
NPFMC IRA FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

OCTOBER 2023



INFLATION REDUCTION ACT FUNDING

- NMFS has received \$1.2 billion to provide science-based management and conservation of the nation's marine resources as it confronts climate change
- NMFS has set aside \$20 million to support Councils implementing climate ready fisheries measures
 - **NPFMC will receive \$375k initially, and can compete with other Councils for additional funds**
- Grant money must be used within 4 years (2024-2027)
- Proposals must address fishery management and governance topics
- Focus is on implemented outcomes



NMFS PRELIMINARY PRIORITIES FOR FUNDING

- Operationalize fish climate vulnerability assessments or other scientific products (e.g., ecosystem status reports, Integrated Ecosystem Assessments, etc.);
- Operationalize recommendations from climate scenario planning efforts;
- Implement management changes to address climate vulnerability or improve climate resiliency of fisheries, including those that are important to underserved communities;
- Implement measures that increase responsiveness of allocations or other management measures to climate impacts;

Develop and advance climate-related fisheries management planning and implementation efforts in support of underserved communities.



STAFF REQUESTING COUNCIL DIRECTION

What are initial objectives, issue areas, or projects that the Council is interested to pursue under the goal of developing and advancing climate-ready Federal fisheries in the North Pacific?

- Questions to guide discussion
 - Does the Council want to identify objectives for the IRA funding?
 - Should the proposal focus on existing priorities, or cast a wide net to consider other opportunities?
 - Some topics may require considerable input from partners; it will be important to explore capacity prior to submitting a proposal
- Staff paper highlights recent Council concepts



CLIMATE READINESS THEMES

- Support a Council process that can be both proactive and responsive
 - Evaluating and improving the climate resilience of management actions
 - Learning from past experience and “what if” scenarios
 - Supporting a timely, responsive Council process
 - Building a shared understanding of resilience and adaptative capacity
- Build and use climate information on-ramps
 - Including more climate information in analytical products
 - Strengthening the Council community’s ability to talk about risk
 - Linking ecosystem approaches with climate readiness
- Include stakeholders and partners in building climate readiness
 - Strengthening engagement with Alaska Native communities
 - Communicating clearly and regularly about climate readiness planning
 - Building a stronger network of partnerships



POTENTIAL PROJECT IDEAS FROM RECENT COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

- Climate readiness projects Council has already initiated
 - Programmatic EIS
 - 2024 Climate scenarios workshop(s) by Climate Change Taskforce
- Projects that have been discussed but not yet initiated
 - SSC workshops
 - Harvest control rule/ dynamic reference point changes
 - BS FEP, GOA FEP
- Projects that arise from SSC workshop report or climate readiness synthesis
 - Retrospective studies of GOA Pcod, BS snow crab collapses
 - OY cap performance under climate change and alt sub-designs below the 2m mt cap
 - Determining climate resilient fishing communities
 - Risk policy considerations

Other potential projects within the Council's orbit

- Greenhouse gas emissions assessment
- Arctic shipping



ADDITIONAL PROCESS INPUT

- What level of proposal review does the Council want in December?
 - B report, agenda item, Finance Committee review?
- What does the Council envision for ongoing management of the IRA-funded projects, which might affect costs in a proposal?
 - New staff hire
 - Committee to oversee progress
 - Facilitator/travel/venue costs for workshops
 - Contract help with analysis of specific projects



TIMELINE

Oct 2023 Council meeting	Initial Council input on topics/projects that might be prioritized for IRA funding, to guide staff
Oct 2023 CCC meeting	More clarification from NMFS on proposal process
Fall 2023 (tentative)	NPFMC submits grant proposal for initial \$375,000; funding is provided to NPFMC by NMFS
Dec 2023 Council meeting	Opportunity for Council to refine the list of projects that are to be included in a robust proposal for additional funds
Early 2024	Staff submits proposal to NMFS
Mid 2024	NMFS determines whether to award funding
2024-2026 (2027)	Staff work, Council action on IRA-funded projects
2027	For IRA funded projects that require implementation through FMP or regulatory amendments, Council action must be complete by end 2026 in order to allow for agency implementation in 2027
End 2027	All IRA-funded projects must be complete and implemented

ACTION AT THE OCTOBER MEETING

- Suggest Council provides feedback in staff tasking, following public comment and SSC/AP reports

