

## Request for Proposals

Evidence is increasing that changes in the marine environment of the Salish Sea are negatively impacting survival of salmonids. Coho, Chinook salmon, and steelhead have all experienced declines in marine survival rates since perhaps the late 1970s, leading some to suggest low marine survival as a potential bottleneck to recovery. Research has increased in both Canadian and US waters of the Salish Sea as a result, but there is a need to coordinate more effectively in order to generate research results that lead to better management actions in support of steelhead (and other salmonid) recovery in the Salish Sea.

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) allocated \$250,000 in 2011 to advance steelhead recovery planning, and since that time, technical and policy experts from the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC) have been working to develop an approach for the most effective allocation of these funds. A regional issue potentially impacting all steelhead migrating through the Salish Sea, poor marine survival was identified by the PSSRC as a critical research need as resource managers move forward with recovery planning for Puget Sound steelhead. Based on this assessment, the PSSRC recommended the use of up to \$50,000 of the SRFB allocation to advance a more coordinated research effort around marine survival in the Salish Sea.

The goals, then, of this allocation are to:

- Support compilation and analysis of current marine survival-related data and research;
- Advance a coordinated, transboundary research approach involving US and Canadian scientists, resource managers, and other stakeholders to investigate causes of low marine survival in the Salish Sea;
- Develop a joint research plan on which Canadian and US scientists can move forward; and
- Identify a funding mechanism or program that would help direct funding toward critical research needs identified through the research planning effort.

## Required Qualifications

Applicants may be Tribes, non-profit organizations, salmon recovery Lead Entities, Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups, local governments, state agencies, or federal agencies. Successful applicants will:

- Have excellent connections and demonstrated experience with US and Canadian scientists, resource managers, and other stakeholders critical to this research effort;
- Have a history of successfully facilitating collaborative processes and achieving results; and
- Articulate a clear, compelling project concept likely to meet the goals of this Request for Proposals and build a solid foundation from which a comprehensive research effort can be undertaken.

Ultimately, the project team expects to award one grant up to a maximum of \$50,000.

## PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

(\* ) Items marked by an asterisk are required

### Organizational Information

Organization Name\*

EIN/Tax ID\*

City\*

State/Province\*

Type\*

### Primary Contact Information

Name\*  
Position Title  
Address\*  
Phone\*  
Email\*

### **Project Information**

Grant Amount Being Requested\*  
Matching Amount Proposed (note: match is not required)\*  
Projected Grant Start Date\*  
Projected Grant End Date\*  
Project Title/Name\*  
Two Sentence Project Summary\*  
Project Location Description\*

### **Proposal Narrative\***

*Writing Instructions: Please provide a narrative not to exceed five (5) pages that elaborates on how your project intends to meet the project goals and objectives described above, and how your project team and key staff meet the required qualifications.*

### **Matching Contributions**

For each matching contribution, the following information is requested:

Matching Contribution Amount  
Matching Contribution Type  
Matching Contribution Source  
Matching Contribution Source Type  
Matching Contribution Status  
Matching Contribution Description/Notes

### **Proposal Review Process**

The information above must be received via email to [tristan.peter-contesse@psp.wa.gov](mailto:tristan.peter-contesse@psp.wa.gov) no later than 5pm (P.S.T) on July 6, 2012. Responses received after the due date and time will not be given further consideration. The review process will be conducted via the following steps:

1. PSP project staff review proposals for completeness
2. Proposals are reviewed by the Review Committee, consisting of Recovery Council members assigned to a Steelhead Subcommittee
3. The Subcommittee meets and evaluates each proposal
4. The Subcommittee makes funding recommendations to the full Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, based on proposal ranking
5. PSP project staff review recommendations
6. Funding decisions are made, and notices are sent to applicants

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

*Criteria 1:* Responsiveness of proposal to RFP

- To what extent will the proposal meet the four goals of this RFP, as described on page 1 above? (40% weighting)

*Criteria 2: Likelihood of success*

- To what extent does the applicant demonstrate specific and ongoing engagement with the topic of marine survival research, including close connections with US and Canadian scientists? (20% weighting)
- What is the likelihood that the applicant has sufficient resources to complete the work as proposed? (10% weighting)
- To what extent do the applicant's proposed methods demonstrate the applicant's competence to complete the work as proposed? (10% weighting)

*Criteria 3: Cost effectiveness*

- How effective is the work being proposed in context of the total project budget? (10% weighting)
- In terms of funds and resources leveraged, how cost effective is the overall project? (10% weighting)

**Calendar of Events**

6/18/12: RFP posted

7/6/12: Proposals due

7/9-7/11: PSP project staff review proposals for completeness before forwarding to the Steelhead Subcommittee

7/12: Proposals submitted to the Steelhead Subcommittee to be evaluated

7/26: Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council reviews Steelhead Subcommittee recommendations

Shortly after 7/26: Notices sent to applicants

**Contact**

Please contact Tristan Peter-Contesse with the Puget Sound Partnership at [tristan.peter-contesse@psp.wa.gov](mailto:tristan.peter-contesse@psp.wa.gov) or 360-464-2002 with any questions.