

Cooperative Research

THE *SCIENCE PLAN* PROVIDES FOR COOPERATIVE RESEARCH WITH INDUSTRY. IN SEPTEMBER 2005, NPRB APPROVED ADDING GENERAL LANGUAGE TO THE PREAMBLE OF THE 2006 RFP ENCOURAGING PROPOSALS THAT INVOLVED COOPERATIVE RESEARCH WITH INDUSTRY.

In March 2006, the Board noted that it had already funded several projects that involved cooperative research, but wanted to be more proactive in generating cooperative research with industry. NPRB considered the following:

- (1) continuing the more passive approach
- (2) placing a specific priority in the 2007 RFP to require cooperative research
- (3) contracting with someone to actively build our cooperative research program
- (4) partnering with other organizations that were doing cooperative research

The Board decided to seek ways to broaden participation in cooperative research, for example, by supporting industry and scientists working together on gear modifications to reduce impacts on fish habitat. It also wanted to include cooperative research with the oil and gas industry, so it placed a cooperative research priority in the 2007 RFP

at the \$250,000 level. Topics for the oil and gas industry included seaduck migration and potential impacts of infrastructure, walrus distribution and habitat use in the Chukchi Sea, polar bear distribution and abundance in the Chukchi Sea, and salmon distribution and abundance. The Board also identified topics for the fishing industry, including gear modification, fisheries monitoring, bycatch reduction, and ecosystem monitoring and research. Six proposals were submitted and two were funded for a total of \$329,000.

The Board continued to include cooperative industry topics in 2008. Three of the six submitted proposals were funded for a total of \$481,000.

In the fall of 2008, the Board raised the level of funding in the 2009 RFP for this category to \$600,000, and five proposals were submitted. For more details about funded cooperative research projects, please refer to the appropriate research theme section of the report, as shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Cooperative Research Projects

Project	Title	Research Theme
730	A Cooperative Pollock Acoustic Biomass Survey for Management of Fisheries Interactions with Steller Sea Lions in the Aleutians Islands	Marine Mammals
731	Temperature Data Collections on Bering Sea Groundfish Vessels to Evaluate Temperature at Depth and Catch Rates for Target and Bycatch Species in order to Reduce Bycatch and Increase Knowledge of How Ecosystem Variables Affect	Fish & Invertebrates
825	Assessment of Bristol Bay Red King Crab Resource for Future Management Action: Implementing a Cooperative Approach	Fish & Invertebrates
826	Monitoring, Avoiding, and Deterring Humpback Whale Bycatch in Coastal Alaska Fisheries: A Cooperative Approach	Marine Mammals
827	Ambient Noise Monitoring in the Beaufort Sea using Autonomous Vertical Arrays	Marine Mammals

