of Commerce employees, other Federal employees, and also by Federal agents and contractors, and/or by non-Federal personnel, all of whom enter into appropriate conflict of interest and confidentiality agreements covering the use of such information. As may be provided in the terms and conditions of a specific financial assistance award, applicants are expected to support program reviews and evaluations by submitting required financial and performance information and data in an accurate and timely manner, and by cooperating with the

Department of Commerce and external program evaluators. In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.303(e), applicants are reminded that they must take reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other confidential or sensitive personal or business information created or obtained in connection with a Department of Commerce financial assistance award.

12. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). In the event that an application contains information or data that you do not want disclosed prior to award for purposes other than the evaluation of the application, mark each page containing such information or data with the words "Privileged, Confidential, Commercial, or Financial Information - Limited Use" at the top of the page to assist NOAA in making disclosure determinations. DOC regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C 552, are found at 15 C.F.R. Part 4, which sets forth rules for DOC to make requested materials, information, and records publicly available under FOIA. The contents of funded applications may be subject to requests for release under the FOIA. Based on the information provided by the applicant, the confidentiality of the content of funded applications will be maintained to the maximum extent permitted by law.

C. Reporting

Award recipients will be required to submit financial and performance (technical) reports. Performance reports will be created from the PCSRF tracking database found at www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/PCSRFPhaseII. Financial and performance reports are to be submitted electronically through NOAA's grants management system on a semi-annual basis unless the applicant does not have internet access, in which case hard copy submissions will be accepted. All financial reports are routed directly to the NOAA Grants Officer.

Performance reports are to be downloaded from the PCSRF database and routed to the assigned NMFS Federal Program Officer through NOAA's grants management system. Final progress reporting through the PCSRF database and NOAA's grants management system is due 120 days after the award expiration. The final report shall serve as an overall evaluation of the recipient's success in achieving the goals and objectives of the approved project(s) and programs, specifically describing the work that was performed and its resulting benefit to Pacific coastal salmon as described in its proposal and grant application. The level of detail should allow for NMFS' assessment of the overall success of the project.

Semi-annual progress reports should describe the projects scheduled for the current reporting period and reflect project record changes that address any review comments provided by NMFS. The report should also explain any specific problems or differences between the scheduled and accomplished work.

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, 31 U.S.C. Section 6101 note, includes a requirement for awardees of applicable Federal grants to report information about first-tier sub-awards and executive compensation under Federal assistance awards issued in FY 2011 or later. All awardees of applicable grants and cooperative agreements are required to report to the Federal Subaward Reporting System (FSRS) available at www.FSRS.gov on all sub-awards over \$25,000. Refer to 2 CFR Part 170.

Recipients will be obligated to assist NOAA in complying with all relevant requirements and implementing guidance issued to Federal agencies by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), particularly with respect to any requirements related to the BIL and IRA that may be determined at a later time. NOAA anticipates additional guidance may be forthcoming related to responsibilities of recipients of grant agreements, including guidance on agency-wide or government-wide requirements.

VII. Agency Contacts

For further information on PCSRF, please contact Jennie Franks, PCSRF Program Coordinator, NMFS West Coast Region at (503) 231-2344, or jennie.franks@noaa.gov.

Questions regarding this announcement should be directed to Kyle Bowers, PCSRF Federal Program Officer, NMFS West Coast Region at (208) 495-5898 or kyle.bowers@noaa.gov.

VIII. Other Information

A. Permits and Approvals

The recipient will obtain any necessary permits on projects funded under this announcement. This includes, but is not limited to, any necessary permits or consultations required under the Endangered Species Act, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, as well as NEPA compliance.

Specifically, regarding ESA, a grant award under this funding announcement does not imply any authorization of incidental take of listed species under the ESA. Section 7 consultations will be undertaken by NMFS on projects and activities that may adversely affect ESA listed species. The recipient will obtain necessary permits on any projects and will provide all necessary information to NMFS for ESA consultation, including stipulations in each sub-agreement that the activity should not commence unless and until an ESA consultation has

been completed and all necessary permits have been granted.

B. Paperwork Reduction Act

This collection of information contains requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). The use of Standard Forms CD-346, 424, 424A, 424B and SF-LLL has been approved by the OMB under control numbers 0605-0001, 0348-0043 (4040-0004), 0348-0044 (4040-0006), 0348-0040, 0348-0046 and 0605-0001. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the PRA unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number.