

*Office of Subsistence Management
Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program*

***2010 Request for Proposals
Notice of Availability of Federal Assistance***

Overview Information

The Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, administers the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (Catalog of Federal and Domestic Assistance Number 15.636 Alaska Subsistence Management). The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (Monitoring Program) is seeking technically sound projects that gather information to manage and conserve subsistence fishery resources in Alaska. The program also is directed at supporting meaningful involvement in fisheries management by Alaska Native and rural organizations and promoting collaboration among Federal, State, Alaska Native and local organizations. The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program encompasses awards made through both Federal assistance and procurement instruments (contracts). This Request for Proposals is the single designated annual competition through which multiple awards will be made. This Request for Proposals # 701819R123 will be posted on <http://www.fedbizopps.gov> and <http://www.grants.gov>.

As in past years, studies that gather, analyze, and report information needs for subsistence fisheries management on Federal public lands in Alaska (National Wildlife Refuges, National Forests, National Parks and Preserves, National Conservation Areas, National Wild and Scenic River Systems, National Petroleum Reserves, and National Recreation Areas) will be considered.

Proposals are to be submitted to the Office of Subsistence Management by **January 12, 2009, 5:00 PM Alaska time.**

I. Funding Opportunity Description

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) has established guidelines for proposals to successfully compete for funding. Activities that fall outside the scope of the Monitoring Program and will not be considered include: habitat protection, mitigation, restoration, and enhancement; hatchery propagation, restoration, enhancement and supplementation; and contaminant assessment, evaluation, and monitoring. These important activities are most appropriately addressed by the responsible land management or regulatory agency, not the Monitoring Program. In addition, projects for which the primary objective is capacity building (e.g., science camps, technician training, intern programs), are not eligible for funding under the Monitoring Program. However, projects with capacity building as a secondary objective are encouraged, and partnerships/capacity building is one of the ranking criteria used to evaluate proposals.

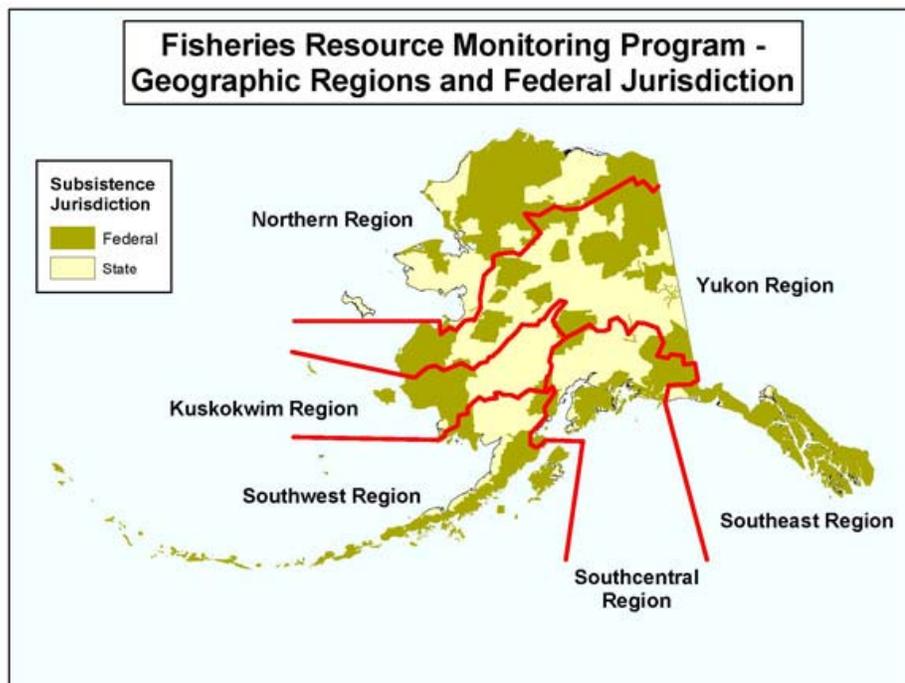
The Monitoring Program provides approximately \$7 million annually in funding to support research on and monitoring of Federal subsistence fisheries in Alaska. The funding commitments to multiple year projects influence the amount of funding available each year

for new projects. In 2010, approximately \$6.5 million will be available to fund new monitoring and research projects needed to sustain Federal subsistence fisheries for rural Alaskans on Federal lands; remaining funding is obligated to existing projects.

Proposed requests for funding may be up to four years duration for long-term monitoring projects. Proposals for new project starts can be for up to four years duration.

Although all proposals addressing Federal subsistence fisheries will be considered, the Office of Subsistence Management is targeting this Request for Proposals towards specific priority issues and projects identified either by strategic planning efforts or by expert opinion from Regional Advisory Councils, fisheries managers, the Technical Review Committee, and the Office of Subsistence Management staff. A list of priority information needs is included in the application package (see IV. Application and Submission below). Investigators wishing to address information needs other than those identified in the attached list must include a compelling rationale regarding strategic importance and application to Federal subsistence management.

Geographic Regions: Proposals should address one of six geographic regions. If the issue of concern covers more than one region, the proposal should be classified as inter-regional.



Data Types: Two categories of information will be considered: 1) harvest monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge (HM-TEK), and 2) stock status and trends (SST). Harvest monitoring studies provide information on numbers and species of fish harvested, locations of harvests, and gear types used. Methods used to gather information on subsistence harvest patterns include harvest calendars, mail-in questionnaires, household interviews, subsistence permit reports and telephone interviews. Traditional ecological knowledge studies are directed at collecting and analyzing information from knowledgeable people on a variety of

topics, including: fish ecology, species identification, local names, life history, taxonomy, seasonal movements, harvests, spawning and rearing areas, population trends, environmental observations, and traditional management systems. Methods used to document traditional ecological knowledge include ethnographic fieldwork, key informant interviews with local experts, place name mapping, and open-ended surveys.

Stock status and trends studies provide information on abundance and run timing; age, size and sex composition; migration, mixing, and geographic distribution; survival of juveniles or adults; stock production; genetic stock identification and mixed stock analyses. Methods used to gather information on stock status and trends include aerial and ground surveys, test fishing, towers, weirs, sonar, video, genetics, mark-recapture, and telemetry.

II. Award Information

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service will award multiple cooperative agreements and contracts for selected fisheries investigation projects. Continuation of funding for year two, three or four of multiple-year projects is contingent upon attainment of the study objectives and availability of future government funding.

III. Eligibility

Individuals and organizations that have the necessary technical and administrative abilities and resources to ensure successful completion of studies may submit proposals. Entities submitting proposals may be independent investigators, Alaska Native organizations, government agencies, academic institutions, regional fishery organizations, or consulting firms.

Applicants and organizations that are included on the Federal Government's Excluded Parties Listing Systems (EPLS) cannot submit proposals. Inclusion on the EPLS listing system indicates debarment from doing business under Federal procurement and/or non-procurement (cooperative agreement) programs. See <http://www.epls.gov> for the most current listing of debarred organizations.

Monitoring Program funding is intended to provide new and improved information for management of subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands, and not duplicate existing programs. Thus, OSM highly discourages agencies shifting their existing projects to the Monitoring Program. Where long-term projects can no longer be funded by agencies, and the project provides direct information for Federal subsistence fisheries management, the policy is to allow a maximum request to the Monitoring Program of up to 50% of the project cost. For new projects with broad overlap of Federal and State management authority, a substantial match in funding must be included in order to be considered for Monitoring Program funding. However, applicants are encouraged to document matching contributions. Proposals with substantial cost sharing may be ranked higher than similar proposals with no identified cost sharing.

IV. Application and Submission

Address to Request Application Materials

Applicants may request an application package from Kathy Orzechowski, Fisheries Division, Office of Subsistence Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, phone: 907-786-3645, fax: 907-786-3612, email: fisheries_resource_monitoring@fws.gov. In addition, the application package may also be accessed on the web at <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/fisindex.cfm>, under “Applying for Funding.”

Content and Form of Application

Application package: The application package contains eight documents to assist in preparation of proposals.

1. **Guidelines for Preparing Proposals** describes the schedule for the 2010 Monitoring Plan, and the proposal format requirements.
2. **Priority Information Needs** provides a list of the most important knowledge gaps for Federal subsistence fisheries management within each region. Although all proposals addressing Federal subsistence fisheries will be considered, investigators are encouraged to address one or more of these priority information needs. Investigators wishing to address information needs other than those identified in the attached list must include a compelling rationale regarding strategic importance and application to Federal subsistence management at this time.
3. **Guidelines for Establishing Project Objectives for Biological Fisheries Investigations** provides guidance on developing scientifically and statistically sound proposals and investigation plans for biological fisheries investigations. Investigators should be aware that the objectives provide the basis for development of funding documents and for evaluation of project performance, so careful attention to the specifics of the guidelines is recommended.
4. **Guidelines for Establishing Project Objectives for Social Science Investigations** provides guidance on developing scientifically sound proposals and investigation plans for social science investigations. Investigators should be aware that the objectives provide the basis for development of funding documents and for evaluation of project performance, so careful attention to the specifics of the guidelines is recommended.
5. **Principles for the Conduct of Research in the Arctic** provides the basis for promoting mutual respect and communication between scientists and residents of rural communities. Investigators should adhere to these principles in developing and conducting studies.
6. **Guidelines for Use of Fish in Field Research** provides guidance for the ethical and scientific conduct of field investigations. This policy by the American Fisheries Society documents the appropriate use of fish in field research, including collecting, restraint and handling, marking, and disposition of fish following studies.

7. **Capacity Building in the Fisheries Resources Monitoring Program** provides a foundation for understanding capacity building within the context of the Monitoring Program and is an aid for investigators in developing a capacity building strategy into proposals and investigation plans.
8. **Traditional Ecological Knowledge References** provides over 25 useful references on traditional ecological knowledge research.

Registration in the Central Contractor Registry: All applicants for this program are required to **enroll or take the required steps to annually maintain their active status registration** in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) on-line at <http://www.ccr.gov>. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not maintain the CCR website and questions which arise in completing your on-line registration should be directed to the CCR Assistance Center at (888) 227-2423, or (269) 961-5757 internationally.

In your study proposal application package to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, please provide us with your organization's Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS Number) and a screen print showing either pending or active registrant status in CCR for your specific DUNS number. **Non-registration by applicants or sub-applicants will result in rejection of your application package.** You may provide a "screen print" of your registration in CCR as a part of your application package.

Submission Dates and Times

January 12, 2009	Deadline for Proposals, 5:00 PM Alaska time
May 11, 2009	Deadline for Investigation Plans, 5:00 PM Alaska time

Intergovernmental Review

This funding opportunity is not subject to Executive Order (EO) 12372.

Funding Restrictions

Awards will not allow reimbursement of pre-award expenses.

Other Submission Requirements

Electronic submission in Microsoft Word is required and must be received by January 12, 2009, 5:00 PM Alaska time. Electronic submissions should be emailed to fisheries_resource_monitoring@fws.gov.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their proposal through Grants.govAPPLY. To do this, work with the Senior Administrator or Fiscal Official in your organization or agency to register on www.grants.gov. The registration process takes approximately two weeks. Visit Grants.gov and click on Get Registered. Submittal of application packages through Grants.govAPPLY is strongly encouraged; however, is not yet mandatory. For assistance during the registration process, please email at support@grants.gov or call the Grants.gov Contact Center Phone: 1-800-518-4726. The Contact Center hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

V. Application Review

Criteria

Each proposal is evaluated using the following four criteria:

- Strategic Priorities- Studies must be responsive to identified issues and information needs. All projects must have a direct linkage to Federal Public lands and/or waters to be eligible for funding under the Monitoring Program. To assist in evaluation of submittals for projects previously funded under the Monitoring Program, investigators must include a synthesis of project findings in their proposals. This synthesis should clearly and concisely document project performance, key findings, and uses of collected information for Federal subsistence management.
 - Federal linkage – Study must have a direct association to a subsistence fishery within Federal Subsistence Management Program jurisdiction. That is, the subsistence fishery or stocks in question must occur in waters within or adjacent to Federal public lands (National Wildlife Refuges, National Forests, National Parks and Preserves, National Conservation Areas, National Wild and Scenic River Systems, National Petroleum Reserves, and National Recreation Areas).
 - Conservation Mandate – Risk to the conservation of species and populations that support subsistence fisheries and risk to public lands purposes.
 - Allocation Priority – Risk of failure to provide a priority to subsistence uses and risk that subsistence harvest needs will not be met.
 - Data Gaps – Amount of information available to support subsistence management. A higher priority is given where a lack of information exists.
 - Management Application - The application of proposed project data must be clearly explained and linked to current management strategies and needs.
 - Role of Resource – Importance of a species or a population to a subsistence harvest (e.g. number of subsistence users affected, quantity of subsistence harvest), and qualitative significance (e.g. cultural value, unique seasonal role).
 - Local Concern – Level of user concern over subsistence harvests (e.g., allocation, competing uses, changes in populations).
- Technical-Scientific Merit- Technical quality of the study design must meet accepted standards for information collection, compilation, analysis, and reporting. Studies must have clear objectives, appropriate sampling design, correct analytical procedures, and specified progress and final reports.
- Investigator Ability and Resources- Investigators must show they are capable of successfully completing the proposed study by providing information on the ability (training, education, and experience) and resources (technical and administrative) they possess to conduct the work. Applicants that have received funding in the past will be evaluated and ranked on their past performance, including fulfillment of meeting deliverable deadlines as outlined in Section VI. Award Administration Information under “Reporting”. If an investigator has any delinquent reports from a

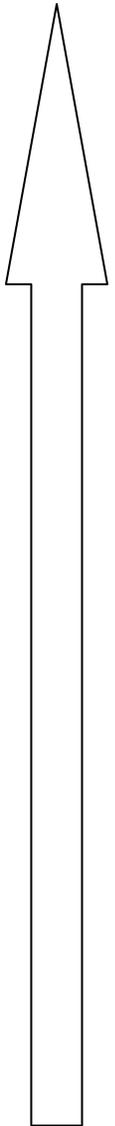
prior funded project under the Monitoring Program, this could result in a lower ranking.

- Partnership-Capacity Building- Partnerships and capacity building are priorities of the Monitoring Program. ANILCA mandates that rural residents be afforded a meaningful role in the management of subsistence fisheries, and the Monitoring Program offers opportunities for partnerships and participation of local residents in monitoring and research. Investigators are requested to include a strategy for integrating local capacity development in their investigation plans. Investigators must not only inform communities and regional organizations in the area where work is to be conducted about their project plans, but must also consult and communicate with local communities to ensure that local knowledge is utilized and concerns are addressed. Letters of support from local organizations add to the strength of a proposal. Investigators and their organizations should demonstrate their ability to maintain effective local relationships and commitment to capacity building. This includes a plan to facilitate and develop partnerships so that investigators, communities, and regional organizations can pursue and achieve the most meaningful level of involvement.

Below, a graphic illustrates capacity building as measured by levels of community and organization involvement in Monitoring Program projects, and will be used to evaluate the Partnership-Capacity Building criterion. Investigators are encouraged to develop the highest level of community and regional involvement that is practical. Investigators must demonstrate that capacity building has already reached the third or fourth level during proposal development, and ideally, that a strategy to develop capacity building to higher levels will be provided in the investigation plan. Successful capacity building requires developing trust and dialogue among investigators, local communities, and regional organizations. Investigators need to be flexible in modifying their work plan in response to local knowledge, issues, and concerns, and must also understand that capacity building should emphasize reciprocity.

Capacity Building as Measured by Levels of Community and Regional Involvement in FRMP Projects

8 Community Control	Projects are locally derived, administered and managed, full responsibility for project management is delegated to or assumed by the community and regional organization
7 Partnerships	Partnership of equals between State and Federal agencies and local users; joint decision making institutionalized
6 Collaboration	Community and regional organizations are involved in policy and decision making about project objectives
5 Cooperation	Use of local knowledge and local research assistants; some research/assessment activities are contracted to local groups and regional organizations
4 Developing Partnerships	Partnerships in project development may start; common objectives sought
3 Communication	Two-way communication begins; research plans begin to include and reflect local concerns
2 Consultation	Communities and regional organizations are consulted on projects; feedback from research findings go to the community
1 Informing	Communities and regional organizations are informed about projects; communication is one way



**Community
Involvement**

(Adapted from Berkes, et al. 1991. Co-Management: The Evolution of the Theory and Practice of Joint Administration of Living Resources. TASO Research Report, Second Series, No. 1. Hamilton, Ontario McMaster University, pg. 36).

Review and Selection Process

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by Office of Subsistence Management staff and the Technical Review Committee. This committee is comprised of representatives from each of five Federal agencies involved with subsistence management, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Their function is to provide evaluation, technical oversight, and strategic direction to the Monitoring Program. After the Technical Review Committee has reviewed proposals, investigation plans will be requested from applicants whose proposals are recommended for further consideration. Investigation plans will then be reviewed and evaluated by Office of Subsistence Management staff and the Technical Review Committee. Based on the above criteria, funding recommendations will be made for each investigation plan. All investigation plans will be combined into the draft 2010 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan, which will be distributed for review and comment to Regional Advisory Councils, other organizations, agencies, and the general public during September-October 2009. Subsequently, the Federal Subsistence Board reviews and approves the 2010 Monitoring Plan. Once the Board approves the Monitoring Plan, investigators will be notified in writing of the status of their project.

VI. Award Administration Information

Award Notice

Successful applicants will receive written notification of project selections following Federal Subsistence Board approval. The signing of all parties on a cooperative agreement or contract authorizes the award.

Parties selected to receive a cooperative agreement will be required to complete additional Federal forms before the award of the cooperative agreement. The forms are as follows: Standard Form 424 "Application for Federal Assistance," SF424A "Budget Information – Non Construction Programs," SF424B "Assurance – Non Construction Programs," and DI-2010 "Certifications."

After the applicant has signed, the document must be forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for signatures from the Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management and the Federal Assistance Specialist/Contracting Officer.

Awardees receiving a cooperative agreement shall comply with the governing aspects of 43 CFR 12, which integrate the applicable Uniform Administrative Requirements and Cost Principles from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars. These may be viewed by visiting <http://www.doi.gov/pam>, scrolling down to "Financial Assistance", clicking Virtual Library, and selecting from the menu links page.

Awardees receiving a contract will follow the specifically tailored Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) clauses and provisions attached to their contract. Upon receipt of a contract award, any clauses included by reference may be read at <http://www.arnet.gov> by clicking on the "Federal Acquisition Regulation" link.

Reporting

Up to six types of reports are required for Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program projects: performance, annual, final, significant development, financial status, and sub-contract

procurement reports. Report guidelines can be found at <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/fisindex.cfm>, under “Reporting Requirements.”

Peer review of draft annual and final reports is strongly encouraged and should be built into the schedule prior to submission of reports to the Office of Subsistence Management.

Successful applicants must be committed to the timely submission of all required reports. Delinquency or non-submission of any of the reports cited above which are applicable to a particular award may result in: non-payment of invoices, suspension of award(s), or termination. In addition, since past performance is a ranking factor for proposals and investigation plans, failure to submit reports or delinquent submittal of reports will adversely affect funding requests to the Monitoring Program.

VII. Agency Contact

For additional information please contact Kathy Orzechowski, Fisheries Division, Office of Subsistence Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, 907-786-3645, fax 907-786-3612, fisheries_resource_monitoring@fws.gov.

VIII. Other Information

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. Project approval may be suspended if applicable permits are not in place prior to award.