

Chinook Salmon Enhancement and Restoration Program

2023 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 2023 solicitation is focusing on releasing up to 160,000 fish (per year) in or near Santa Cruz Harbor in 2023 and 2024, for a 2-year total of up to 320,000 fish. The total number of fish allocated to the project each year will ultimately 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 enhancement 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 (CEQA). Only projects where an initial study determines a less than significant impact will receive final approval. The Department will be the lead for the CEQA review.

For questions regarding the Chinook Salmon Enhancement and Restoration Program Public Solicitation Notice, contact Jonathan Nelson at (916) 376-1641, Jonathan.Nelson@wildlife.ca.gov

Proposal Due Date:

In order to be considered for the 2023 solicitation, submit your proposals by September 23, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Proposal can be submitted by email to: Jonathan.Nelson@wildlife.ca.gov

Project Criteria Species:

Central Valley Fall-run Chinook Salmon Marking and tagging: The release location at Santa Cruz Harbor is considered experimental and requires a mark and tag rate (adipose fin clip and coded-wire tag) of 100%. 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:

Fish can be released directly into the water, or a net pen(s) can be utilized as a release method. The conditions and availability of a net pen(s) will dictate if they can be used. 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.

Appendix A – Enhancement program score sheet

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:	