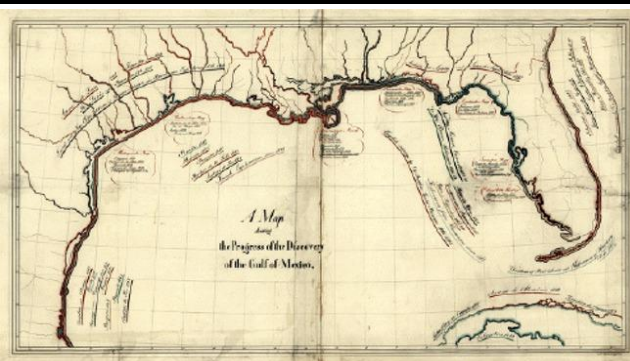


Regional Management Councils' Requests for Council IRA Funding



Follow-up Request to NOAA Fisheries

Executive Directors Meet and Made Following Requests:

- 1) Councils **do not** want to compete for any of the funding
 - Competition is not a practicable nor an efficient use of resources
 - Encouraged to develop collaborative projects \neq competition for the funds would inhibit that process
 - Near impossible to budget and plan without a clear understanding of available funding for each Council
 - Creates an undue administrative burden for all

Follow-up Request to NOAA Fisheries

2) Initial proposed funding amount of \$2 million dividing among the RMCs is too small

- Creation of a framework for developing these programs will require more stability
- Particularly because IRA funds cannot be used to pay for current staff unless time and responsibilities are shifted to IRA projects
- More practicable initial funding amount would be \$6 million, equally divided among the Councils (\$750,000)
- Each Council will provide a budget and narrative for review and approval prior to funding

Follow-up Requests to NOAA Fisheries

3) Remaining funds (\$14 million) should also be allocated equally across the Councils

- Each Council would then provide proposals to be reviewed and approved by NMFS to utilize their \$1.75 million allocation for climate related management actions and activities

Next Steps

- Follow-up planning call is scheduled with NOAA Fisheries Leadership staff on August 22, 2023
- Once the initial funding amount is determined staff will develop budget and narrative to submit to regional grant coordinator ASAP. Understand the initial amount will be distributed Oct 1, 2023.
- During the October 2023 Council meeting, staff will provide a proposal and budget narrative for the remaining funding for the Gulf Council to review and consider

Questions and Feedback?

