

2009 Request for Initial Proposals for Yukon River Salmon Research and Management Projects FWS # 701819R002

Overview Information

Federal Agency Name: Alaska Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Funding Opportunity Title: Solicitation for year 2009 Yukon River Salmon Research and Management Fund Proposals.

Announcement Type: This is a two step proposal process: 1.) Submit a one page initial proposal; 2.) If successful, provide a detailed proposal.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 15.608

Key Date: Initial Proposal deadline 11:59 p.m. Alaska time, October 10, 2008.

I. Full Text of Announcement

Funding Opportunity Description

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) receives funds for implementation of the Yukon River Salmon Agreement reached with Canada in March 2001. The Yukon River Salmon Act of 2000 authorizes funds for implementation of the Agreement including funds for cooperative research and management projects on the Yukon River in Alaska. The Service administers these funds through grant agreements, purchase orders, and contracts on a competitive basis for projects/studies that advance the scientific community's understanding of and management of Chinook and chum salmon in the Yukon River in Alaska. This is a call for initial project proposals of one year in length. Successful applicants will be asked to submit detailed proposals.

The initial project proposals will be evaluated by the U.S. Section of the Yukon River Panel (Panel). Authors of selected initial proposals will be notified by the Service to submit detailed proposals for final review. The Panel reserves the right to ask questions for clarification and conduct negotiations with promising proposal authors prior to final selection. The Panel reserves the right to eliminate from consideration any proposals whose author does not provide clarification in a timely manner, if and when clarification is sought. Panel recommendations on project selections will be forwarded to the Service for consideration of funding. The Service will then develop and award the financial assistance or contractual documents funding the final proposals that meet all federal requirements and for which funding is available.

Currently the source of general funding is appropriated funds directed to the Service. The funds shall be used for cooperative Chinook and chum salmon research and management projects in the portion of the Yukon River drainage located in the United States that are recommended by the Panel after review for scientific and technical merit.

Priorities for funding are:

- Assess and achieve fishery management objectives.
- Assess, conserve and restore salmon habitats.
- Improve the understanding of salmon biology and ecology.
- Build and maintain public support of, and meaningful participation in, salmon resource management.

The following is a list of projects that were funded under the program last year:

- Technical Assistance, Development, and Support to Tanana River Fish Wheel Salmon Monitoring Projects using Remote Video Technology.
- Tanana River Fall Season Digital Video Test Fish Wheel Index.
- Genetic stock identification of Chinook salmon harvests on the Yukon River, 2008.
- Sheenjek River Chinook Salmon Genetic Sampling.
- Chandalar River fall chum Age, Sex, and Length collection.
- Salcha River Chinook and Chum Salmon Counting Tower, 2008.
- Mountain Village Fall Season Gillnet Test Fishery.
- Pilot Station Extended Field Operations.
- Yukon River summer chum salmon mixed-stock analysis, 2008.
- Building & Maintaining Public Support of Salmon Resource Management.
- The Yukon River Sub-district 5A Test Fish Wheel Project.

Award information

The Service will award approximately \$410,000 in 2009. The Service encourages modest funding requests.

Eligibility Information/Eligible Applicants

Applications are encouraged from nonprofit organizations, public and private educational organizations, federal, state, local, and tribal governments and organizations, and individuals. Applicants who had projects funded with R&M funds in 2008, and who have applications that successfully compete for funding with R&M funds in 2009, will not receive their 2009 funds until the R&M Review Committee reviews and accepts their final report for the work funded in 2008. Organizations, their officers, or individuals identified on the Excluded Parties List System <http://www.epls.gov> are ineligible to

compete for funds through this program and should not submit an initial proposal. Successful registration on the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) <http://www.ccr.gov> is not required during this initial proposal phase. However, successful registration on CCR is a mandatory pre-requisite to receiving a 2009 award.

Cost sharing or Matching

Cost sharing or matching is not required but encouraged.

Application and Submission Information

Address to Submit Application Package:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Attention: Ken Russell
101 12th Av., Room 110
Fairbanks, AK. 99701.

All instructions for proposal submittal are included in this document. Additional copies of this document may be found at both <http://www.grants.gov> and also <http://www.fedbizopps.gov>, and searching solicitation number 701819R002. Hard copies of application materials can be requested from the agency contact listed in Section II of this document.

Initial Proposal Format and Content (One page initial proposal should include):

- PROJECT TITLE
- PROJECT PROPONENT (Name, Organization, Address, Phone number, E-mail)
- PROJECT PARTNERS/ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS
- PROJECT LOCATION (sub-basin, closest community, etc.)
- PROJECT OBJECTIVES
- PROJECT SUMMARY
- ESTIMATED BUDGET

Note: Please limit proposals to one page following this format. Electronic submissions are preferred and are to be sent to: FAIR_USRM@fws.gov. Submittal of your initial proposal through Grants.govAPPLY is available for your use in accordance with P.L. 106-107, but remains optional. Hard copies are to be submitted to the above address. It is the responsibility of the applicant to verify that their proposal has been received by the designated recipient.

Final Proposal Format and Content

Proponents invited to submit detailed proposals will be provided an outline for those proposals.

Additional Information

- Applicants should be aware that Salmon Research and Management Act funds will not be available until after the Service processes the financial paper work following the final selection.
- **SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES:** Proposals should be submitted by email by 11:59 p.m. Alaska time October 10, 2008 to ensure expeditious and efficient review. Applicants should request an automatic email notification of delivery when they send the application. We recognize that some applicants may not have access to email and in those cases we will accept proposals by fax or mail providing they are postmarked or fax time stamped by 11:59 p.m. Alaska time October 10, 2008. Proposals submitted later than described above will not be considered except under extraordinary circumstances. It is the responsibility of the recipient to ensure Service receipt of their proposal by the deadline.
- **OTHER SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:** Note: The final proposal should be submitted as ONE file in MS Word format, not multiple files. The budget table should be incorporated into the final proposal document, NOT submitted as a separate attachment.

Schedule for 2009 R&M Proposals

Initial Proposals

- Step 1 – September 8, 2008 Post on Grants.gov FIND/APPLY and Fedbizopps. Advertise the call for Initial Proposals in the Anchorage, and Fairbanks newspapers.
- Step 2 – October 10, 2008 Deadline for 2009 Initial Proposals.
- Step 3 - December 12, 2008 Panel recommendations on 2009 Initial proposals.
- Step 4 - December 17, 2008 E-mail response to each CP applicant indicating either:
- “Approved” - the applicant is encouraged to submit a detailed project proposal based on the CP as submitted;
 - “Modified” – the applicant is encouraged to submit a detailed project proposal to incorporate the revisions requested by the Panel;
 - “Other” – as determined by U. S. Panel Delegation comment; or,
 - “Not Approved” – being of relatively low priority, or not meeting the Act’s funding criteria.

Final Proposals

Step 5 – January 31, 2009 Deadline for receipt of detailed project proposals.
Step 6 – April 3, 2009 U.S. Panel Delegation will make its decisions on the detailed project proposals which will be communicated to all applicants.

II. Application Review Information Criteria:

The U.S. Delegation of the Yukon Panel sets out specific priorities for the U.S. Research and Management fund for the 2009 Call for Proposals:

- Assess and achieve fishery management objectives.
- Assess, conserve and restore salmon habitats.
- Improve the understanding of salmon biology and ecology.
- Build and maintain public support of, and meaningful participation in, salmon resource management.

For these four priorities, the following ranking factors, listed from highest (1) to lowest (4/6), will be considered:

Assess and achieve fishery management objectives:

1. Develop and expand the genetic baseline for Yukon salmon stocks.
2. Identify stock composition of salmon runs through genetic stock identification.
3. Develop and/or improve in-season run size and stock specific estimates at the mouth of the Yukon River.
4. Monitor salmon escapements by Alaskan Geographic Units.
5. Develop or incorporate new methodologies and/or approaches to improve management and research capability.
6. Refine in-season border passage assessment/estimates.

Assess, conserve and restore salmon habitats:

1. Habitat monitoring.
2. Identify and characterize salmon spawning and rearing habitats.
3. Identify and evaluate potential impacts to habitat.
4. Identify and monitor key salmon spawning streams/areas (index streams).
5. Identify and implement restoration opportunities.

Improve understanding of salmon biology and ecology:

1. Develop scientifically-based biological escapement goals for Canadian-origin salmon.
2. Develop population estimates for Yukon River salmon stocks.
3. Assessment of the quality of escapements (e.g., age/size/sex; health).

4. Investigate relationships between salmon and their physical environment.
5. Investigate relationships between salmon and other organisms.

Build and maintain public support of, and meaningful participation in, salmon resource management.

1. Develop mutual understandings between agencies and the public, best demonstrated by a third party.
2. Build and maintain community capacity.
3. Encourage stewardship of the resource.
4. Promote public values of the salmon resource.

Award Administration Information

Award Notices: Award notices will be provided to successful final proposal applicants by email, mail, or phone in April, 2009. Notice of a successful proposal is not an authorization to begin performance (pre-award costs are incurred at the recipient's risk). A purchase order, contract, grant agreement or inter-agency agreement signed by a USFWS warranted contracting officer will constitute authorization to begin performance. Actual transfer of funds will not occur until April, 2009 at the earliest.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements: All awards will include terms and conditions. These terms and conditions will be binding on the recipient and cover such areas as complying with all applicable federal regulations and reporting requirements (see following reporting section). If the Service determines that your project is to be funded via cooperative or grant agreement, prior to award, you will be asked to complete and send in an Application for Federal Assistance Packet (SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B and DI-2010 Certifications Form). If your proposal included a non-federal cost share, that "applicant match" must be reflected in the Application for Federal Assistance Packet and subsequent Financial Status Reports. The Application for Federal Assistance Packet will not be required if the Service determines that your project is to be funded via purchase order, contract, or inter / intra-agency agreement.

Reporting: Grantees are required to submit an annual summary report to the Agency contact. For projects funded conditionally as multi-year projects, the annual summary report must report on significant deviations from original objectives, methodology, and partnerships and must outline corrective actions and report on status of partnerships and funding to qualify for next year's funding. Applicants who had projects funded with R&M funds in 2008, and who have applications that successfully compete for funding with R&M funds in 2009, will not receive their 2009 funds until the R&M Review Committee reviews and accepts their final report for the work funded in 2008. The deadline for this report submission is June 1, 2009, with final review and acceptance by July 1, 2009.

The Department of the Interior Policy on Financial Status Reporting applies in the event you receive funds through a cooperative or grant agreement.

<http://www.doi.gov/pam/SF269Policy.html>

Agency Contact

Submit proposals and direct questions to:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Ken Russell

101 12th Ave., Room 110

Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Phone: 907- 455-1870

Fax: 907-456-0208

Email: FAIR_USRM@fws.gov