



SUBMISSION DEADLINE: December 15, 2017 (4 PM Alaska Standard Time)

Funding Availability: \$4,450,000

Estimated Number of Awards: 25

Project Period: 1-4 years

Eligibility: Any federal, state, private or foreign institution

Submission site: <http://grants.nprb.org/rfp/2018>

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Jo-Ann Mellish, Senior Program Manager

(907) 644-6712 | joann.mellish@nprb.org

Matthew Baker, Science Director

(907) 644-6713 | matthew.baker@nprb.org

Brendan Smith, Outreach Director

(907) 644-6707 | brendan.smith@nprb.org

Susan Dixon, Program Support Specialist

(907) 644-6701 | susan.dixon@nprb.org

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THIS PROGRAM

Engagement Strategy: Strong links to communities and stakeholders are expected of all proposals, regardless of the type of study. Proposals for research engaging or impacting Alaskan communities are encouraged to include a letter of support from the appropriate local or tribal governing bodies at the time of submission. All funded projects will be expected to have at least one team member participate in a communications workshop at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium.

Outreach Awards: Research proposals selected for funding under this call will be invited to apply for up to \$20,000 to support outreach-specific efforts. Notification of this opportunity will be provided after Board recommendations for Core Program proposal funding in May 2018.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Introduction
 - II. Program Description
 - III. Proposal Preparation
 - IV. Process & Review
 - V. Timeline
 - VI. Award Administration
-

I. Introduction

The North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) was established by the U.S. Congress to recommend marine research to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. The enabling legislation states: "The Board shall seek to avoid duplicating other research activities, and shall place a priority on cooperative research efforts designed to address pressing fishery management or marine ecosystem information needs. Approved research projects are funded through a competitive grant program, using a portion of the interest earned from the Environmental Improvement and Restoration Fund. These funds must be used to conduct research activities on, or relating to, fisheries and marine ecosystems in the North Pacific Ocean, Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, Gulf of Alaska, and Arctic. NPRB prioritizes research that improves

understanding of marine ecosystems and enhances effective fishery management and sustainable use of marine resources.” The anticipated allocation of funds is outlined in **Table 1**.

All categories and funding cycles are subject to change in future RFPs.

Table 1. Anticipated distribution of funds for the 2018 RFP cycle by category.

CATEGORY	
Oceanography and Productivity	\$500,000
Fishes and Invertebrates	\$1,200,000
Marine Birds and Mammals	\$900,000
Human Dimensions	\$500,000
Cooperative Research with Industry	\$300,000
Technology Development	\$300,000
Data Rescue	\$150,000
Interdisciplinary Studies	\$600,000
TOTAL	\$4,450,000

No proposal may exceed the total funds indicated in the selected category. Individual proposals submitted to the Fishes & Invertebrates category may not exceed \$600,000. Funding limits apply to the entire project, not per year.

Research may be conducted within any of the large marine ecosystems relevant to Alaska (i.e., Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Chukchi and Beaufort seas). However, there may be specific geographic focus for a given category or topic. Applicants should familiarize themselves with current and previous related NPRB projects (<http://projects.nprb.org>) and avoid duplication. Projects that align with the Arctic Integrated Ecosystem Research Program may be expected to collaborate and share data. Applicants will have the option during the proposal process to be considered for co-funding through a collaborative arrangement with the Oil Spill Recovery Institute (OSRI). If selected, project reports will be shared with OSRI and any publication must include acknowledgement of the joint support provided.

II. Program Description

Each category is described in general topics and issues of particular interest. General topics of interest represent long-term priorities to remain constant over time. Issues of particular interest highlight new or pressing concerns. **All topics and issues are of equal priority.** Studies may address components of multiple categories, but proposals will only be considered for funding under the category identified during the submission process. Collaborative research proposals that leverage external funding sources, utilize external logistical support, or enhance ongoing projects are encouraged.

In addition to collaborative leveraging of resources, proposals under any larger research category may incorporate **Community Involvement** as an approach (e.g., citizen science local observer programs), identified during the proposal submission process. To qualify for this additional distinction, the project must be initiated and/or co-designed by local communities. Support letters from the community are

required at the time of submission. The proposal must include a description of how the project will meet scientific standards and fulfill community expectations.

Oceanography and Productivity

The individual proposal funding cap for this category is \$500,000.

General topics of interest:

- ocean-atmosphere forcing
- physical oceanography (e.g., water column structure, temperature, sea ice, advection)
- chemical oceanography (e.g., nutrients, ocean acidification)
- biological oceanography (e.g., process rates and linkages of microbes, phytoplankton, and zooplankton)
- pelagic, benthic, and ice habitat and structures
- other oceanography and lower trophic level research, including modeling

Issues of particular interest:

- exchange of freshwater and dissolved and suspended materials between terrestrial and marine environments
- determination of the sources, pathways and fates of contaminants having ecosystem impacts, including microplastics
- ecosystem impacts of harmful algal blooms
- erosion and sediment transport processes and their ecosystem impacts

Fishes and Invertebrates

The individual proposal funding cap for this category is \$600,000.

General topics of interest:

- development and application of new assessment approaches
- estimation of life history parameters that impact stock assessments (e.g., age, growth, maturity, fecundity, natural mortality, environmental drivers, recruitment)
- spatial and temporal variation in stock structure and distribution patterns
- analyses of survey design and data (e.g., gear selectivity and species distribution/availability, influences of environment or habitat, linking multiple data sources, estimating parameter uncertainty)
- ecology and physiology of forage species (e.g., recruitment, growth, environmental linkages, and factors influencing availability to predators)
- bycatch and incidental catch (e.g., spatiotemporal distribution, ecological effects, discard mortality, and implications of management measures)
- characterization of habitat essential for spawning, nursery and feeding areas
- development of predictive models of habitat use and quality, including climate-driven shifts in habitat quality and availability
- direct and indirect effects of ocean acidification on fishes and invertebrates
- other fishes and invertebrates research

Issues of particular interest:

- community composition changes as indicators of ecosystem change
- fish disease ecology
- environmental impacts on larval and juvenile life stages of fishes

Marine Birds and Mammals

The individual proposal funding cap for this category is \$900,000.

General topics of interest:

- abundance, distribution, movement and migration patterns
- ecology, physiology and/or vital rates
- responses to shifting physical environmental parameters or predator-prey interactions
- synergistic effects of multiple stressors on individuals and populations (e.g., anthropogenic impacts, ecological changes, pathogens, contaminants)
- population structure (e.g., dispersal statistics, genomics, connectivity)
- species interactions with anthropogenic maritime activities (e.g., vessel traffic, fishing, tourism, resource extraction)
- characterization of essential habitats
- other marine bird and mammal research

Issues of particular interest:

- associations between oceanographic features and foraging
- physiological limits and impact of habitat loss on ice-obligate species
- ecological drivers of mortality events

Human Dimensions

The individual proposal funding cap for this category is \$500,000.

This category is intended to advance the role of social sciences, citizen science, and/or local or traditional knowledge in the analysis of interactions between humans, resource management and the marine environment. **Proposals collecting new data that engages communities, industry, local and/or traditional knowledge are required to have written statements of interest or formal collaboration from tribal governments, local communities, or stakeholders at the time of proposal submission.**

General topics of interest:

- individual and/or community wellbeing (e.g., influence of resource availability and/or access on wellbeing, indicators of wellbeing for marine-resource dependent communities)
- stewardship practices and/or values
- new tools, models, and frameworks to understand/predict implications of management decisions
- effectiveness and/or comparison of management regimes (e.g., ecosystem-based, dedicated access-based, conventional, local, traditional ecological)
- collection, synthesis and/or application of local or traditional knowledge
- consequences of fisheries management on human behavior (e.g., the observer program and fisheries enforcement)
- other research in human dimensions

Issues of particular interest:

- analysis of Arctic marine policy to enhance understanding the impacts of increased anthropogenic activities (e.g., vessel traffic, fishing, tourism, resource extraction)
- risk preferences, adaptive capacity, and social and economic consequences of ocean acidification
- coastal hazard research that supports decision making and evaluation of community impacts
- co-production of knowledge: methods and application of integrating Indigenous, local, and scientific researchers and data
- quantitative and qualitative policy analysis using integrative “mixed-methods” approaches

Cooperative Research with Industry

The individual proposal funding cap for this category is \$300,000.

Proposals under this category require a formal cooperative plan at the time of submission.

In addition to the standard criteria, proposals in this section will also be evaluated for: the degree to which the industry partner is directly engaged in the project (from conception and design to data analysis), applicability to pressing management needs of the industry, the extent to which the project will improve shared understanding between science and industry, and the use of existing infrastructure for marine observations. Priority will be given to studies that take place where industry activities (i.e., oil and gas, mining, tourism, shipping) currently occur, or are anticipated to occur in the near future. Applicants are encouraged to incorporate existing industry-collected data.

General topics of interest:

- modifications to gear, equipment and communications techniques that reduce impacts on habitats and species
- means to enhance industry-dependent data collection (e.g., electronic monitoring, oceanographic monitoring)
- direct interactions between marine wildlife and industry (e.g., mariculture, wild-hatchery interactions, ship strikes, whale depredation, alternative energy development, port expansion)
- factors influencing the fate of spilled oil, accidental discharge and/or remediation effectiveness
- other cooperative research with industry

Issues of particular interest:

- projects that utilize fishing industry expertise to develop methods to deploy mark-recapture and archival tags in the Aleutian Islands state and federal waters Pacific cod fisheries

Technology Development

The individual proposal funding cap for this category is \$300,000.

This category is designed to encourage the development of novel technologies and the validation of existing methodologies under substantially new applications. Proposals that solely develop technology should indicate where such technology may be applied. Justification must be provided for the validation of existing technology.

General topics of interest:

- novel molecular and laboratory-based technologies
- sensor and platform technologies for marine-environmental information (e.g., ROVs, AUVs, moorings)

- tag and marking technologies
- improvements to data collection and management for commercial, recreational and/or subsistence harvests
- improvements to abundance surveys, and/or status assessments
- marine plants and animals as sentinels of environmental conditions
- other technology development research

Issues of particular interest:

- developing technology to conduct and improve winter fish surveys for Arctic cod

Data Rescue

The individual proposal funding cap for this category is \$150,000.

Eligible approaches include the preservation of specimens in permanent archives, transfer of outdated electronic records to current archiving methods, and transcription of hard copy records to accessible electronic formats. Proposals must also include: a description of the current nature and state of the data (location, format, content, completeness), assurances that the data are not already a component of an accessible portal, and a description of the utility of the dataset to relevant science and management issues. **New data collection or analysis of existing samples will not be supported.**

General topics of interest:

- identification of and access to previously collected data from sources including fishing and whaling records, documented local or traditional knowledge, gray literature reports, field notes, middens and sediment records
- rescue and dissemination of data currently in inaccessible formats, including paper files and outdated electronic storage formats

Interdisciplinary Studies

The individual proposal funding cap for this category is \$600,000.

This category is designed to support inter- and cross-disciplinary studies that increase understanding of complex biological, human, and physical interactions. The aim is to leverage increased knowledge of marine processes, exponential growth in computing capacity, as well as improved realism, complexity, and structure in models to enhance ecosystem knowledge in a wide variety of areas and to improve ecosystem-based fishery management.

General topics of interest:

- retrospective multispecies or biophysical studies using existing data and/or archived samples
- biological responses to physical drivers or conditions and/or predator-prey interactions
- interactions between multiple physical processes or multiple species
- synergistic effects of multiple stressors on individuals and/or populations (e.g., natural disturbance, anthropogenic impacts, ecological or environmental change, pathogens, contaminants)
- coupled ocean ecosystem models and stock assessment models, multispecies processes
- bio-economic models and management strategy evaluations (MSE)
- habitat characterization for multiple overlapping species
- co-production of knowledge: methods and application of integrating Indigenous, local, and scientific researchers and data

Issues of particular interest:

- analyses of foodweb and species susceptibility to climate change and ocean acidification across a range of taxa including humans

III. Research Proposal Preparation <http://grants.nprb.org/rfp/2018>

All proposals are uploaded through the [online submission system](#), which is optimized for Google Chrome. Other browsers such as Internet Explorer, Edge, and Safari may not provide full functionality. The site is not designed to function on mobile devices such as iPads, Android tablets, smartphones, etc.

The submission process will begin with the creation of an account that will be linked to this specific RFP cycle. Proposals may be accessed and edited up until the time of submission. Templates are required for the Timeline, Budget, and Signatures sections. Proposals containing incorrect or invalid file uploads (e.g., blank.pdf) will not be considered. Applicants may download a PDF version of their proposal using the “PDF” button in the upper right corner of any page.

The research proposal package includes the following sections:

1. **Title & Period**
2. **Abstract** (maximum 300 words)
3. **Contacts** (Applicant, Investigators, Grants Managers, Suggested Reviewers)
4. **Descriptors**
5. **Background** (maximum 1,000 words)
6. **Objectives** (maximum 60 words each)
7. **Design & Approach** (maximum 4,000 words)
8. **Figures, Tables & Equations** (optional)
9. **Management or Ecosystem Implication** (maximum 300 words)
10. **Engagement Strategy** (maximum 500 words)
11. **Links to prior NPRB projects** (maximum 300 words)
12. **Project Management** (unlimited)
13. **Timeline & Milestones** (template)
14. **Budget** (Overview, Budget Detail [template], Multiple Organization Summary [template], NICRA)
15. **Supplemental Documents** (Letters of Support, MOUs, Permits, Quotes)
16. **Review Criteria**
17. **References** (unlimited)
18. **Upload Summary**
19. **Signatures** (template)
20. **Review & Submit**

Proposals with multiple organizations should be uploaded by the lead organization. Contacts, budget, and signature pages are required for each organization requesting funds.

The online system will close promptly at 4 pm on Friday, December 15, 2017 (Alaska Standard Time).

1. **Title & Period.** Include a long title of up to **120 characters**, and a short caption of up to **60 characters**. A start date of September 1, 2018, or later is strongly recommended to allow sufficient time for administrative requirements. Projects are not permitted to start before July 1, 2018, and may start as late as January 1, 2019. Project duration should allow for final report preparation and include attendance at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium closest to the completion of your project. If this is a resubmission of a previous proposal, describe any changes or improvements. Applicants should indicate if they wish to be considered for joint funding with OSRI.
2. **Abstract (300 words).** Explain the goal and value of the proposed project and how your research is relevant to the mission of NPRB using language understandable by the general public.
3. **Contacts**
 - a. **Investigators (CVs required for PIs).**
 - i. **Proposal Applicant.** There is only one Applicant per proposal. This person can provide legally binding authorization. In collaborative submissions, this is the authorized organizational representative for the lead institution. Full contact information is required.
 - ii. **Lead Principal Investigator.** There can only be one Lead PI for any given project. The Lead PI will have oversight of scientific content, project management and completion. Full contact information and two-page CV in Word or PDF required.
 - iii. **Principal Investigator.** Each organization requesting funds must identify one PI. There can only be one PI per organization. Full contact information and two-page CV in Word or PDF format are required.
 - iv. **Co-Investigator** (if applicable). Co-Investigators receive funds as part of their involvement with the project. There can be multiple Co-Investigators for each organization. Full contact information is required. CVs are optional and may be uploaded in Supplementary Documents.
 - v. **Unfunded Collaborator** (if applicable). Any participant that does not receive funds falls under this category. Full contact information is required. CVs are optional and may be uploaded in Supplementary Documents.
 - vi. **Contractor** (if applicable). Person(s) committed to work on a specific task but not responsible for the completion of the project as a whole. Full contact information is required. CVs are optional and may be uploaded in Supplementary Documents.
 - b. **Grants Manager.** Person responsible for the financial administration of the grant (e.g., Office of Sponsored Programs). Full contact information is required.
 - c. **Suggested Reviewers.** Identify person(s) not associated with individuals or institutions submitting this proposal, but with sufficient expertise and credentials to review the proposal in an objective manner. **Full contact information is required for a minimum of 5 people.** The following individuals **are not eligible** to serve as reviewers for your proposal:
 - i. The individual is a member of an organization that has provided a letter of support.
 - ii. The individual has significant financial interest in the proposal.
 - iii. The individual is employed at the same organization as a PI or Co-PI.
 - iv. The individual is part of a collaboration with a PI or Co-PI on a project, book, article, report/paper within the last 24 months.
 - v. The individual is submitting a proposal in response to this RFP.

The full conflict of interest policy is located at <http://www.nprb.org/nprb/about-us/#policies>.

d. Unacceptable Reviewer (if applicable).

4. **Descriptors.** Identify the category under which you are submitting, relevant large marine ecosystem(s), species identification (if applicable), type of approach, and proposal keywords.
5. **Background (max. 1,000 words).** Proposals will be evaluated on their understanding of the problem being addressed, the present state of knowledge in the field, and the measurable benefits that will result from the proposed research. Objectives, hypotheses, and experimental design should be included in later sections. It is highly recommended that large amounts of text be prepared in Word or a similar application to be cut and pasted into this section.
6. **Objectives (max. 60 words each).** Objectives should be concise, lie within the scope of the project, and provide a discrete intended outcome. Multiple objectives may be included using the “Add Objective” button at the bottom of the page. The order of the objectives may be changed using the drag and drop feature.
7. **Design & Approach (max. 4,000 words).** Experimental design and methods should be presented with clear hypotheses. Detail any field logistics and animal handling. Include the statistical and analytical approach, including assumptions, sample size required, and model validation. A power analysis is strongly recommended where applicable. Figures, Tables, and Equations should be uploaded in the following section.
8. **Figures (max. 4), Tables (max. 2) & Equations (unlimited).** All files in this section should be uploaded in PDF format. Figure legends and table headers should be included in each file as part of the image. Multiple equations may be included in a single PDF upload. The applicant is responsible for ensuring that the resolution and size of each file conforms to one standard page.
9. **Management or Ecosystem Implication (max. 300 words).** Describe how the research addresses pressing fishery management or ecosystem information needs. This section is reviewed critically by the NPRB science and advisory panels and board of directors.
10. **Engagement Strategy (max. 500 words).** Strong interaction and engagement among stakeholders and/or target audiences is expected of all proposals, regardless of the type of study. Emphasis should be placed on the incorporation of clearly described, project-appropriate methods of communication and participation and/or engagement. Applicants are encouraged to visit the NPRB [Communications and Outreach Resources](#) webpage for ideas on how to creatively engage audiences and incorporate a variety of knowledge sources. All funded projects will be expected to have one team member attend a science communications workshop at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium (AMSS).

Innovative approaches to the inclusion of local and/or traditional knowledge, communities, and/or stakeholders in project planning is encouraged. Applicants should identify which groups were involved and at which stage in the project. Dissemination of results and their utility to stakeholders must be clearly defined. **Proposals for research engaging or impacting Alaskan communities are strongly encouraged to include a letter of support from the appropriate local or tribal governing bodies at the time of submission.**

OUTREACH: Research proposals selected for funding under this call will be invited to apply for up to \$20,000 to support outreach-specific efforts. Details on this opportunity will be

provided with award notifications in May 2018. Visit [Communication & Outreach Resources](#) for planning and ideas on how to create effective outreach proposals. Inquiries may be directed to Brendan Smith (brendan.smith@nprb.org).

11. **Links to prior NPRB projects (max. 300 words).** Describe any links to projects previously funded by NPRB, including work by the current project team as well as other groups on the same topic, as relevant. Specifically identify if a project is linked to a member of the currently proposed team. Projects that are currently underway but not yet completed may also be referenced. Include NPRB project numbers whenever possible. State if there are no linkages. A project search may be conducted at <http://projects.nprb.org>.
12. **Project Management.** Describe how the expertise of the PI and other team members relates to the successful completion of the project. Explain the coordination and collaboration plan for multiple institutions, and to other ongoing or submitted projects. Define the anticipated dissemination of results. Provide all relevant permit numbers or permit application identifiers in this section, and provide copies in **Supplemental Documents**. All permits are the responsibility of the Applicant.
13. **Timeline & Milestones (template).** An Excel template will be auto-populated with project dates and objectives. Enter the responsible person(s) for each task. Finalize the Title and Period (Section 1) and Objectives (Section 6) before downloading the template. Any changes to these components after the timeline upload will not auto-update until the existing file is deleted. Include attendance of at least one project representative at AMSS following substantial project completion. Annual AMSS attendance is not mandatory, but encouraged.
14. **Budget. Please read all instructions provided in a PDF download on this page prior to preparing this section.** All budgets should be prepared in US dollars. Cost sharing is not required, but leveraging of other support is encouraged.
 - a. **Overview.** Identify each Institution requesting funds and the total amount of each budget. Any in-kind or other support should also be entered here. **Confirm that the amounts entered correspond exactly with the Budget Detail (individual organizations) and Multiple Organization Budget Summary (if applicable).**
 - b. **Budget Detail (required template).** Complete and upload the provided Excel template for each institution requesting funds. See detailed instructions on this webpage for specific guidance on preparation.
 - c. **Multiple Organization Budget Summary (if applicable, required template).** This Excel template must be completed for any proposal with more than one organization requesting funds. This template will only appear in the system after more than one organization has been identified. See detailed instructions on this webpage for specific guidance on preparation.
 - d. **NICRA.** A copy of the current federally negotiated indirect cost-rate agreement (NICRA) is required for all organizations requesting indirect cost recovery greater than 10% of total direct costs. Organizations without a current federally negotiated NICRA may request a 10% indirect cost recovery. A memo to this effect specifically identifying the institution should be uploaded in lieu of a NICRA. The total dollar amount of the indirect costs proposed must not exceed the indirect cost rate negotiated and approved by a cognizant federal agency prior to the proposed effective date of the award, or 100% of the total proposed direct cost amount in the application, whichever is less. For-profit organizations should note that NPRB grants federal funding via a subaward mechanism and not via subcontracts. **Profit is not an**

allowable cost. For-profit organizations are strongly encouraged to consult the Program Manager well in advance of submission to ensure that any rate agreement meets NPRB's compliance requirements.

- 15. Supplemental Documents (Letters of Support, MOUs, Permits, Quotes, Optional CVs).** This section may be used to upload supporting documents in PDF format. **All letters of support are due at the time of proposal submission.** Manuscripts are not considered acceptable supporting documents. Documents that do not fall into the categories listed above will be removed from the proposal package.
- 16. Review Criteria.** These pages are designed to identify the relevant fields of expertise applicable to review the proposal, not the expertise of the applicant. If no fields on the page apply, leave it blank and move to the next page. **A minimum of 5 identifiers is required.**
- 17. References.** List all sources of information cited in a consistent format appropriate for a major journal such as *ICES Journal of Marine Science*.
- 18. Upload Summary.** This page will list all uploaded documents.
- 19. Signatures.** The system will generate a signature page for each organization requesting funds. The signature on this page certifies that the proposal, in its entirety, has been submitted according to the submitting organization's standard proposal approval process. **The proposal Applicant (i.e., authorized organizational representative) should sign this page. An overall signature page listing all participant institutions will be generated for collaborative proposals, to be signed by the Applicant of the lead organization.** The lead organization is responsible for the entry and upload of all information in any collaborative proposal.
- 20. Review & Submit.** The system will not complete the submission process until all error messages have been resolved. Use of the PDF download tool for review prior to submission is highly recommended. **Proposals may not be modified after submission.**

The online system will close promptly at 4 pm on Friday, December 15, 2017 (Alaska Standard Time).

IV. Process & Review

Proposal Confidentiality. Full proposals are confidential until U.S. Secretary of Commerce approval. Proposals that indicate their willingness to be considered for co-funding opportunities may also be reviewed by the board and advisory bodies of the Oil Spill Research Institute. Title & Period, PIs, Funds Requested, and Summary pages of unfunded proposals may be made public. The Design and Approach, Timelines and Milestones, CVs, and Letters of Support for funded projects may be available to the public on the NPRB website. Budget information will remain confidential.

Responsiveness. Proposals that do not meet RFP requirements or responsiveness standards will be disqualified.

Peer review. Regional, national, and international experts are invited to provide independent, anonymous reviews in compliance with the NPRB Conflict of Interest Policy.

Science Panel Review. Two science panel members provide individual and summary evaluations to the full panel that incorporate the findings of external peer reviews. Each proposal is assigned into one of the following Tiers:

Tier E. Exceptional. Proposals deemed as exceptional science with an additional element of time sensitivity, technical robustness, or specific responsiveness to the RFP.

Tier 1. Excellent/Very Good. Proposals deemed as excellent or very good science.

Tier 2. Good. This tier is considered the baseline expectation for a funded proposal. Tier 2 proposals represent solid science with expectations of success but with some room for refinement or clarification.

Tier 3. Fair. Tier 3 proposals are not candidates for funding.

Advisory Panel Review. The advisory panel will review Tier E, 1 and 2 proposals for special stakeholder, public interest, or community and other societal relevance. Specific emphasis will be placed on proposals with a strong Engagement Strategy.

Board Review. The board will consider peer reviews, science panel, and advisory panel input for proposals ranked Tier E, 1 or 2. Scientific merit will be the primary criterion; however, other factors may be considered, including but not limited to:

- pressing fisheries management needs
- ecosystem information needs
- other projects currently funded on a similar topic
- overlap with other ongoing programs
- competitiveness relative to other proposals of equal merit within a topical area
- category target funding amounts published in the RFP
- previous performance of applicants.

Peer reviews, science panel summaries and board recommendations will be provided to the applicant.

Consultation with Interested Parties. The board and staff may consult with NOAA and other federal and state agencies, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, and other entities, as appropriate, who may be affected by or have knowledge of a specific proposal or its subject matter.

Secretary of Commerce Review. All recommendations of the board are subject to final approval by the Secretary of Commerce, who must ensure that the project recommendations are consistent with the terms of the NPRB grant award, federal law, and the enabling legislation.

V. Timeline

Release of 2018 RFP	September 28, 2017
Online Submission System Opens	September 28, 2017
DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS	December 15, 2017 at 4 pm AKST
Peer Review	January – March 2018
Science Panel Review	March 2018
Advisory Panel Review	April 2018
Board Review	May 2018
Submission to Secretary of Commerce	May 2018
Notification to PIs	May 2018
Award document preparation	June – July 2018
Research Commences	No earlier than July 1, 2018

VI. Award Administration

The 2018 RFP is a solicitation of offers and should not be construed as an expectation of award. The NPRB is not obligated to award any specific project, number of projects or available funds. No oral statement by any person can supersede or modify the terms of this RFP. In accordance with federal statutes and regulations, no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under this program on grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability.

1. All federal, state, private, and foreign organizations are eligible to respond to this request for proposals. There are no limits on the number of proposals per organization. There is no restriction on who can serve as the PI of a proposal. There are no limits on the number of proposals on which an individual may serve as the PI.
2. Recipient organizations must have a DUNS number (<http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>) and an active registration in www.sam.gov, before any award can be issued. Recipient organizations required to have a single or program-specific audit will be required to submit a copy of their most recent single or program-specific audit for review before any award is made.
3. **Awards are structured as reimbursable funds with quarterly invoicing.**
4. All organizations requesting funds will receive separate subawards for their identified budget. However, the lead PI of the project is responsible for directing the work and ensuring that reports and deliverables are timely. Only one report is required for each collaborative project.
5. Awards may be eligible for a one-time no cost extension of up to 12 months at the discretion of NPRB staff, if requested with justification more than 30 days prior to the end of the award period.
6. International travel requires federal approval prior to ticket purchase, which may take up to three months to process. It is the funded Investigator's responsibility to initiate the foreign travel request process with NPRB staff once the proposal has received funding. "Fly America Act" (49 USC § 40118) regulations apply to all travel.
7. Recipient organizations will be required to comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including, but not limited to: Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions (01/05), and NOAA Administrative Standard Award Conditions (10/2010 and 12/2014). Recipients will also comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations including, but not limited to: Title 49 of the United States Code 40118 (commonly referred to as the "Fly America Act"), OMB Circular A-110, OMB Circular A-133, and the applicable federal cost principles found in OMB Circular A-21, OMB Circular A-87, OMB Circular A-122, or FAR 48 CFR Part 31. Grant awards may also be subject to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance), which is codified at 2.C.F.R Part 200. In effect as of December 26, 2014, this final guidance is a streamlining of the federal government's guidance on administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for federal awards. It supersedes requirements contained in OMB Circulars, A-21, A-87, A-102, A-110, and A-133.
8. Responding proposals are firm offers and shall remain open for the NPRB to accept any time before July 1, 2018, in accordance with a standard NPRB agreement for the performance of the work proposed. A proposal is accepted only when NPRB sends the applicant written approval and has a fully executed agreement. A proposal accepted for funding does not obligate NPRB to provide additional future funding.
9. The applicant is responsible for obtaining all federal, state, and local governmental permits and approvals for projects or activities to be funded under this announcement (e.g., Section 404 or

Section 10 permits issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, experimental fishing or other permits under federal fishery management plans, scientific permits under the Endangered Species Act and/or the Marine Mammal Protection Act, Coast Guard vessel safety). All experiments must be conducted in compliance with the law, and only pursuant to mandatory permitting duly granted by the appropriate federal and state agencies. Requirements for special permits, such as those required for taking marine mammals, should be clearly described and indicate whether the permit is in possession or not. Failure to comply may result in the cessation or termination of the project and may lead to other action that could preclude the issuance of future awards to the applicant. As a condition of funding, all award recipients must make available, upon request, access to any books, documents, papers, and records that are directly pertinent to a specific program for the purpose of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcriptions.

10. Researchers applying to do research involving human subjects are expected to demonstrate compliance with regional protocols for researcher/community interactions or the specific human subjects screening done by most academic institutions and agencies. The purpose is to ensure that privacy is protected, data are collected in a suitable manner, data are maintained in a secure environment, and results of any study are made available to participants if they indicate their interest.
11. Funded participants are wholly responsible for the conduct of research, submission of required reports, and preparation of the results for publication. Significant deviation from the proposed activities and deliverables requires prior NPRB approval. Participants will be required to submit semi-annual progress reports. Failure to submit timely reports or to meet project objectives due to problems in program management, may result in withheld payments.
12. Funded participants will be required to provide a final report package within 60 days of the end of the project that consists of a written report in the current format, a copy of the data associated with the project and associated metadata, and project synopsis. Failure to complete, or to adequately address missing components, may result in withheld payments of final project costs.
13. All institutions awarded funding must agree to NPRB's standard "Applicable Law, Jurisdiction and Venue" clause unless prohibited by law. The clause reads: *This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Alaska except to the extent preempted by United States federal law. Jurisdiction for the resolution of any dispute between the parties shall be the state or federal trial courts of Alaska. Venue for the trial of any case shall be Anchorage, Alaska.*
14. All institutions awarded funding must agree to NPRB's standard "Hold Harmless and Indemnification" clause unless prohibited by law. The clause reads: *Each party to this Agreement agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the other party from and against any and all claims, liabilities, losses, expenses, fees (including attorneys' fees), and damages arising from or pertaining to the performance of this Agreement, but only in proportion to and to the extent such claims, liabilities, losses, expenses, fees (including attorneys' fees), and damages are caused by or result from the negligent or intentional acts or omission of the indemnifying party, its officers, agents or employees.*
15. NPRB's Compliance Policy <http://www.nprb.org/nprb/about-us/#policies> will be part of all awards. The policy was finalized in March 2009 based on federal law that governs award agreements and on comments received in response to an interim compliance policy from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Federal Law Assistance Division, the National Science Foundation, and grants managers from five major research institutions.