

Yukon River Panel Restoration and Enhancement Fund Call for Project Proposals for the 2023 Project Year

The Yukon River Panel will review project proposals at its 2022 Post-Season meeting and, where warranted, will provide any questions or recommendations for modifications to proponents by February 2023. The Yukon River Panel will select projects for funding at its 2023 Pre-Season meeting.

The Yukon River Panel anticipates that up to approximately U.S. \$1.56 million will be available to fund Yukon River restoration and enhancement projects in 2023. Both private and public sector applicants are eligible for funding.

The Yukon River Panel uses a number of tools to allocate annual Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Fund monies to achieve the Panel's R&E goals with respect to restoration, conservation and enhancement of Canadian-origin salmon stocks, as well as the stewardship of salmon habitat and resources and maintaining viable fisheries in the Yukon River in Canada. Fundamental to the funding allocation process is the *R&E Fund Priorities Plan (2018)* which provides an inventory of priority activities among which the Panel can select and choose to place emphasis upon, thereby directing the allocation of R&E Fund monies among competing proposals. This is accomplished annually, at the pre-season meeting of the Yukon River Panel, when the Panel develops a list of priority activities known as the "Near-Term Priorities" to be the focus of the R&E Fund Call for Proposals for projects to be implemented the following year.

Near Term Priorities

In April of 2022 the Yukon River Panel confirmed five key Near-Term priority interests as the focus of the 2023 Call for Project Proposals. The selection of these particular priorities is driven by the Panel's desire to improve the effectiveness of Restoration and Enhancement Fund resources in response to the decline of Yukon River Chinook and chum salmon stocks experienced in recent years. Although the Panel will continue to consider project proposals that address other activities identified in the *R&E Fund Priorities Plan (2018)*, **priority consideration will be provided to projects that support the following Near-Term priorities:**

RESTORATION

1. Identify depleted stocks or limits to production (e.g. based on information about historic levels, traditional ecological knowledge, conservation concerns, or habitat "bottle-necks") and identify candidates for stock restoration;
2. Assess the feasibility of and prepare a plan for restoring depleted stocks.
3. Restore depleted stocks.*
**This Near-Term Priority refers only to candidate stocks for restoration for which a "restoration plan" has been developed.*

STEWARDSHIP

4. Involve and educate users and non-users in communities to increase their desire to maintain and protect salmon stocks and habitat.

CONSERVATION

5. Improve in-season stock specific run assessment in Alaska through the development of program(s) addressing uncertainty of existing run assessment or new mainstem Yukon River programs.

In addition to the Near-Term priorities identified, priority consideration will be provided to project proposals that demonstrate local community involvement or partnerships (in particular First Nations or Indigenous groups).

Application Process

The Yukon River Panel issues one annual Call for Project Proposals to invite proponents to submit proposals for Restoration and Enhancement project funding. All project proposals will be subject to in-depth technical assessment as well as being evaluated for their relevance and significance to the *Yukon River Salmon Agreement*; the priorities outlined in the *R&E Fund Priorities Plan (2018)* and this Call for Project Proposals. Project proponents should focus on providing a clear description of project objectives and benefits in addition to detailed project implementation and budget information.

The “Detailed Proposal” and “Detailed Budget” templates that accompany this Call for Project Proposals are the forms that must be used by all proponents. The use of these formats allows the Yukon River Panel to conduct its review of submissions in as fair and expeditious a manner as practicable.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The “Detailed Proposal” template requires that proponents identify the single category that best describes the main intent of a project proposal. Proponents are encouraged to consider the category selected carefully. By identifying a specific category, the project proposal will be evaluated by the Yukon River Panel and the Joint Technical Committee against the associated “Goals” identified in the *R&E Fund Priorities Plan (2018)* **as well as the following criteria / guidelines:**

1. **Conservation** – the *General Project Proposal Scoring Criteria (Attachment #5)*, and for Sonar Projects the *Guidance for Sonar Proposals (Attachment #6)*
2. **Restoration** - the *General Project Proposal Scoring Criteria (Attachment #5)* and the *Guidance for Stock Restoration Proposals (Attachment #7)*
3. **Enhancement** - the *General Project Proposal Scoring Criteria (Attachment #5)*
4. **Stewardship** - the *General Project Proposal Scoring Criteria (Attachment #5)*, and the *Guidance for Stewardship Proposals (Attachment # 8)*
5. **Communications** – The *Communications Proposal Scoring Criteria (Attachment #9)*
6. **Viable Fisheries in Canada** - the *General Project Proposal Scoring Criteria (Attachment #5)*

Project proposals which do not align with *R&E Fund Priorities Plan (2018)* **Category “Goals”**, are not structured to demonstrate alignment with the **Scoring Criteria**, or do not follow the applicable **Guidance** are likely to receive a low score and/or may not be selected for funding.

The review of all Project Proposals by the Yukon River Panel will take place at the 2022 Post-Season meeting. Any Panel questions or recommendations regarding Project Proposals will be provided to project proponents following this meeting. Members of the public will also be provided with an opportunity to comment on proposals. The Yukon River Panel will make its final funding decisions at its 2023 Pre-Season meeting.

Deadlines

Completed Detailed Proposal and Detailed Budget forms must be provided in electronic format only to the Fund Manager at the Pacific Salmon Commission offices in Vancouver, BC by **midnight (24:00) on Saturday, October 1, 2022** at the following e-mail address: yukonfund@psc.org Incomplete submissions or information received after the deadline will not be accepted.

Contact Information

More information and Detailed Proposal and Detailed Budget forms may be accessed online at www.yukonriverpanel.com/restoration-enhancement-fund/. Questions or points of clarification should be directed to the Grant Program Manager, Ms. Sascha Bendt and Fund Assistant, Mr. Victor Keong via email at bendt@psc.org and keong@psc.org or phone at (604) 684-8081.