



Other Business - Regional Management Councils' Climate Resilience Funding (IRA) Opportunity

September 21, 2023



Overview – Inflation Reduction Act

NOAA Fisheries - \$349 million Plans to Prioritize Several Critical areas focused on tackling the impacts of climate including:

- Data acquisition and management
- Climate, Ecosystems, and Fisheries Initiative
- Conservation efforts around Pacific salmon, red snapper, and North Atlantic right whales
- Habitat restoration
- Support for salmon hatcheries and other tribal initiatives
- Arctic research
- Facilities modernization
- Improved permitting efficiency

RMCs' Apportioned \$20 million

- Assist regulatory responses to current climate challenges
- Implement dynamic fishery management measures that are more timely in response
- Increase fishing community resiliency to fishery changes caused by anticipated climate impacts
- Address climate vulnerability or improve climate resiliency of fisheries important to underserved communities

- [https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/climate/helping-america-prepare-and-respond-climate-change-under-inflation-reduction-act#climate-ready-fisheries-\(\\$349-million\)](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/climate/helping-america-prepare-and-respond-climate-change-under-inflation-reduction-act#climate-ready-fisheries-($349-million))



Phase I – RMCs' Funding

NOAA Fisheries proposing initial funding amount of \$3 million divided equally among the RMCs

- IRA funds cannot be used to pay for current staff unless time and responsibilities are shifted to IRA projects
- Each Council will provide a budget and narrative to submit for the \$375,000 prior to funding approval
- Expected to be released early 2024

Phase II – RMCs' Funding

- Remaining funds (\$17 million)
- Each Council would then provide proposals to be reviewed and approved by NMFS to utilize for climate related management actions and activities
- Proposals can be small or large (minimum request is \$300,000)
- FY24-FY26. Actions must be completely implemented or in the final phases of approval by 2027
- Learn more at the upcoming October Council Coordinating Committee Meeting

Phase II – RMCs' Funding continued

- Hire dedicated staff to write proposals, manage projects, submit reports which could include FEP process
 - Gather and synthesize indicators and update them to inform FEIs and FEIs loops
 - Work with staff to execute the FEI/FEP communications plan developed by the O&E Technical Committee including development of materials and hosting workshops
 - Assist with writing the FEP – Would still require other staff biologists, habitat specialists, social scientist, and economists to complete this work



Questions

