

Chinook Salmon Enhancement and Restoration Program

2021 Proposal Solicitation Notice

Introduction

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department), in partnership with the California Commercial Salmon Trollers Advisory Committee (Committee), manage department funds collected from commercial salmon license fees to improve habitat and management of Chinook Salmon for the betterment of the State's salmon fishery. Funds generated through the sale of commercial salmon stamps may be granted to projects to restore salmon populations through habitat improvement or salmon hatchery management, and to projects which provide public education on the importance and biology of salmon.

The Department and the Committee are soliciting proposals for projects to release juvenile, hatchery-origin Central Valley fall run Chinook Salmon with the intent to increase ocean salmon landings. The 2021 solicitation will focus on releasing up to 320,000 fish in or near Santa Cruz harbor. The total number of fish allocated to a project will depend on the number of fish available after mitigation goals have been met and the availability of funds to raise, mark and tag, and transport the fish.

Technical review and evaluation of the proposals will be facilitated by the Department and conducted using the score sheet in Appendix A. Proposals are also reviewed by the Committee. Projects must be recommended by the Committee to be selected. Selected projects will also be subject to an environmental review required by the California Environmental Quality Act. Only projects where an initial study determines a less than significant impact will receive final approval.

For questions regarding the Chinook Salmon Enhancement and Rearing Program Public Solicitation Notice, contact Jon Nelson at (916) 445-4506, Jonathan.Nelson@wildlife.ca.gov

Proposal Due Date

In order to be considered for 2020 selection, all proposals are due by September 26, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Proposal can be submitted by email to: Ryon.Kurth@wildlife.ca.gov

Project Criteria

Species:

Central Valley fall-run Chinook Salmon

Marking and tagging:

Release locations outside of CDFW normal hatchery operations are considered experimental and require a mark and tag rate (adipose fin clip and coded-wire tag) of 100%. For example, ocean-based net pen projects, such as, Pillar Point or Santa Cruz. The typical mark and tag rate for Central Valley fall-run Chinook at release locations under normal hatchery operations is 25%. The higher mark and tag rate for experimental release locations increases the cost of a project and can reduce the number of fish that can be released by the program.

Release:

Net pen release is the preferred method, however other methods of release may be considered. Fish are intended to acclimate in the net pen and should not be held for an extended period to minimize potential effects of rearing fish on local aquatic resources and the likelihood that adult fish would home back to the release location.

Objective:

Proposals are required to address how the project will benefit the Chinook Salmon ocean fishery and discuss measures to minimize adverse effects to aquatic resources within the project area, especially species listed under the state and federal Endangered Species Act. Applicants are also required to provide and document some level of financial match for the net pen release of the fish.

Commercial Salmon Trollers Enhancement and Restoration Program Project Proposal

Proposal #: _____ Reviewer: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Proposal Name: _____

Proposal Review

A technical team of California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff, as well as, the Commercial Salmon Trollers Advisory Committee evaluates and scores each proposal based on the criteria in the table below. Each criterion below is scored from 0 to 3. Points are added to achieve a final score. Maximum total score is 15.

Criteria	Score
1. Benefit to Enhancement Program. The proposal demonstrates the release location and number of fish released are expected to result in more ocean landings of Chinook Salmon. (Scoring: 0, for no expected benefit up to 3, for maximum expected benefit)	
2. Technical Merit. The proposal is written so that reviewers can understand and evaluate the technical merits of the project (project plans, designs with specific sites, activities identified). Objectives, approach, and scope of work are clear and technically sound; the project is both feasible and appropriate for the site and can be completed on schedule. There is a contingency plan for reasonably foreseeable issues (weather conditions, equipment failure, operational conditions). Measures to minimize potential impacts to aquatic resources are sufficient (Scoring: 0, for poorly written with no technical merit or measures to minimize impact up to 3, for clearly written technically sound and includes measures to minimize impact)	
3. Cost Effectiveness. The proposal identifies cost share for the release of fish from a net-pen and indicates the source(s) (federal, state, other), type (cash, in-kind), the status of the cost share (secured, pending [if pending, the date a decision is expected to be made]), and the dollar amount. (Scoring: 0, for no cost share up to 3, for cost share exists and is available)	
4. Community and Stakeholder Support. There is demonstrated local area stakeholder support for the project (number, diversity of partners, contact information/letters demonstrating involvement). (Scoring: 0, for no demonstrated public support up to 3, for support from a several group— local community and stakeholders)	
5. Organization Qualifications. The project manager, principal investigator(s), and other key personnel have experience and expertise required for the project, and individual roles and responsibilities are well defined and appropriate. The proposal demonstrates relevant field experience, completed projects, published reports, or other materials. (Scoring: 0, for unqualified up to 3, for highly qualified)	
Total Score:	