



**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Proposals may be submitted at any time.

**Project Period:** up to 4 years, except Focus Section (<1 year only)

**Eligibility:** Any federal, state, tribal, private or foreign organizations/governments

**Submission site:** <https://grants.nprb.org/rfp/2022>

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## PROGRAM CONTACTS

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### I. Request for Proposals (RFP)

The North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) requests proposals for cooperative research designed to address pressing fishery management or marine ecosystem information needs 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.

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). There may be specific geographic focus for a given category or topic. Refer to current and previous related NPRB projects (<https://projects.nprb.org>) to avoid duplication.

Applicants have the option at the time of submission to be considered for co-funding through a collaborative arrangement with funding partners. Co-funded proposals and project reports will be shared with funding partners and any publication must include acknowledgement of the joint support provided.

The Board will distribute funds in the published RFP over the two semi-annual Board meetings.

**Table 1.** Proposal caps and category target funding for the 2022 RFP annual cycle.

CATEGORY	Proposal cap	Category target
Oceanography and Productivity	\$600,000	\$800,000
Fishes and Invertebrates	\$600,000	\$1,000,000
Marine Birds and Mammals	\$750,000	\$750,000
Human Dimensions	\$280,000	\$280,000
Interdisciplinary Studies	\$370,000	\$370,000
Focus Section: Flex Grants	\$100,000	\$300,000

Proposal caps apply to the entire project, not per year. All categories and funding cycles are subject to change in future RFPs.

## II. FAQ

### When can I submit my proposal?

Anytime. The online system is accessible year-round, except for one week each fall just prior to the new RFP release for maintenance and cycle updates. Submit your proposal as soon as it is complete to allow for sufficient review time. It can take between one and six months to complete peer review before moving on to Panel and Board review.

### When will my proposal be reviewed?

Proposals with a minimum of two peer reviews will advance to the Science and Advisory Panels and Board meetings. Meeting dates are published on the NPRB website. Proposals pending two peer reviews will be held over for a maximum of one Board meeting. The Board may also opt to defer a final funding decision for one meeting. Total review time for proposals will not exceed two Board meetings. Proposal status may be viewed at any time on the submission login page. Notification emails of proposal status will be provided after each Board meeting. Applicants may withdraw their proposal at any time by contacting the Program Manager.

### How much money is available?

Funding targets are published in the annual RFP. The Board distributes funds for each RFP year over the two semi-annual Board meetings.

### Who are the current co-funding partners?

Co-funding partners with complementary missions and cooperative agreements with NPRB review proposals of interest and share support of selected submissions. Current partners include the Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation, Oil Spill Recovery Institute, and Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center.

### How soon can I start my project?

One year from the submission date is recommended to allow for processing, review and award setup. Standard start dates are July 1 or later after the spring meeting and December 1 or later after the fall meeting.

## What if the RFP gets updated while my proposal is still in review?

An updated RFP is released in October of each year. The standard format of the RFP includes general topics of interest under each major category that will carry forward into the next RFP, including the 'other' option that will cover prior topics. Staff will automatically roll the proposal forward. The Applicant can request to withdraw the proposal at any time.

## How long do I need to wait to resubmit a declined proposal?

Tier 3 proposals must wait 6 months from notification and demonstrate significant modification prior to resubmission. All other proposals may be resubmitted at any time.

## III. Program Description

The Core program is structured with four [RESEARCH CATEGORIES](#) and [APPROACHES](#).

[RESEARCH CATEGORIES](#) include:

- [Oceanography and Productivity](#)
- [Fishes and Invertebrates](#)
- [Marine Birds and Mammals](#)
- [Human Dimensions](#)
- [Interdisciplinary Studies](#)
- [Focus Section](#)

[RESEARCH CATEGORIES](#) are described by [general topics](#) and [issues of particular interest](#). [General topics](#) represent long-term priorities that will remain constant over time. [Issues of particular interest](#) highlight new or pressing concerns derived from community input that change on an annual basis. [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.

Proposals under any [RESEARCH CATEGORY](#) are encouraged to incorporate one or more of the four [APPROACHES](#) described below for additional recognition. A description of how each selected approach improves the methods, study design, data collected, products from the research, and utility of the deliverables will be required during proposal submission. Please read in detail the requirements below for each [APPROACH](#) to apply.

[APPROACHES](#) include:

- [Community Involvement](#)
- [Cooperative Research with Industry](#)
- [Technology Development](#)
- [Data Rescue](#)

**Community Involvement:** The project must be designed, co-designed or initiated by the relevant local community(s). Evaluation of this approach will include: the degree to which the community or communities are directly engaged in the project (from conception and design to data collection, analysis and dissemination), applicability to pressing community needs, and the extent to which the project will improve shared understanding between scientists and community members. Support letters from the relevant community institutions are also required at the time of submission.

**Cooperative Research with Industry:** Evaluation of this approach will include: the degree to which the industry partner is directly engaged in the project (from conception and design to data collection, analysis and dissemination), applicability to pressing management needs of the industry, the extent to which the project will improve shared understanding between science and industry, the use of industry infrastructure for marine observations and industry-collected data, and the extent to which the project may promote future collaboration. Proposals must include a cooperative plan and support letters describing how the research and participants will benefit from the perspectives and skill sets of each partner.

**Technology Development:** Proposals must develop new technology or validate new applications for existing technology. Proposals that develop new technology should indicate where it may be applied. Proposals incorporating existing technology must justify the novelty of its application.

**Data Rescue:** Proposals must include: a description of the current nature and state of the data (location, format, content, completeness, risk of loss), assurances that the data are not already a component of an accessible portal, an explanation of the utility of the dataset to relevant science and management issues, and a robust metadata and data management plan. Examples of eligible projects 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. New data collection or analysis of existing samples does not qualify as data rescue.

## RESEARCH CATEGORIES

### Oceanography and Productivity

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

General topics:

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

Issues of particular interest:

- research on the influence of regional and local wind forcing and currents on the vertical distribution of zooplankton in Arctic continental shelf marine mammal feeding grounds

- role of seafloor sediments as carbon sinks and the effect disturbance has on carbon release, ocean acidification and global warming
- large scale effects of climate change on productivity of zooplankton and nekton in both the littoral and pelagic zones
- distribution, transport and connectivity and impact of harmful algal blooms and invasive species on current commercial fisheries (i.e., geoduck and razor clams), marine mammals and seabirds
- determine the role of commercial seaweed and shellfish aquaculture on carbon capture and/or their potential to mitigate ocean acidification
- development of an oceanographic database from sensors (T, S, CPRs, nutrients, etc.) deployed from vessels of opportunity (fishing, USCG, etc.)

## Fishes and Invertebrates

The individual proposal funding cap for this category is [\\$600,000](#).

### General topics:

- 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 climate change and ocean acidification on fishes and invertebrates
- characterization of cross-species interactions (e.g., to support ecosystem-based management)
- other fishes and invertebrates research

### Issues of particular interest:

- enhancing stock assessments with fisheries-dependent information
- development and application of eDNA and other novel technology approaches to population assessments and understanding migratory patterns
- physiological and biological mechanisms underlying species distributions under climate change
- effects of emergent diseases and contaminants on species of commercial or subsistence importance
- understanding mechanisms of recovering fish or invertebrate species
- understanding drivers of collapse in AYK chum and decline in Chinook salmon stocks (e.g., climate change in freshwater and nearshore marine habitats)

- environmental drivers for changes in Bristol Bay red king crab and Bering Sea snow crab recruitment, natural mortality and spatial distribution

## Marine Birds and Mammals

The individual proposal funding cap for this category is [\\$750,000](#).

### General topics:

- 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:

- effects of extreme climate events and climate shifts on distribution and population size
- forecasting changes in abundance due to climate change, including modeling the effects of Arctic sea ice loss, with consequences for management
- effects of harmful algal blooms and disease with consequences for management
- relationships and mechanisms between trends in abundance and physiological condition
- interactions between fisheries and marine mammals with management implications

## Human Dimensions

The individual proposal funding cap for this category is [\\$280,000](#).

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 strongly encouraged to have written statements of interest or formal collaboration from tribal governments, local communities, or stakeholders at the time of proposal submission.

### General topics:

- 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
- implications and consequences of fisheries management for human behavior
- other research in human dimensions

Issues of particular interest:

- engage with Alaska native communities to understand early warnings associated with changes in abundance, distribution and behavior in species of interest
- understanding dynamics between commercial fisheries (including bycatch) and subsistence-dependent communities in Alaska
- use ethnographic methods to investigate relationships between Indigenous cultures, Indigenous knowledges, and Indigenous food security from a social-ecological perspective
- studies of Alaska's blue economy, including opportunities for economic diversification in emergent sectors, such as renewable energy and aquaculture/mariculture and their impacts on coastal communities
- evaluate impacts on Northern Bering Sea communities and resources, related to fishery (incl. walleye pollock and Pacific cod) shifts northward

## Interdisciplinary Studies

The individual proposal funding cap for this category is [\\$370,000](#).

This category supports inter- and cross-disciplinary collaborations that increase understanding of complex biological, human, and physical interactions. The aim is to leverage increased knowledge of marine processes, growth in computing capacity, improved realism, complexity, and structure in models to enhance ecosystem knowledge or conservation. Rationale for the selection of this category must be provided. Proposals are expected to incorporate teams of experts in the appropriate subject matter.

General topics:

- 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 across trophic levels
- 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

## Focus Section: Flex grants

The individual proposal funding cap for this category is [\\$100,000](#).

**Focus Section** must be selected as the category during proposal submission.

Topics from all **RESEARCH CATEGORIES** are eligible. This small flex grant category is intended to provide funding for projects that require minimal funds and limited time to achieve success. Proposals may be a maximum of 12 months duration with no eligibility for extension. Proposals will follow the standard application format however it will be at the applicant's discretion to scale the project description appropriately.

## II. Proposal Preparation <https://grants.nprb.org/rfp/2022>

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.

Proposals may be accessed and edited up until the time of submission. Templates are required for the Timeline, Budget, and Signatures sections. 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
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
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
13. Timeline & Milestones (template)
14. Budget (template)
15. Supplemental Documents
16. Review Criteria
17. References
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.

Detailed instructions by section:

- 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 one year after the submission date is strongly recommended to allow sufficient time for review and administrative requirements. 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 the Oil Spill Recovery Institute.

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

#### Investigators:

- **Authorized Organizational Representative.** This person provides legally binding authorization for the organization. Full contact information is required.
- **Lead Principal Investigator (PI).** There is only one Lead Principal Investigator per proposal. The Lead PI will have oversight of scientific content, project management and completion. Full contact information and CV (maximum 2 pages) is required.
- **Principal Investigator.** There must be only one PI for each organization requesting funds. Full contact information CVs (maximum 2 pages) are required.
- **Co-Investigator** (if applicable). Co-Investigators receive funds as part of their involvement with the project. Full contact information is required.
- **Unfunded Collaborator** (if applicable). Any participant that does not receive funds falls under this category. Full contact information is required.
- **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.

**Grants Manager.** Person responsible for the financial administration of the grant (e.g., Office of Sponsored Programs). Full contact information is required.

**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:

- The individual is a member of an organization that has provided a letter of support.
- The individual has significant financial interest in the proposal.
- The individual is employed at the same organization as a PI or Co-PI on the proposal.
- 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.
- The individual is also 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>.

**Unacceptable Reviewer** (if applicable).

4. **Descriptors.** Identify the category under which you are submitting, relevant large marine ecosystem(s), approach (if applicable), species identification (if applicable) and proposal keywords. Justification for the selection of any approach must be provided.

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 are optional and 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. 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](mailto: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. All permits are the responsibility of the Applicant.
13. **Timeline & Milestones** (template). An Excel template will be autofill 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.** All budgets should be prepared in US currency to the nearest dollar. 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.
  - b. **Budget Summary** (template). Complete and upload the provided Excel template for each institution requesting funds.
  - c. **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. 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, Quotes). 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.
16. **Review Criteria.** This section is 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 Authorized Organizational Representative should sign this page. 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 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.

### III. Process & Review

**Proposal Confidentiality.** Full proposals are confidential within the constraints of peer review 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 partnering organizations.

**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.

**Responsiveness.** Proposals that do not meet RFP requirements or responsiveness standards will be disqualified prior to peer review. Notification of disqualification will be provided by Staff.

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

**Tier 3. Fair/Poor.** 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 or public interest, community and other societal relevance, timeliness, engagement strategy and added value. After this first round of review, highlighted proposals may receive an additional endorsement to recognize outstanding engagement.

**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 funding recommendations will be provided to the applicant.

**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.

#### IV. Award Administration

The 2022 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](http://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 and according to the limitations on the supporting award. Projects selected under the Focus Section Flex Grants category are not eligible for extension.
6. "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 December 31, 2022, 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 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](#) will be part of all awards. The policy is 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.