



EXTENDED DEADLINE: **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021**
4 pm Alaska Standard Time

Submission site: <https://grants.nprb.org/gsra/2021>

Award Amount: \$26,000 each
Estimated Number of Awards: 6
Awards Announced: May 2021
Funds Distributed: August 2021

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 \$26,000 each to qualified applicants at US-based institutions whose research addresses scientific, technological, and socio-economic themes relating to this mission. Award funds may be used for stipend, tuition, university fees, research-related travel, supplies, or analyses. The award includes funds for travel to the Alaska Marine Science Symposium.

ELIGIBILITY Students must be accepted by a graduate degree program at an accredited university or college in the United States by the time of application. Recipients of previous GSRAs may apply in subsequent degrees.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Application Preparation
- II. Process & Review
- III. Award Conditions

I. Application Preparation

Create a user account for the online submission system <https://grants.nprb.org/gsra/2021>. The 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 of each page. The application package includes the following sections:

- 1. Title & Dates.** 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. If so, you will have the opportunity to describe how this application differs. Maximum 300 words. If you are an international student, you must confirm that your institution is willing to accept funds on your behalf without administrative fees.
- 2. Abstract.** Describe the research question(s), method and significance of the project to NPRB's mission. Maximum 300 words.
- 3. Personal Statement.** Provide a personal education and career goal statement emphasizing your abilities, initiative and experience. How would this award support your graduate degree and advance your career? Provide a clear statement identifying how this project will address the NPRB mission and region of interest. Maximum 500 words.

4. Contact Information. Identify the student (Applicant), primary graduate advisor (Advisor), and a second reference of your choice (Reference). CVs are limited to two pages, and may be .docx or .pdf.

Applications without undergraduate and relevant graduate transcripts will be disqualified. Transcripts must match education details provided by the CV.

The Advisor and Reference will be issued a link via the email provided in the application with directions for uploading of letters of recommendation. Applicants will be notified via email when the letters have been received but will not have read access to the letters.

The system will not allow submission until both letters have been uploaded.

5. Descriptors. Select all applicable keyword and project descriptors, such as species, geographic location, and research approach terms.

6. Background. Applications will be evaluated on their demonstrated understanding of the problem being addressed, the present state of knowledge in the field, and the need for this research. Maximum 500 words.

7. Objectives. Objectives should be concise, lie within the scope of the project, and provide a discrete intended outcome. Maximum 60 words each.

8. Project Design. Describe the project concept, experimental design, and methods. Include the statistical and analytical approach, including assumptions, sample size required, power analysis and model validation, as applicable. Indicate a timeline for the completion of your degree, including 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 brief description of how the budget will be used. Maximum 2,000 words.

9. Figures, Tables, and Equations (optional). Up to two figures and two tables may be uploaded in PDF format. Unlimited equations may be combined into one pdf document.

10. Management or Ecosystem Implication. Describe how this research would address pressing fishery management or ecosystem information needs. Explicitly describe how this proposal would have broader impacts. Maximum 300 words.

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

12. Links to other NPRB projects or proposals. Describe the connection between this proposal and other completed or current NPRB projects (<https://projects.nprb.org>). If this application is associated with a current Core program proposal, specifically indicate how this work would be impacted if the partner proposal were not selected for funding. Maximum 300 words.

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

14. Letters of Recommendation. A letter of recommendation must be provided by the Advisor and second 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. Letters should note the abilities, accomplishments, and motivation of the student.

The Applicant must complete the online submission process after both letters have been uploaded.

14. Review and Submit. This page will guide you through any missing documents or input fields.

II. Process and Review

Science Panel Review. Applications are initially reviewed by two members of the NPRB Science Panel, followed by a discussion of the full Panel, with focus on the following three 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 NPRB's mission.

Advisory Panel Review. Recommendations will be added 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 clearly defined, meaningful engagement with communities and stakeholders. Applicants are encouraged to visit the NPRB Communications and Outreach Resources webpage for ideas on how to creatively engage audiences.

Board Review. The NPRB Board will consider the Science and Advisory Panel recommendations in their final decision. In the event of a tie, the Board may give preference to applications addressing pressing fisheries management needs, ecosystem information needs, or Alaska high school graduates. They will also minimize duplication with other projects on similar topics.

NPRB staff will notify Applicants of their status via email in May.

III. Award and 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, and demonstrate such willingness in the proposal submission (e.g., contact information and/or letter to the program manager via email).

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

1. By September 1, 2022, give a presentation at a school or to a public audience.
2. Share the research via an oral or poster presentation at the January 2022 or 2023 Alaska Marine Science Symposium. Funds for travel to the symposium are included in the base award (\$26,000). It is expected that applicants will directly arrange their travel. It is the responsibility of the applicant to submit an abstract for the relevant meeting year. Abstract submission is typically open in October.
3. Acknowledge the NPRB Graduate Student Research Award in the student thesis, research presentations and publications. The awardee should reference the NPRB GSRA and year of award in any publications resulting from this work.
4. Provide NPRB with a pdf copy of the completed thesis and any publications.
5. Ensure that contact information is updated as necessary to allow for occasional follow-up with awardees to determine metrics such as graduation success.

For more information:

Visit www.nprb.org, or contact Senior Program Manager, Jo-Ann Mellish at joann.mellish@nprb.org