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## 2013 Request for Initial Proposals for Yukon River Salmon Research and Management Projects FWS # F12AS00274

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### Overview Information

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

Funding Opportunity Title: Solicitation for year 2013 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: 15.671

CFDA Title: Yukon River Salmon Research and Management Assistance

Key Date: **Conceptual Proposal deadline 11:59 p.m. Alaska time, October 3, 2012.**

### I. Funding Opportunity Description:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) receives funds for implementation of the Yukon River Salmon Agreement with Canada which was reached 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 Alaska portion of the Yukon River. The Service administers these funds through financial assistance on a competitive basis for projects/studies that advance the scientific community's understanding and management of Chinook and chum salmon in the Yukon River of Alaska. The following is a request for conceptual **project proposals of one year in length** addressing the needs of the priority Categories and Factors listed below. Funding will support work beginning May, 2013 and with project activities completed and final reports due June 2014. Applicants are strongly encouraged to develop projects that incorporate local capacity with members of Yukon River communities in which they may be working. Coordinating projects with state and federal regulatory agencies is also recommended, but not mandatory.

The conceptual project proposals will be evaluated by an interagency review committee. Conceptual Proposals will be ranked with respect to seven criteria:

- Project relevance and description,
- Clarity and significance of objectives,
- Contribution to the identified Priority Categories and Factors,
- Yukon River salmon species focus
  - Priority 1 = Canadian-origin Chinook/fall chum and U.S. Chinook
  - Priority 2 = U.S. fall chum and summer chum
  - Priority 3 = Coho,
- Project feasibility,
- Cost effectiveness, and
- Partnership and capacity building.

Scores will be summed across criteria and ranked by the summed value. The ranking will be provided as recommendations to the U.S. Delegation of the Yukon River Panel (Panel) for their final approval. Authors of selected conceptual proposals will be notified (December 2012) by the Service to submit detailed proposals for final review and selection. The Panel reserves the right to ask questions for clarification and conduct negotiations with promising proposal authors prior to final selection of the conceptual or detailed proposal. The Panel also reserves the right to eliminate from consideration any proposals whose author does not adhere to proposal deadlines or provide clarification in a timely manner, if and when clarification is sought.

## **II. Award information**

Approximately \$340,000 will be awarded for the 2013 season and the U.S. Delegation of the Yukon River Panel encourages modest funding requests to provide funding opportunities for all approved projects.

Cost sharing or matching is not required, but is encouraged.

The Service will develop and award the financial assistance documents funding the final proposals that meet all federal requirements and for which funding is available. Currently the source of general funding is federally 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.

Following are the specific Categories and their corresponding Factors laid out by the U.S. Delegation of the Panel for the Fiscal Year 2013 Research and Management Fund. The four categories will be used as evaluation criteria and are listed in descending order of importance from highest (Priority 1) to lowest (Priority 4). The factors within each category are not prioritized.

### ***Category: Assess and achieve fishery management objectives (Priority 1).***

- a) Develop and expand the genetic baseline for Yukon salmon stocks.
- b) Identify stock composition of salmon runs through genetic stock identification.
- c) Develop and/or improve in-season run size and stock specific estimates at the mouth of the Yukon River.
- d) Monitor salmon escapements by Alaskan Geographic Units.
- e) Develop or incorporate new methodologies and/or approaches to improve management and research capability.
- f) Refine in-season border passage assessment/estimates.

### ***Category: Assess, conserve and restore salmon habitats (Priority 2).***

- a) Habitat monitoring.
- b) Identify and characterize salmon spawning and rearing habitats.
- c) Identify and evaluate potential impacts to habitat.

- d) Identify and monitor key salmon spawning streams/areas (index streams).
- e) Identify and implement restoration opportunities.

***Category: Improve understanding of salmon biology and ecology (Priority 3).***

- a) Develop scientifically-based biological escapement goals for Canadian-origin salmon.
- b) Develop population estimates for Yukon River salmon stocks.
- c) Assessment of the quality of escapements (e.g., age/size/sex; health).
- d) Investigate relationships between salmon and their physical environment.
- e) Investigate relationships between salmon and other organisms.

***Category: Build and maintain public support of, and meaningful participation in, salmon resource management (Priority 4).***

- a) Develop mutual understandings between agencies and the public, best demonstrated by a third party.
- b) Build and maintain community capacity.
- c) Encourage stewardship of the resource.
- d) Promote public values of the salmon resource.

**Conceptual Proposal Format and Content:**

All instructions for proposal submittal are included in *Yukon River Salmon R&M Conceptual Proposal Template (Appendix A)*. Hard copies of application materials can be requested from the agency contact listed in Section II of this document.

**\*\*** *Please note, the proposal template has changed from previous years and only applications submitted in this form will be accepted.*

**Proposals funded through the R&M fund in 2012 included:**

- Building & Maintaining Public Support of Salmon Resource Management.
- The Yukon River Subdistrict 5-A Test Fish Wheel and ASL Project.
- Technical Assistance, Development, and Support to Tanana River Fish Wheel Salmon Monitoring Projects using Remote Video Technology.
- Mountain Village Fall Season Gillnet Test Fishery.
- Salcha River Chinook and Chum Salmon Counting Tower.
- Pilot Station Extended Field Operations.
- Juvenile Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) in the Chena River corridor through Fairbanks, AK: using citizen scientists to build community stewardship.
- Nulato River Chinook Salmon Genetics Collection.

**III. 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 2012, and who have applications that successfully compete for funding with R&M funds in 2013, will not receive their 2013 funds until the R&M Review Committee has reviewed and accepted their final report for the work funded in 2012. Organizations, their officers, or individuals identified having any exclusions in the System For Award Management (SAM) are ineligible to compete for funds through this program and should not submit a conceptual proposal.

*Note: Successful registration within the System For Award Management <https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/> is not required during this Conceptual Proposal phase. However, successful registration on SAM is a mandatory pre-requisite to receiving a 2013 award.*

#### **IV. Additional Information:**

- **SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES:** Proposals should be submitted by email by 11:59 p.m. (AST) October 3, 2012 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. (AST) October 3, 2012.
- It is the responsibility of the recipient to ensure Service receipt of their proposal by the deadline. Proposals submitted later than described above or that do not include the required information will not be considered except under extraordinary circumstances.
- **OTHER SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:** 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.
- Proponents requested to submit Detailed Proposals will be provided an outline for those proposals.
- Applicants should be aware that Yukon River Salmon Research and Management funds will not be available until after the Service processes the financial paper work following the final selection.

#### **Schedule for 2013 R&M Proposals:**

##### Conceptual Proposals

- Step 1 - August 31, 2012 Distribute RFP via email, post on Grants.gov FIND/APPLY, and advertise the call in the Anchorage, and Fairbanks newspapers.
- Step 2 - October 3, 2012 Deadline for 2013 Conceptual Proposals.
- Step 3 - December 07, 2012 Panel recommendations on 2013 Conceptual Proposals.
- Step 4 - December 14, 2012 E-mail response to each CP applicant indicating either:
- “Approved” - the applicant is encouraged to submit a detailed project proposal based on the IP 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/Detailed Proposals

- Step 5 - January 27, 2013 Deadline for receipt of Detailed Proposals.
- Step 6 - March 29, 2013 U.S. Panel Delegation makes its decisions on the Detailed Proposals.
- Step 7 - April 05, 2013 E-mail response to each DP applicant indicating Yukon River Panel decision.

#### **V. Application Review Information Criteria:**

**Award Notices:** Award notices will be provided to successful final proposal applicants by email, mail, or phone in late March, 2012. Notice of a successful proposal is not an authorization to begin performance (pre-award costs are incurred at the recipient’s risk). A grant agreement, cooperative agreement, or inter-agency agreement signed by an authorized individual within the USFWS will constitute authorization to begin performance. Actual transfer of funds will not occur until May, 2012 at the earliest.

**Administrative and National Policy Requirements:** All awards will include terms and conditions which can be found at [http://www.doi.gov/pam/programs/financial\\_assistance/TermsandConditions.cfm](http://www.doi.gov/pam/programs/financial_assistance/TermsandConditions.cfm). 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 Panel determines that your project is to be forwarded to the Detailed Proposal phase, you will be required to complete and send in an Application for Federal Assistance Packet (SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B) with your Detailed Proposal. Furthermore, if your proposal includes a request for funding to pay for indirect cost, an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement form will need to be submitted. 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.

*Reporting:* Grantees are required to submit a semiannual summary and an annual final report to the Service contact listed below. 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 2012, and who have applications that successfully compete for funding with R&M funds in 2013, will not receive their 2013 funds until the R&M Review Committee reviews and accepts their final report for the work funded in 2012. The deadline for this report submission is June 31, 2013.

**Agency Contact to submit application package or questions to:**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Aaron Martin  
101 12<sup>th</sup> Ave., Room 110  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
Phone: 907- 455-1870  
Fax: 907-456-0418  
Email: [FAIR\\_USRM@fws.gov](mailto:FAIR_USRM@fws.gov)

*Note:* Electronic submissions are preferred and are to be sent to: [FAIR\\_USRM@fws.gov](mailto: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.

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## Yukon River Salmon Research and Management Fund 2013 Conceptual Proposal Template

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*Note:* Limit Conceptual Proposal to no more than two pages.  
Please use Times New Roman, size 12 font, and single spacing, except between paragraphs.

**Project Title:**

**Project Leader or Principal Investigator:** (Name, Organization, Address, E-Mail):

**Project Partner** (Name, Organization, Address, E-Mail) **and anticipated project contributions:**

**List one Category and its corresponding Factor from the R&M Priority List within the Request for Proposal that best fits the intent of your project.**

*Is this a continuing project or does it require multiple years of funding?*                      **Yes / No**  
*If so, provide the number of years this project has been funded and/or would need funding.*  
*Year \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_.*

**Study Area:** Nearest communities and/or major watershed of project area.

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### 1. Introduction:

***Project Relevance:*** Describe why there is a need for your project and why it should receive funding from the R&M fund.

***Project Justification:*** Describe how the proposed project will address: specific management needs; improving aquatic habitat; gaps in knowledge of biology and ecology; or improving public support/participation in management of Yukon River salmon within the Alaskan portion of the Yukon River Basin.

***Project Description:*** Provide a brief description of what is being proposed.

***Objectives:*** Clearly state your specific objectives and outcomes are expected to be delivered by the end of this project.

### 2. Technical Merit and Methods:

***Operation:*** Start and end date.

***Project Feasibility:*** Demonstrate that you have evaluated or established the most appropriate project design to meet your objectives. Provide justification and support for the methodology that you will use. What have you already done to prepare for this project (i.e. pilot studies, conducted project in previous years)?

**Required Licenses and Permits:** Demonstrate that you have considered what permits or licenses you may have to have to conduct this study.

**5. Estimated Budget:** Provide estimates of line item costs for the following categories.

	Requested from USFWS	Supplied by Applicant	Supplied by Partner
<b>Line Item</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Wages and Salaries			
Contract Services			
Travel			
Supplies and Material			
Capital Equipment			
Indirect Costs*			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

\* *Projects that are selected to the Detailed Proposal phase and are charging indirect costs to this funding source will be required to submit an official Indirect Rate Cost Agreement form with their Detailed Proposal.*

**6. One paragraph summary or progress report of results if project was funded by the R&M fund in 2012** (does not count toward page limitation).