

2012 Request for Initial Proposals for Yukon River Salmon Research and Management Projects FWS # F11PS01558

Overview Information

Federal Agency Name: Alaska Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Funding Opportunity Title: Solicitation for year 2012 Yukon River Salmon Research and Management Fund Proposals.

Announcement Type: This is a two step proposal process: 1.) Submit a one page initial proposal; 2.) If successful, provide a detailed proposal.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 15.608; 15.664

Key Date: Initial Proposal deadline 11:59 p.m. Alaska time, October 7, 2011.

I. Full Text of Announcement

Funding Opportunity Description

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) receives funds for implementation of the Yukon River Salmon Agreement with Canada which was reached in March 2001. The Yukon River Salmon Act of 2000 authorizes funds for implementation of the Agreement including funds for cooperative research and management projects on the Alaska portion of the Yukon River. The Service administers these funds through financial assistance on a competitive basis for projects/studies that advance the scientific community's understanding and management of Chinook and chum salmon in the Yukon River of Alaska. The following is a request for initial **project proposals of one year in length** addressing these needs and priorities listed below. Applicants are strongly encouraged to develop projects that incorporate local capacity with members of Yukon River communities in which they may be working. Coordinating projects with state and federal regulatory agencies is also recommended, but not mandatory.

The initial project proposals will be evaluated by an interagency review committee which will provide recommendations to the U.S. Section of the Yukon River Panel (Panel) for final approval. Authors of selected initial proposals will be notified by the Service to submit detailed proposals for final review and selection. The Panel reserves the right to ask questions for clarification and conduct negotiations with promising proposal authors prior to final selection. The Panel also reserves the right to eliminate from consideration any proposals whose author does not adhere to proposal deadlines or provide clarification in a timely manner, if and when clarification is sought.

The Service will develop and award the financial assistance documents funding the final proposals that meet all federal requirements and for which funding is available. Currently the source of general funding is appropriated funds directed to the Service. The funds shall be used for cooperative Chinook and chum salmon research and management projects in the portion of the Yukon River drainage located in the United States that are recommended by the Panel after review for scientific and technical merit.

Following are the specific priorities/categories laid out by the U.S. Delegation of the Panel for the 20120 Research and Management fund. The four categories will be used as evaluation criteria and are ranked in descending order of importance listed from highest to lowest:

Assess and achieve fishery management objectives:

- a) Develop and expand the genetic baseline for Yukon salmon stocks.
- b) Identify stock composition of salmon runs through genetic stock identification.
- c) Develop and/or improve in-season run size and stock specific estimates at the mouth of the Yukon River.
- d) Monitor salmon escapements by Alaskan Geographic Units.
- e) Develop or incorporate new methodologies and/or approaches to improve management and research capability.
- f) Refine in-season border passage assessment/estimates.

Assess, conserve and restore salmon habitats:

- a) Habitat monitoring.
- b) Identify and characterize salmon spawning and rearing habitats.
- c) Identify and evaluate potential impacts to habitat.
- d) Identify and monitor key salmon spawning streams/areas (index streams).
- e) Identify and implement restoration opportunities.

Improve understanding of salmon biology and ecology:

- a) Develop scientifically-based biological escapement goals for Canadian-origin salmon.
- b) Develop population estimates for Yukon River salmon stocks.
- c) Assessment of the quality of escapements (e.g., age/size/sex; health).
- d) Investigate relationships between salmon and their physical environment.
- e) Investigate relationships between salmon and other organisms.

Build and maintain public support of, and meaningful participation in, salmon resource management.

- a) Develop mutual understandings between agencies and the public, best demonstrated by a third party.
- b) Build and maintain community capacity.
- c) Encourage stewardship of the resource.
- d) Promote public values of the salmon resource.

The following is a list of project names that were funded under the program last year:

- Building & Maintaining Public Support of Salmon Resource Management.

- Chandalar River fall chum Age, Sex, and Length collection.
- East Fork Andreafsky River Chinook Salmon Carcass Survey.
- The Yukon River Sub-district 5A Test Fish Wheel and ASL Project.
- Technical Assistance, Development, and Support to Tanana River Fish Wheel Salmon Monitoring Projects using Remote Video Technology.
- Mountain Village Fall Season Gillnet Test Fishery.
- Salcha River Chinook and Chum Salmon Counting Tower.
- Pilot Station Extended Field Operations.

Award information

The Service will award approximately \$400,000 for the 2012 season and encourages modest funding requests to provide funding opportunities for all approved projects.

Eligibility Information/Eligible Applicants

Applications are encouraged from nonprofit organizations, public and private educational organizations, federal, state, local, and tribal governments and organizations, and individuals. Applicants who had projects funded with R&M funds in 2011, and who have applications that successfully compete for funding with R&M funds in 2012, will not receive their 2012 funds until the R&M Review Committee reviews and accepts their final report for the work funded in 2011. Organizations, their officers, or individuals identified on the Excluded Parties List System <http://www.epls.gov> are ineligible to compete for funds through this program and should not submit an initial proposal. Successful registration on the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) <http://www.ccr.gov> is not required during this initial proposal phase. However, successful registration on CCR is a mandatory pre-requisite to receiving a 2012 award.

Cost sharing or Matching

Cost sharing or matching is not required, but is encouraged.

Application and Submission Information

Address to Submit Application Package:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Attention: Aaron Martin
101 12th Av., Room 110
Fairbanks, AK. 99701.

All instructions for proposal submittal are included in this document. Hard copies of application materials can be requested from the agency contact listed in Section II of this document.

Initial Proposal Format and Content (One page initial proposal should include):

- PROJECT TITLE
- PROJECT PROPONENT (Name, Organization, Address, Phone number, E-mail)
- PROJECT PARTNERS/ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS
- PROJECT LOCATION (sub-basin, closest community, etc.)
- PROJECT OBJECTIVES
- PROJECT SUMMARY
- ESTIMATED BUDGET
- **ONE PARAGRAPH ABSTRACT/SUMMARY OF RESULTS IF FUNDED BY R&M GRANT IN 2011 (does not count toward one page limitation).**

Note: Please limit initial proposals to one page following this format. Electronic submissions are preferred and are to be sent to: FAIR_USRM@fws.gov. Submittal of your initial proposal through Grants.govAPPLY is available for your use in accordance with P.L. 106-107, but remains optional. Hard copies are to be submitted to the above address. It is the responsibility of the applicant to verify that their proposal has been received by the designated recipient.

Final/Detailed Proposal Format and Content

Proponents requested to submit detailed proposals will be provided an outline for those proposals.

Additional Information

- Applicants should be aware that Salmon Research and Management Act funds will not be available until after the Service processes the financial paper work following the final selection.
- SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES: Proposals should be submitted by email by 11:59 p.m. (AST) October 7, 2011 to ensure expeditious and efficient review. Applicants should request an automatic email notification of delivery when they send the application. We recognize that some applicants may not have access to email and in those cases we will accept proposals by fax or mail providing they are postmarked or fax time stamped by 11:59 p.m. (AST) October 7, 2011.

- It is the responsibility of the recipient to ensure Service receipt of their proposal by the deadline. Proposals submitted later than described above or that do not include the required information will not be considered except under extraordinary circumstances.
- **OTHER SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:** The final proposal should be submitted as ONE file in MS Word format, not multiple files. The budget table should be incorporated into the final proposal document, NOT submitted as a separate attachment.

Schedule for 2012 R&M Proposals

Initial Proposals

- Step 1 - August 31, 2011 Distribute RFP via email, post on Grants.gov FIND/APPLY, and advertise the call in the Anchorage, and Fairbanks newspapers.
- Step 2 - October 7, 2011 Deadline for 2012 Initial Proposals.
- Step 3 - December 09, 2011 Panel recommendations on 2012 Initial proposals.
- Step 4 - December 17, 2011 E-mail response to each IP applicant indicating either:
- “Approved” - the applicant is encouraged to submit a detailed project proposal based on the IP as submitted;
 - “Modified” – the applicant is encouraged to submit a detailed project proposal to incorporate the revisions requested by the Panel;
 - “Other” – as determined by U. S. Panel Delegation comment; or,
 - “Not Approved” – being of relatively low priority or not meeting the Act’s funding criteria.

Final/Detailed Proposals

- Step 5 - January 27, 2012 Deadline for receipt of detailed project proposals.
- Step 6 - March 22, 2012 U.S. Panel Delegation makes its decisions on the detailed project proposals.
- Step 7 - March 28, 2012 E-mail response to each DP applicant indicating Yukon River Panel decision.

II. Application Review Information Criteria:

Award Notices: Award notices will be provided to successful final proposal applicants by email, mail, or phone in late March, 2012. Notice of a successful proposal is not an authorization to begin performance (pre-award costs are incurred at the recipient’s risk). A grant agreement, cooperative agreement, or inter-agency agreement signed by an authorized individual within the USFWS will constitute authorization to begin performance. Actual transfer of funds will not occur until May, 2012 at the earliest.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements: All awards will include terms and conditions. These terms and conditions will be binding on the recipient and cover such areas as complying with all applicable federal regulations and reporting requirements (see following reporting section). If the Service determines that your project is to be funded via cooperative or grant agreement, prior to award, you will be asked to complete and send in an Application for Federal Assistance Packet (SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, and Certifications for Federal Assistance). If your proposal included a non-federal cost share, that “applicant match” must be reflected in the Application for Federal Assistance Packet and subsequent Financial Status Reports.

Reporting: Grantees are required to submit an annual summary report to the Agency contact listed below. For projects funded conditionally as multi-year projects, the annual summary report must report on significant deviations from original objectives, methodology, and partnerships and must outline corrective actions and report on status of partnerships and funding to qualify for next year’s funding. Applicants who had projects funded with R&M funds in 2011, and who have applications that successfully compete for funding with R&M funds in 2012, will not receive their 2012 funds until the R&M Review Committee reviews and accepts their final report for the work funded in 2011. The deadline for this report submission is June 31, 2012.

Agency Contact

Submit proposals and direct questions to:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Aaron Martin
101 12th Ave., Room 110
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: 907- 455-1870
Fax: 907-456-0418
Email: FAIR_USRM@fws.gov