

**Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Proposed Activities and Budget Narrative
Inflation Reduction Act Funding (IRA)
Climate Ready Fisheries Program
Phase I Funding (\$375,000)
Fiscal Years 2024 Through 2025**

Personnel: \$215,929

The Gulf Council proposes to hire and fund one full time employee (FTE) Fisheries Biologist or equivalent at a GS-12 level for a two-year period with Phase I of the climate ready fisheries program funding level of **\$375,000**. Other costs associated with the position include travel, technology supplies and software licensing.

Other personnel are required for research and administrative support for the Council to fully accomplish the needs of this program. Specific support of other personnel time/salaries will be stated within the Phase II project plan budgets by year.

Benefits: \$131,649

The associated benefits include FICA/Medicare; health; dental; life/disability; and retirement. These costs are calculated by using an average percentage in relationship to total salaries for FICA and 401K and the current year average premiums as a base for insurance with an inflationary factor for subsequent years based on historical increases.

Travel: \$11,400

The travel related expenses are for the single FTE to attend Council and relevant meetings to report on the program progress. All travel costs are determined by using the current GSA per diem rates, with future year costs calculated at three percent over the prior year. Airfare and car rental costs are calculated using the same method.

Supplies: \$9,553

Supply costs include a laptop computer and desk for the FTE and general office supplies (paper, folders, pens).

Contractual: \$6,469

Contractual services include expenses for Microsoft and Adobe software licensing and IT support services.

Anticipated Activities of New Staff Phase II Funding:

- Develop proposals that meet the priorities outlined by NOAA Fisheries and can be integrated into Council operations in the future due to short-term funding.
- Monitor and execute project deliverables.
- Draft mid-term reports and provide summaries to SSC, Technical Committees, and Council as applicable.
- Secure third year of funding for their position.