



# PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY TREATY BETWEEN CANADA  
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
MARCH 18, 1985

600 - 1155 ROBSON STREET  
VANCOUVER B.C. V6E 1B5  
604-684-8081  
www.psc.org

## Request for Proposals, Mark Selective Fishery Management, 2025

### From: Mark Selective Fishery Fund Committee, June 2, 2025

In the 2019 amendments to the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST), a Mark Selective Fishery (MSF) Fund (Fund) was established to assist fishery management agencies and partners with implementing MSFs in each country. The fund supports a competitive grant program to a) mass-mark or sample hatchery-produced Chinook salmon, b) estimate incidental mortality, and c) maintain and improve the ability to estimate exploitation rates on Chinook salmon indicator stocks encountered in mark selective fisheries. This work could include improvements and development of bilateral analytical tools.

The Fund has \$3.5M USD available for distribution. As the level and duration of contributions to the Fund are uncertain, one-time equipment purchases or short-term (duration of  $\leq 3$  years) studies may be more feasible than supporting ongoing annual programs. A Mark Selective Fishery Fund Committee has been established to review proposals and develop prioritized funding recommendations to the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC).

Approximately \$1.4M USD will be available for the 2025 funding round. The Terms of Reference for the MSF Fund provide that 50% of the funding allocated each year shall be available to Canada and 50% to the US, unless otherwise determined by the Commission. The MSF Fund Committee will review proposals this August and report its recommendations to the Commission at the October PSC Meeting, at which point the Commission will determine which projects to support.

Proposals are to be submitted no later than **11:59PM (Pacific Daylight Time) on Friday, August 1, 2025**, via the grantee portal [application form](#) which is also accessible via the [PSC website](#). Proposals not adhering to the specified format or received after the cut-off time will not be considered, without exception.

Questions regarding this Request for Proposals should be referred to the Grant Program Manager at the PSC, Ms. Sascha Bendt: [funds@psc.org](mailto:funds@psc.org) / 604-684-8081.

## MSF Fund Committee Members

Canadian Members	U.S. Members
Ms. Erika Watkins	Mr. Craig Bowhay
Mr. Janvier Doire	Ms. Danielle Evenson
Mr. Laurie Milligan	Ms. Marianne McClure
Mr. Peter Hall (alternate)	Dr. Jake Kvistad

### Themes for Proposals:

The MSF Fund Committee is seeking proposals responsive to the following thematic areas. Proposals should be focused on improvements to the management of mark selective fisheries and be directly relevant to implementing Chinook provisions of the PST. Successful proposals will assist eligible organizations with equipment and operations, as needed, to:

1. Mass-mark hatchery produced Chinook salmon to create conditions that support MSFs,
2. Improve estimates of incidental mortality, including improved released catch estimates and improved incidental mortality rate estimates,
3. Maintain and improve the ability to estimate exploitation rates on Chinook salmon indicator stocks that are encountered in MSFs, including improvements and development of bilateral analytical tools to address any of the themes above.

### Application details and administrative considerations:

- Eligibility to apply: Applications are welcomed from government agencies, Tribal/First Nation entities, multi-jurisdictional commissions, and private and academic institutions involved in activities relating to implementation of the PST or responsibilities for MSF management. **Non-management entities must include a letter of support from a management entity to demonstrate collaboration and coordination of work.**
- Project Timing & Duration: Projects should start between November 2025 and October 2026. Proposals should be designed for completion within 3 years of the project start date.
- Proposal Format: Proposals must utilize the format specified in Appendix A and should consist of no more than seven pages, not including the budget form or any letters of support. Proposals should be completed online or uploaded in MS Word or PDF format.
- Budget: Applications must include a detailed project budget; this must be provided using the form provided alongside this Request for Proposals. If indirect / overhead

costs exceed 20% of the total project budget, separate justification must also be provided (e.g., a copy of your organization's indirect cost rate policy – this is not included in the 7-page application limit).

- Application review process: The MSF Fund Committee will review project proposals using the assessment criteria provided at Appendix B and make recommendations to the Commission at its October meeting, at which stage the Commission will select projects to support. Proponents will be notified of the outcome of their application promptly thereafter.
- Reporting: A written progress report is required each December for the duration that the project is active. A final written report and a full statement of financial expenditures will be due to the PSC within 90 days of project completion.
- Award Type: Funding will be provided as a grant administered through a grant agreement with the Pacific Salmon Commission.

## **APPENDIX A: REQUIRED FORMAT FOR PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE MSF FUND COMMITTEE.**

General. Proposals submitted are not to exceed seven pages in total. This limit includes the cover page but does not include the attachments listed at the end of this appendix. Do not leave out any section; if the section does not apply, simply write “Not applicable.”

### **Cover Page (this information must be completed on the grantee portal [application form](#))**

- Project Title.
- Principal Investigator(s) with contact information
- The name of your organization / affiliation.
- Project start and end date, e.g., November 1, 2025, to October 31, 2026.
- Funding Requested (specify whether costs are in \$ USD or CAD).
- Identification of the project as either:
  - a. A new project.
  - b. A project previously funded by the MSF Fund Committee (provide the year of initial funding).

### **Body of Proposal (complete on the grantee portal or download the form and upload once complete)**

Abstract. Provide a summary (<500 words) describing the proposed project and its significance for Mark Selective Fisheries and assessment of Chinook salmon fisheries under the PST.

Project Objectives. Provide a concise statement of project objectives that address the themes identified above, and why the proposed project is important for improving the management of Mark Selective Fisheries. If the proposed work has been previously funded by the MSF Fund Committee, summarize accomplishments to date in relation to project objectives and incremental value of this project.

Experience and Expertise of Key Project Personnel. Identify key project personnel, the nature and extent of their role in implementation, and summarize their relevant qualifications. (Detailed resumes are not required). If any component of the proposal will be provided by others, identify these persons, the nature of their involvement, and their relevant qualifications.

Methodology and Project Design. Methods, sample design, and techniques for conducting the project. Provide adequate detail so reviewers have a full appreciation of how the project is to be conducted and can thus provide an adequate technical review of the proposal. If an objective involves statistical estimation or experimentation, detail statistical methodology for analysis and show that expected sample sizes are adequate to meet study objectives. If an objective involves developing a tool, such as a conceptual or computer model, provide a schedule of benchmarks for completion of usable products, progressing to the final product.

Relationships to related projects. Describe partnerships and actions/activities that should be considered as contingencies or requirements for successful completion of the proposed project. Indicate the status

of these partnerships, ongoing activities, partnership capabilities, and available information concerning critical project dependencies.

Benefits. Describe the benefits and relevance to implementation of the Chinook Chapter of the PST.

Permitting. Identify any required permits, those already obtained, and the timing and potential impediments to securing necessary permits to conduct the project.

Risks. Describe any risks to successful project completion or continuation and how these will be mitigated.

Timeline. Provide the proposed starting and ending dates for the project tasks, including the preparation of progress reports and final reports. Progress summary reports are required by December 1 annually. A final written report and a full accounting of financial expenditures is due within 90 days of project completion.

Date	Milestone

Progress update (ongoing projects only). If this project has received support from the MSF Fund in the past, please provide a brief (1-2 page) summary of progress so far.

Attachments (these are not included in the 7-page limit):

1. Project budget form (you must use the form published alongside this Request for Proposals).
2. Letters of support (if appropriate). **Non-management entities must include a letter of support from a management entity to demonstrate collaboration and coordination of work.**
3. Justification of indirect costs (if >20% of the overall project budget).

## APPENDIX B: MARK SELECTIVE FISHERY FUND PROPOSAL RANKING CRITERIA

Mark Selective Fishery Fund: Proposal Ranking Criteria	
<b>1. Relationship and Significance to RFP</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How relevant is the proposal to the themes listed in the RFP?</li> <li>• How significant is the indicator stock and/or fishery to implementation of Ch. 3?</li> <li>• How significant is the potential improvement to the accuracy or precision of estimates of incidental mortality or exploitation rates in MSF?</li> </ul>	
<b>Score:</b>	40%
<b>2. Technical Approach and Feasibility</b>	
<p>Are the project <b>Objectives</b> clearly stated?            Do the proponents possess the <b>Expertise</b> to provide a reasonable expectation of success?</p> <p><b>Methodology &amp; Design</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are the proposal’s technical methods consistent with best available science?</li> <li>• Are the proposed methods consistent with analyses, recommendations, and bilateral data standards developed by the Ad-hoc Workgroup on Calendar Year Exploitation Rates, Selective Fishery Evaluation Committee, and Chinook Technical Committee?</li> <li>• Is project completion dependent on the funding or completion of related projects? Are there interdependency risks?</li> <li>• If permits are required, have they been obtained, or is it shown they can be?</li> </ul> <p><b>Interpretation of Results</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are the measures of project success clearly identified and readily measurable?</li> <li>• Are the statistical methods and sampling described appropriate to obtain objectives?</li> </ul>	
<b>Score:</b>	40%
<b>3. Cost Effectiveness</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are costs justified given the expected benefits of the project?</li> <li>• Is this a cost-effective approach for meeting project objectives?</li> <li>• For multi-year projects, has the project been effective in achieving objectives?</li> <li>• When will useful results be obtained?</li> <li>• Is there cost-sharing, in-kind matching, or joint funding for the project?</li> </ul>	
<b>Score:</b>	20%