



# Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

## Pacific Island Fisheries Research Program

### 2016 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Full Proposal Due Date: **February 15, 2016, by 05:00 PM Hawaii Standard Time**

#### OVERVIEW

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WPRFMC) will provide funds for appropriate and relevant research and other projects through the Pacific Island Fisheries Research Program (PIFRP).

Funds are available through the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund, a Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act-established fund, which is used to support the implementation of Marine Conservation Plans of the US Pacific Island Territories and the Pacific Remote Island Areas and conservation and management objectives within the US Western Pacific Region.

#### BACKGROUND

The WPRFMC is one of eight regional fishery management councils established under the 1976 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Council manages fisheries in federal waters (3 to 200 miles). Maintaining sustainable fisheries is a top Council priority. The 2006 Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act (MSRA) included provisions to rebuild overfished stocks; sustain fishermen, communities and vibrant working waterfronts; and promote safety, fishery conservation and management, and social and economic benefits. In order to meet these provisions, scientific information from multiple disciplines is needed.

Section 302(h) of the MSRA requires the eight regional fishery management councils to 1) develop five-year regional research priorities for fisheries, fishery interactions, habitats, and other areas of research that are necessary for management purposes and 2) submit these priorities to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and the regional science centers of the National Marine Fisheries Service for their consideration in developing regional research priorities and budgets. The initial WPRFMC research priorities were developed by the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee in 2008 and have been reviewed and modified on an annual basis since then. In 2013-2014, the Council undertook a substantial update of these priorities with assistance from its various advisory bodies.

#### PROGRAM PRIORITIES

This is the first Pacific Island Fisheries Research Program funding opportunity. Funding for future years is not guaranteed. For 2016, the Council has selected a research topic from one of each of its four research priority themes. Proposals should therefore address one of the following:

### **Theme: Fisheries Data Monitoring**

**Improving catch expansion estimates:** Many fisheries conducted in local and federal waters of the Western Pacific Region (American Samoa, Guam, CNMI, Hawaii) are monitored through creel surveys and in some cases trip tickets, or sales receipts. The Council is looking for projects that would provide guidance on revising the existing data collection system to provide better catch expansion estimates. Projects that re-analyze the existing raw data sets to deal with low sample sizes in order to provide more robust catch expansion estimates are also desired. Expanded fishery monitoring systems will provide improved data while statistically resampled data sets will provide a better time series of catch. Both would reduce the scientific and management uncertainties surrounding the establishment and implementation of annual catch limits.

### **Theme: Fishery Ecosystems**

**Expand and update ECOSIM and encourage the development of alternative models:** The Council desires projects that will help support its ecosystem based management goals. Examples include projects that develop and evaluate ecosystem or trophic models for use in ecosystem management (including identification of appropriate ecosystem indicators); characterize the trophic dynamics of the ecosystem relevant to key fisheries species; assess temporal dynamics of reef fish structure and examine recovery rates and yields following removal of large fish biomass; and examine probable future climate change scenarios and their associated potential impacts on nearshore and pelagic fish stocks in the Council's jurisdiction and effects to fisheries, fishing communities, and seafood consumers.

### **Theme: Human Communities**

**Assess the positive and negative effects and implications of U.S. Pacific marine protected areas to nearby fishing communities, including fishermen and fishing fleets:** The Western Pacific region contains the largest amount of federally-restricted ocean area (for conservation and other purposes). Many members of the region's fishing communities insist they have not been adequately involved in MPA decision-making processes and are therefore reluctant to trust scientists' claims or to comply with associated regulations. The Council desires information regarding procedural justice, direct and transferred economic, social, and ecological effects, and fishermen safety as these issues relate to the establishment and ongoing management of marine protected areas in the western Pacific.

### **Theme: Protected Species**

**Assess post-hooking mortality rates of protected species observed to have incidental interactions with fisheries managed under the Council's Fishery Ecosystem Plans:** Post-hooking mortality rate is an important factor in assessing fishery impacts on protected species populations, but species-specific information on post-hooking mortality is limited for many species that interact with fisheries. Projects addressing this priority may include reviews or analysis of existing data, or collection of new data that contribute to improved estimates of post-hooking mortality rates

## **ELIGIBILITY**

### **Eligible and Ineligible Entities**

The Council will consider applications from all Western Pacific commercial and non-commercial fisheries sectors, indigenous community entities and representatives, regional, national, and international academic institutions, non-profit organizations, consultancies, state and local government agencies,

and contracting entities to the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center that are looking to collaborate with the Council in addressing its fishery research priorities. Proposals will be evaluated on a competitive basis by a review committee and selected proposals will be funded as contracts.

- Principle Investigator(s) must have a demonstrated ability to implement the project.
- Projects and activities must pertain to the issues and items described above.
- Proposals for projects that can be completed in approximately one year are preferred.
- Proposals and deliverables must be written in English.
- U.S. Federal agencies and their employees are not eligible for contractual agreements with the Council.
- Indirect costs are capped at 25%.

### **FUNDING AVAILABILITY**

The Pacific Island Fisheries Research Program will be contracting eligible and successful applicants for the 2016 funding cycle. Individual contracts under this program will not exceed \$100,000 and are more likely to be in the \$50,000-75,000 range. Matching contributions (both cash and in-kind) are preferred but not required. However, applicants are encouraged to seek out matching funds because these grant proposals may be more competitive. Matching contributions and in-kind contributions should be identified in the proposal in the application section entitled “Matching Contributions”. The Council will consider multiyear project proposals, but funding is only guaranteed on an annual basis, with subsequent extensions contingent on Council funding availability and performance evaluation.

### **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

All proposals will be screened for relevance, accuracy, completeness and compliance with Council and funding source policies. Proposals will then be evaluated based on the extent to which they meet the following criteria:

1. **Linkage to Research Priorities** – the project directly addresses one or more of the issues and items identified above. Proposals should describe how the information would improve the Council’s fishery management decision-making.
2. **Technical Merit** – Project is technically sound and feasible, and the proposal sets forth a clear, logical and achievable work plan and timeline. Project engages appropriate technical experts throughout project planning, design and implementation to ensure activities are technically-sound and feasible.
3. **Budget** – Costs are allowable, reasonable and budgeted in accordance with the Council’s Detailed Budget Instructions cost categories.
4. **Funding Need** – Project establishes a clear need for the funds being requested, and demonstrates that activities would not move forward absent funding.
5. **Monitoring** – Project includes a plan for monitoring progress during and after the proposed project period to track project success and adaptively address new challenges and opportunities as they arise.

## **TIMELINE**

Dates of activities are subject to change. Please check the Council website for the most current dates and information ([www.wpcouncil.org](http://www.wpcouncil.org)).

## **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Contractors will be required to submit a start-up report, regular progress reports at specified intervals, and a final report. The final report must include documentation of expenditures of the award. All end products, reports, and deliverables resulting from this project must be submitted to the Council. Contractors must also formally acknowledge the Council support in all publications and presentations related to the funded project. Funds can be allocated for travel to Honolulu to present results to the SSC and Council at a regularly scheduled meeting. However, this allocation should not compromise the ability of the project to fully examine and report on the issue being studied.

Applicants should be aware that a contractual agreement with the Council will grant the Council the license to publish, translate, reproduce, deliver, perform, use, and dispose of, in any manner, the progress and final reports produced in the performance of the contract, and any information or data contained within said materials.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Proposal submissions should include the following materials:

1. A proposal following the format in the attached Project Narrative Form (maximum 10 pages);
2. Copies of permits or letters of endorsement, if applicable; and
3. A curriculum vitae or resume for each Principal Investigator (maximum of 2 PIs per proposal; not to exceed 4 pages each). Brief description of each Co-PI.
4. NOAA NEPA Questionnaire

Proposals and CVs must be in English. Electronic version of the Proposal Requirements Form is available for download from the Council web site: <<http://wpcouncil.org/news/index.html>>.

Proposals may be submitted by e-mail (attach materials in Word, WordPerfect, or PDF files), fax, or regular mail to:

Marlowe Sabater  
Marine Ecosystem Scientist  
Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council  
1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813  
Email: [marlowe.sabater@wpcouncil.org](mailto:marlowe.sabater@wpcouncil.org)  
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Please direct any inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals to the contact information above.