

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Federal Agency Name(s): National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce

Funding Opportunity Title: Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund 2009

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: NMFS-NWRO-2009-2001656

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.438, Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery - Pacific Salmon Treaty Program.

Dates: Pre-Applications are not mandatory, but highly encouraged. They must be received no later than February 2, 2009 if the applicant expects to receive any feedback from NMFS on completeness of package and initial determination of compliance with requirements. Final Applications should be submitted via www.grants.gov and must be received no later than 11:59pm PST on February 17, 2009. No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted. Paper applications must be postmarked by February 17, 2009. Any application transmitted or postmarked, as the case may be, after the deadline will be considered non-responsive and will not be considered for funding in this competition.

Applications submitted through Grants.gov will have a date and time indication on them. Hard copy applications will be date and time stamped when they are received. PLEASE NOTE: It may take Grants.gov up to two (2) business days to validate or reject the application. Please keep this in mind in developing your submission timeline.

Funding Opportunity Description: NOAA announces the availability of Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF), as authorized in the Northern Boundary and Transboundary Rivers Restoration and Enhancement Fund and Southern Boundary Restoration and Enhancement Fund (16 U.S.C. 3645), to support the restoration and conservation of Pacific salmon and steelhead populations and their habitat.

The program provides funding to the States of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and California for salmon habitat restoration, salmon stock enhancement, sustainable salmon fisheries and salmon research. It also provides funding to the Pacific Coastal tribes and the Columbia River tribes as authorized in 16 U.S.C. 3645(d)(2)(B) for salmon habitat restoration, salmon stock enhancement, salmon research and supplementation activities.

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Program Objective

The PCSRF was established in Fiscal Year 2000 to address the need to protect, restore and conserve Pacific chinook, chum, coho, pink and sockeye salmon and steelhead, and their habitat. Authorization of PCSRF was in response to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) listings of Pacific salmon and steelhead in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and California as well as the effects of the harvest restrictions placed on Southeast Alaska fishers through the 1999 Pacific Salmon Treaty agreement between the United States and Canada. The PCSRF supplements existing state, tribal and federal programs to foster development of federal-state-tribal-local partnerships in salmon recovery and conservation by providing grants to the eligible states, tribal commissions, and tribes.

Under this solicitation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is seeking applications for projects from individual eligible Indian tribes and accepting program applications from eligible States and representative Tribal commissions so that it can allocate the FY 2009 Federal funds for PCSRF grants on a merit basis. An applicant can only submit one application to the Federal government for PCSRF funding. Application submissions, requesting any PCSRF funding, from both the representative Commission and by a Tribe represented by the Commission will not be accepted.

B. Program Priorities

The PCSRF is authorized at 16 U.S.C. 3645 to fund state programs for salmon habitat restoration, salmon stock enhancement, sustainable salmon fisheries, and salmon research. The program is also authorized to fund Pacific Coastal tribes and Columbia River tribes (as defined under 16 U.S.C. 3645(d)(2)(B)) for salmon habitat restoration, salmon stock enhancement, salmon research and supplementation activities.

Over the past few years, NMFS and its PCSRF partners worked to develop and implement the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Performance Goals, Measures, and Reporting Framework (Framework).

[<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Recovery-Planning/PCSRF/upload/PCSRF-Perf-Framework.pdf>]. The Framework was developed to track progress toward objectives for salmon recovery and conservation and to help track the effects of completed projects on salmon conservation and recovery by measuring performance on the following six short-, mid-, and long-term goals:

Enhance the availability and quality of salmon and steelhead habitat;
Improve the status of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead;
Address habitat limiting factors for ESA-listed salmon and steelhead;
Improve management practices to maintain healthy salmon populations and prevent decline of ESA-listed salmon; and
Ensure overall sustainability of naturally-spawning Pacific salmon and steelhead.

The program priorities for the Fiscal Year 2009 are:

1. Recovery, conservation and maintenance
 - a. Recovery and conservation of salmon and steelhead that are listed as threatened or endangered, or identified by a state as at-risk to be listed.
 - b. Maintenance of salmon and steelhead populations necessary for exercise of tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing.
2. Habitat protection and restoration for salmon and steelhead

NOAA will give attention to individual proposals seeking to address the PCSRF authorized activities, goals and priorities identified in this section. All proposed program or projects should be clearly linked to the authorized activities, goals and priorities addressed in this section. All proposal narratives must clearly articulate the linkages in the proposed project or program. NOAA recognizes the importance of full participation of eligible Indian tribes in the activities of the PCSRF program. Lastly, NOAA acknowledges the need to ensure a proper distribution of funding among all eligible applicants.

C. Program Authority

16 U.S.C. 3645 (d)(2)

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

Up to \$67,000,000 may be available in fiscal year (FY) 2009 for projects as authorized under 16 U.S.C. 3645 (d)(2). There are no restrictions on minimum funding request, but there is a limit of \$25,000,000 on a maximum amount requested by any recipient. Award periods may be up to a maximum of 5 years. Actual funding availability for this program is contingent upon FY 2009 Congressional appropriations.

B. Project/Award Period

The PCSRF program announcement is for programs and projects to be conducted by the states and tribes or tribal commissions for a 1-year to 5-year period, with an anticipated start date of July 1, 2009.

C. Type of Funding Instrument

The funding instrument will be a grant.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible state applicants are the States of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and California. Eligible tribal applicants are any federally recognized Pacific Coastal or Columbia River tribes in Washington, Oregon, California or Idaho.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

Applicants are required to match 33% of received Federal funds. Indian tribes are exempt from any cost share requirement.

C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility

1. Eligible States will submit applications through one designated State entity identified by Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NMFS. Applications from multiple State agencies within one state will not be accepted.
2. Indian Tribes must demonstrate eligibility in their application for consideration. They may act on their own behalf when applying for PCSRF funding or may allow their representative Indian Tribal Commission to act for them through an MOU agreement with NMFS. Application submissions for any PCSRF funding by both the representative Commission and by a Tribe within the Commission will not be accepted.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

All application materials can be found at the grants.gov portal at <http://www.grants.gov>. If an applicant does not have internet access, applications can be requested from the following address: Nicolle Hill, NMFS Northwest Region Building #1, 7600 Sand Point Way, Seattle, WA 98115. NMFS' Internet website at www.nwr.noaa.gov contains additional information on PCSRF. For further information on PCSRF, please contact Barry Thom, NMFS Northwest Region Deputy Regional Administrator, at (503) 231-6266. Questions regarding this announcement should be directed to Nicolle Hill, NMFS Northwest Region PCSRF Federal Program Officer, at (206) 526-4358 or Nicolle.Hill@noaa.gov

B. Content and Form of Application

In developing application proposals, applicants are strongly encouraged to engage in consultations with the Federal Program Officer before the applications are due. These consultations are intended to facilitate open conversation, assisting applicants by giving technical assistance and/or feedback on whether the underlying project idea has potential for funding. The Federal Program Officer will not, however, provide assistance in the development of an application or project idea.

1. Application Format: All pages should be numbered, single-spaced and should be composed in at least a 12-point font with one-inch margins on 8 1/2" x 11" paper.
2. Title Page(s): Include the following:
 - a. Applicant name and Demonstration of Eligibility (Indian Tribes only for latter requirement)
 - b. Funding Opportunity Title:
 - c. Funding Opportunity Number:
 - d. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:
 - e. Program/Project Title:
 - f. Program/ Project Duration:
 - g. Program/ Project Contacts:
 - h. Program/Project Objectives: (Short paragraph describing the planned use of funds)
 - i. Program/Project Proposal Amount: (Include federal funds, any non-federal funds, and total requested cost)
 - j. Program/Proposed Project Outcomes: (Brief description of intended results)
3. Forms: Each application package must include:
 - a. Form SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance
 - b. Form SF-424A, Budget Information-- Non-Construction Programs
 - c. Form SF-424B, Assurances-- Non-Construction Programs
 - d. CD-511, Certification Regarding Lobbying
 - e. SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable)

f. A current copy of the negotiated indirect cost rate with a Federal agency (if applicable)

4. Program or Project Narrative (25 Page Limit): Descriptive document on how the applicant intends to carry out the proposed scope of work.

Program application narratives (States and Tribal Commissions) should include the following details:

- a. Program title, description and project selection methods, including how other non-PCSRF funded components are integrated with the program.
- b. Description of specific objectives and approaches.
- c. Justification for the need for the planned program/activities.
- d. Description of the organization's technical review process.
- e. General project timelines
- f. General project locations.
- g. Description of how the outcomes, results, or products will be applied and/or made available to appropriate user groups.
- h. Linkage to PCSRF authorized activities, goals and priorities.
- i. Description of project links to actions identified in draft or final ESA recovery plans.
- j. Description of planned performance monitoring, including monitoring planned, and how the monitoring activities will fit into a larger, comprehensive monitoring plan.
- k. Description of how projects in various categories will be administered.
- l. History of project funding and multi-year projects.

Project application narratives (Tribes) should include:

- a. Title of each project and description of specific objectives and approaches.
- b. Justification of the need for the projects.
- c. Projected, quantifiable project outcomes.
- d. Project timelines.
- e. Project locations (minimum of latitude/longitude coordinates).
- f. Description of how the outcomes, results, or products will be applied and/or made available to appropriate user groups.
- g. Linkage to PCSRF authorized activities, goals and priorities.
- h. Description of project links to actions identified in draft or final ESA recovery plans.
- i. Description of planned performance monitoring, including monitoring planned, and how monitoring activities will fit into a larger, comprehensive monitoring plan.
- j. Description of how projects will be administered.
- k. History of project funding and multi-year projects.

5. Budget Narrative: Proposed budget and accompanying explanation, including quantified needs determination. Include an approved current indirect rate agreement (if applicable) and a detailed explanation of the matching share to be contributed by the applicant (States only). Each application should include a summary table of all

projects/tasks or programs proposed in the grant proposal - listing each program or project title and the corresponding total cost.

6. Resumes/Qualifications of Key Staff: Should not exceed two (2) pages per individual, with an additional two (2) pages allowed for single summary description of all organizations or consultants named in the application.

7. References and Appendices (2 Page Limit)

C. Submission Dates and Times

Applications should be submitted via www.grants.gov and must be received no later than 11:59pm PST on February 17, 2009. No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted for final applications. Any application transmitted or postmarked, as the case may be, after the deadline will be considered non-responsive and will not be considered for funding in this competition.

Pre-applications are highly encouraged, but not mandatory. They must be received no later than February 2, 2009.

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D. Intergovernmental Review

Applications under this program from state or local governments are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

E. Funding Restrictions

Eligibility is limited to the States of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and California. Eligible tribal applicants are any federally recognized Pacific Coastal or Columbia River tribes in Washington, Oregon, California or Idaho. The States and Commissions will expend not more than 3% of the direct federal funds for administrative expenses. Administrative expenses are defined as costs incurred by the program to disburse federal funds directly for PCSRF projects. Administrative costs include activities such as sub-agreement management and costs necessary to process and review project and activity proposals.

F. Other Submission Requirements

Pre-applications should be submitted electronically by e-mail to:
Nicolle.Hill@noaa.gov.

The full funding announcement is available via the Grants.gov Web site:
<http://www.grants.gov>. Applicants will be able to access, download and submit an electronic grant application for the PCSRF program in this announcement at <http://www.grants.gov> using and use the following FFO number: NMFS-NWRO-2009-2001656. Applicants who do not have Internet access should submit their paper applications to the following address: Nicolle Hill, NMFS Northwest Region Building #1, 7600 Sand Point Way, Seattle, WA 98115.

NMFS' Internet website at www.nwr.noaa.gov contains additional information on PCSRF.

Applications should be submitted online through the Grants.gov website at <http://grants.gov>. If online submission is not possible, paper applications may be mailed to Barry Thom or Nicolle Hill at 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, Seattle, WA 98115-6349.

V. Application Review Information

A. Evaluation Criteria

NOAA standardized the evaluation and selection process for its competitive assistance programs. All proposals submitted in response to this notice shall be evaluated and selected in accordance with the process set out below. In considering the funding allocation for projects and program applications, all proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria with the maximum weighted values for each category listed below for a total of 100 points maximum:

1. Importance and/or relevance and applicability of proposed project to the program goals [30 Points]: This ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, federal, regional, state, or local activities. Proposals will be evaluated based on how relevant and applicable their projects or program missions are to the listed PCSRF authorization, goals and priorities listed at I.B. Successful applicants will be those that demonstrate meeting the PCSRF authorization and goals with additional focus on the listed priorities.
2. Technical/scientific merit [30 Points]: This assesses whether the approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and objectives. Proposals will be evaluated on the

technically sound approach to manage and implement proposed projects; whether there is sufficient information to evaluate the project or program technically; and, if so, the strengths and/or weaknesses of the project or program approach to securing productive results. Successful program and project proposals will include:

- a. A description of how the applicant organization will ensure that funded projects are part of a larger program plan.
- b. A description of the proposed methods used for monitoring, measuring and evaluating the success or failure of the projects funded by the program.
- c. A quantified amount of dedicated funding to allocate to monitoring activities.
- d. A description of how project details will be reported in order to track performance including: information detailing the project reporting mechanisms, the staffing resources that will be dedicated to reporting, and the specific information that will be reported.
- e. A description of how the organization will communicate results of projects to target audiences.

Successful program proposals (states and tribal commissions) will describe the organization's selection evaluation method and allocation and implementation process for proposed projects; include selection priorities, the decision process and allocation timelines; include how technical merit is defined and determined and how project feasibility is determined.

Successful project proposals (tribes) will describe the specified approaches to achieving the project objectives, including timelines, geographic areas and methods.

3. Overall qualifications of applicants (15 Points): This ascertains whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project. The organization and management will be evaluated. The principal investigator and other personnel, including subcontractors and consultants participating in the project or program will be evaluated in terms of related experience and qualifications. Successful applications will include the following:

- a. Details about the organization's administrative resources, credibility, financial stability, business management systems, capability to comply with federal requirements, history of strong performance in the management of federal funds, and knowledge and demonstrated history of federal cost principles compliance and sub-recipient fiscal monitoring (if applicable).
- b. Applicants should illustrate that your organization has the appropriate management authority to implement actions identified in the proposal.

4. Project costs [25 Points]: Proposals will be evaluated on their budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the program or project needs and time-frame. Successful proposals will include:

- a. A needs statement which summarizes the extent, severity or prevalence of funding needed in the serving geographical area to meet the PCSRF goals and priorities. The needs statement should be supported by evidence and described

quantitatively (i.e. miles/acres of habitat needing restoration; number or extent of ESA listed Pacific salmon or Pacific salmon at risk; stocks important for tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing, etc.). The needs statement will also address the recipients other source of funding for proposed programs and projects.

b. A detailed budget by program or project level which also itemizes the proposal level and overall level of administrative and overhead costs.

c. A budget detail identifying a minimum of 10% proposed budget for monitoring, either comprehensive project effectiveness monitoring or status and trend monitoring, as part of a comprehensive program.

d. State applications must provide a budget detail which identifies the minimum matching requirements of 33% of Federal funds requested.

5. Outreach and education [0 Points]: Outreach and education, as defined in section IV.B.4.e, will be evaluated under section V.A.1

B. Review and Selection Process

Upon receipt of an application, an initial administrative review will be conducted to determine compliance with requirements and completeness of the application. The application will need to meet the following minimum requirements to be considered for funding:

1. Applicant is eligible to apply
2. Received application by deadline
3. Application is complete and includes all mandatory forms
4. Matching requirements are met (State Only)
5. Administrative programmatic cost are not exceeded (State and Commissions Only)

Individual evaluations comprised of at least three (3) or more private and public experts will independently evaluate the applications and score them using the evaluation criteria set forth above. No consensus advice will be given. The reviewers' ratings will be averaged to produce a rank order of the proposals. Technical reviewers will be required to certify that they do not have a conflict of interest and that they will maintain confidentiality of the applications.

Panel Review: After the projects have been evaluated and ranked, the Agency will solicit comments and input on funding recommendation from a panel of at least three (3) federal full-time employees comprised of the NMFS Alaska Region, Northwest Region and Southwest Region. The Agency will provide the panelists with a summary of the technical review evaluations, and, the rank order of the proposals.

C. Selection Factors

The Assistant Administrator for NMFS will be the Selecting Official. The

Selecting Official will review the rank order, funding recommendations and comments from the Panel Review Committee and determine the recipients to be funded and how much funding shall be awarded to each selected recipient. In making the final selections, the Selecting Official will award in rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based upon one of the selection factors below:

1. Availability of Funding
2. Balance/distribution of funds:
 - a. Geographically
 - b. By type of institutions
 - c. By type of partners
 - d. By research areas
 - e. By project types
3. Whether this project duplicates other projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA or other federal agencies
4. Program priorities and policy factors as set forth in the Full Funding Opportunity Sections I.A. and B.
5. Applicant's prior award performance. (Accomplishments related to PCSRF goals.)
6. Partnerships and/or Participation of targeted groups
7. Adequacy of information necessary for NOAA staff to make NEPA determination and draft necessary documentation before recommendations for funding are made available to the Grants Officer.

The Federal Program Officer and/or Selecting Official may negotiate the funding level of the proposal. The Selecting Official makes final recommendations for award to the Grants Officer who is authorized to obligate the funds.

D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified through Grants Online. The Selecting Official will issue the grant award, Form CD-450, which is the authorizing financial assistance award document. Funding is expected to begin during July of 2009 for most approved awards, subject to the availability of funds. July 1, 2009, is to be used as the proposed start date on awards, unless requested by recipient and otherwise directed by the NOAA Grants Officer.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

The notice of award is signed by the NOAA Grants Officer and is the appropriate business office of the recipient organization.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The recipient and any sub-recipients must, in addition to the assurances made as part of the application, comply and require each of its contractors and subcontractors employed in the completion of the project to comply with all applicable statutes, regulations, executive orders (EOs) Office of Management and Budget (OMB) circulars, terms and conditions and approved applications. Department of Commerce (DOC) Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions, will apply to all PCSRF award recipients. The website is: <http://oam.ocs.doc.gov/docs/GRANTS/DOC%20STCsMAR08Rev.pdf>. Special award conditions may be added or amended over the DOC standard terms.

Requirements per 15 CFR parts 14 and 24

The recipients must comply with Executive Order 12906 regarding any and all geospatial data collected or produced under grants or cooperative agreements. This includes documenting all geospatial data in accordance with the Federal Geographic Data Committee Content Standard for digital geospatial data. The Program uses only the existing NOAA Federal financial assistance awards package.

Preaward Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the Federal Register notice of February 11, 2008 (73 FR 7686) are applicable to this solicitation.

Limitation of Liability

Funding for programs listed in this notice is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2009 appropriations. In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if this program fails to receive funding or is cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds. Recipients and subrecipients are subject to all Federal laws and agency policies, regulations and procedures applicable to Federal financial assistance awards.

Universal Identifier

Applicants should be aware that, they are required to provide a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number during the application process. See the October 30, 2002 Federal Register, (67 FR 66177) for additional information. Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711 or via the Internet <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/leaving.cgi?from=leavingFR.html&log=linklog&to=http://www.dunandbradstreet.com> .

National Environmental Policy Act

NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) implementing regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508) require that an environmental analysis be completed for all major Federal actions significantly affecting the environment. NEPA applies to the actions of Federal agencies and may include a Federal agency's decision to fund non-Federal projects under grants and cooperative agreements. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA website: <http://nepa.noaa.gov/>, including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA, http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216_6_TOC.ped and CEQ implementation regulations, http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/toc_ceq.htm. Consequently, as part of all project application packages, applicants are required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non-indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to coral reef systems). Program applications should, to the best extent, provide what they know about their projects at the time of submitting their grant applications. In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting of an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. The failure to do so shall be grounds for not selecting an application. In some cases if additional information is

required after an application is selected, funds can be withheld by the Grants Officer under a special award condition requiring the recipient to submit additional environmental compliance information sufficient to enable NOAA to make an assessment on any impacts that a project may have on the environment.

Paperwork Reduction Act.

The use of Standard Forms, 424, 424A, 424B and SF-LLL and CD-346 has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under control numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040, 0348-0046 and 0605-0001. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the PRA unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Executive Order 12372 (Intergovernmental Review)

Applications under this program from state or local governments are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

Executive Order 12866

It has been determined that this notice is not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

Executive Order 13132 (Federalism)

It has been determined that this notice does not contain policies with Federalism implications as that term is defined in Executive Order 13132.

Administrative Procedures Act and Regulatory Flexibility Act

Prior notice and comment are not required under 5 U.S.C. 553, or any other law, for rules relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits or contracts (5 U.S.C. 553(a)). Because prior notice and an opportunity for public comment are not required pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553 or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) are inapplicable. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required and has not been prepared.

C. Reporting

Award recipients will be required to submit financial and performance (technical) reports. These reports are to be submitted electronically through the NOAA Grants Online system on a semi-annual basis unless the applicant does not have internet access, in which case hard copy submissions will be accepted. All financial reports are routed directly to the NOAA Grants Officer. Performance reports are routed to the assigned NOAA Federal Program Officer.

VII. Agency Contacts

For further information on PCSRF, please contact Barry Thom, NMFS Northwest Region Deputy Regional Administrator, at (503) 231-6266. Questions regarding this announcement should be directed to Nicolle Hill, NMFS Northwest Region PCSRF Federal Program Officer, at (206) 526-4358 or Nicolle.Hill@noaa.gov

VIII. Other Information

Permits and Approvals

A grant award under this funding announcement does not imply any authorization of incidental take of listed species under the ESA. Section 7 consultations will be undertaken by NMFS on projects and activities that may adversely affect ESA listed species. The recipient will obtain necessary permits on any projects and will provide all necessary information to NMFS for ESA consultation, including stipulations in each sub-agreement that the activity should not commence unless and until an ESA consultation has been completed and all necessary permits have been granted.