



**DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 10, 2017 (4 pm Alaska Standard Time)**  
Submission site: <http://grants.nprb.org/gsra/2017#/login>

**Award Amount:** \$25,000 each  
**Estimated Number of Awards:** 6  
**Awards Announced:** May 2017  
**Funds Distributed:** August 2017

The mission of the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) is to build a clear understanding of the Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands, and Chukchi/Beaufort Seas that enables effective management and sustainable use of marine resources. NPRB will award a minimum of six Graduate Student Research Awards (GSRAs) of \$25,000 each to qualified applicants whose research addresses scientific, technological, and socio-economic themes relating to this mission. Award funds may be used for graduate student stipend, tuition, university fees, research-related travel, supplies, or analyses.

**ELIGIBILITY** Students must be accepted by, or enrolled in, a graduate degree program at an accredited university or college by the time of application. Applicants must have a graduate research topic relevant to the research themes and issues identified in the 2005 NPRB Science Plan. Recipients of previous GSRAs may apply in subsequent degrees.

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### I. Application Preparation

Create a user account for the online submission system (<http://grants.nprb.org/gsra/2017>). This system is optimized for Google Chrome. A pdf of the application may be generated at any time using the pdf tool in the upper right hand menu of each page.

The 2017 GSRA application package includes the following sections:

- 1. Title & Period.** Provide a short title (**60 characters**) and long title (**120 characters**) for your project. Enter the start and end dates of your graduate degree program. Use the provided checkbox to identify if this is a resubmission of a prior application. If so, you will have the opportunity to describe how this application differs. **Maximum 300 words.**
- 2. Abstract.** Briefly describe the research question(s), the method and the significance of the project to NPRB's mission. **Maximum 300 words.**
- 3. Contact Information.** Identify an Applicant, Advisor, and an additional Reference. Applicant CVs and transcripts will be uploaded in this section. Applicant CVs should be limited to two pages in length, and may be uploaded in .doc or .pdf format. Provide all relevant transcripts, including undergraduate and

graduate records, as applicable. Letters of support must be provided by the Advisor and second Reference. The Advisor and Reference will be issued a link via email with directions for uploading letters of support based on the contact information provided. Please confirm that you have the correct email information for each contact. Applicants will not have access to the letters, but will be notified via email when the letters have been received.

**Letters must be uploaded prior to the deadline of 4 pm Friday, February 10, 2017. After both letters have been received, the Applicant must complete the online submission process. The system will not complete the validation process and allow submission without both letters.**

**We strongly encourage early contact with potential references to ensure sufficient time is allowed for uploading and completed submission.**

**4. Descriptors.** The system will prompt you for a series of keyword and project descriptors, such as species, geographic location, and research approach terms. Select all that are applicable.

**5. Background (new).** This section should be used to provide the larger context and concept. Applications will be evaluated on their understanding of the problem being addressed, the present state of knowledge in the field, and the measurable benefits from the research. **Maximum 500 words.**

**6. Objectives.** Each objective should be concise, lie within the scope of the project, and provide a discrete intended outcome. At least one objective is required. **Maximum 60 words per objective.**

**7. Project Design.** Project concept, experimental design, and methods should be detailed in this section. Include the statistical and analytical approach, including assumptions, sample size required, power analysis and model validation as applicable. Indicate the timeline for the completion of your degree, including anticipated dates for field work/data collection, data analysis, and thesis defense. Describe how the data and results will be communicated to both the scientific and general community. Include a very brief description of how the budget will be used. **Maximum 2,000 words.**

**8. Figures, Tables, and Equations (optional).** Up to **two** figures and **two** tables may be uploaded in PDF format. Please note that the image resolution will impact the size of your image in the final output. It is highly recommended that you perform a test output to ensure the figures are of a suitable size for review. Figure legends should be included in the uploaded file. Equations may be uploaded in PDF format. Multiple equations may be included in the same file.

**9. Management or Ecosystem Implication.** Describe how this research would address pressing fishery management or ecosystem information needs. **Maximum 300 words.**

**10. Community & Stakeholder Engagement.** Indicate how relevant Alaskan communities may be impacted by and/or benefit from project results. Describe how the student will coordinate and communicate with local stakeholders, entities, and communities. **Maximum 300 words.**

**11. Links to other NPRB projects or proposals.** Describe the connection between this proposal and other completed or current NPRB projects. Specifically note if this work is tied to a Core Program proposal. If so, indicate how this work would be impacted if the partner proposal were not selected for funding. The NPRB project search tool is available at <http://projects.nprb.org>. **Maximum 300 words.**

**12. Literature Cited.** List all references in a format appropriate for a major peer-reviewed journal.

**13. Letters of Support.** A letter of support must be provided by the Advisor and Reference noted in the Contacts section. An email will be sent to each person identified that includes a link for the confidential upload of their letter. The Applicant and the individual uploading the letter will receive an email confirmation when it has been received. **The proposal system will not validate any application**

without two letters. Letters must be uploaded well before the Friday, February 10, 2017 (4 pm AKST) deadline. Please take time to confirm both the invitation and upload with your chosen referees. The Applicant must complete the online submission after both letters have been uploaded.

**14. Review and Submit** This page will guide you through any missing documents or input fields. You will be able to select any of the red links to take you directly to the page that has missing or incomplete information. You will not be able to modify your application information after you have submitted.

## II. Process and Review

All applications go through a three-phase review.

**1. Science Panel Review.** Applications are reviewed by two members of the NPRB Science Panel, with reviews focused on the following criteria:

- **Demonstrated ability of the student.** Transcripts, CVs, and support letters will be evaluated.
- **Scientific merit of the proposal.** Clear hypotheses, achievable timelines and goals, and understanding of the topic are of importance. Relevance to the NPRB Science Plan should be highlighted.

These criteria are each rated on a scale of poor, fair, good, very good, and excellent.

**2. Advisory Panel Review.** The Advisory Panel will add recommendations to the top-ranked applicants based on their community involvement, noting those that have specific stakeholder relevance or timeliness. Special attention will be paid to applicants demonstrating meaningful approaches to engagement.

**3. Board Review.** The NPRB Board will make the final selection of 2017 Awardees. Their deliberations will take into consideration the recommendations of both the Science and Advisory Panels. In the event of a tie, the Board may give preference to those addressing pressing fisheries management needs, ecosystem information needs, other projects on a similar topic, overlap with existing research, or Alaska high school graduates.

**4. Notification.** NPRB staff will notify applicants of their status in late May via email. Science Panel reviews will be included in the notification.

## III. Award Conditions

This award is considered taxable income. Awardees that are United States residents will be required to complete a W-9 and will be issued a 1099-MISC for tax purposes. Foreign students must have a university department that is willing to accept the funds on their behalf with no fees. It is highly recommended that foreign students contact the Program Manager prior to submission.

**By accepting the award, the student agrees to the below conditions:**

1. By September 1, 2018, give a talk at a school or to a public audience, or work with the NPRB Communications and Outreach Director to share information about the student's research with the public.
2. Share your research via an oral or poster presentation at the January 2018 or 2019 Alaska Marine Science Symposium. NPRB will pay for the costs of this travel in addition to the award

amount.

3. By September 1, 2018, submit a one-page summary of the research in coordination with the Communications and Outreach Director, Brendan Smith, [brendan.smith@nprb.org](mailto:brendan.smith@nprb.org).
4. Provide NPRB with an electronic copy of the completed thesis.
5. Acknowledge the NPRB Graduate Student Research Award in the student thesis, research presentations and publications, and send copies to NPRB. The awardee should contact NPRB for a publication number during the proof stage of any publications resulting from this work.
6. NPRB collects information on prior awardees to determine metrics such as graduation success. A short email survey will be distributed to past awardees on an annual basis. Please ensure contact information is updated as necessary.

For more information, visit [www.nprb.org](http://www.nprb.org), or contact Jo-Ann Mellish at [joann.mellish@nprb.org](mailto:joann.mellish@nprb.org).