

Template for Proposals submitted under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Climate-Ready Fisheries Funding for the Regional Fishery Management Councils

FY2024 project proposals deadline for submission: January 31, 2024

Proposals should provide an action plan to achieve one or more of the following ***IRA funding priorities***:

- Operationalizing fish climate vulnerability assessments or other scientific products (e.g., ecosystem status reports, Integrated Ecosystem Assessments, etc.);
- Operationalizing recommendations from climate scenario planning efforts;
- Developing and implementing management changes or processes that address climate vulnerability or improve climate resiliency of fisheries (e.g., potential revisions to harvest control rules to account for changes in ecosystems related to climate change), including those that are important to underserved communities;
- Developing and implementing measures or processes that increase responsiveness of allocations or other management measures to climate impacts (e.g., “frameworking” or establishing predetermined thresholds when management changes occur);
- Developing and advancing climate-related fisheries management planning (e.g., conducting climate scenario planning) and implementation efforts, including those in support of underserved communities¹.

Proposals should include a statement of the objective(s) to be met and describe the methodologies, timelines, and budget needed to accomplish the objective(s). Ideally, proposals should not exceed five pages in length (excluding budget tables) and should address all the required components listed below. Font size should be no smaller than 12pt with 1-inch margins.

Required Components

Proposals must include:

- 1. Council name:** Identify the name of the council(s).

¹ Underserved communities are defined as communities that have been systematically denied full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life. These include geographic communities as well as populations sharing a particular characteristic, history, or identity. See [NMFS Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy](#) definitions.

2. Title: A short descriptive name of the proposal.

3. Funding Priority: Identify the priority or priorities that this proposal addresses and how the intended goals of the IRA funding will be met.

4. Objective(s): State concisely the objective(s) of the proposal, as measurable outcomes where possible. Objective(s) should be clearly described in enough detail to understand what the proposal aims to accomplish.

5. Brief Summary of Activities: Provide a description of tasks or work activities to be completed to achieve the objective(s) and a projected timeline. Proposals should demonstrate a clear link between tasks and deliverables or measurable outcomes. A proposal subdivided into two or more activities must identify each separately.

To provide information on the level of detail we are requesting in this summary of activities, an example summary table of proposed activities with milestones is provided below.

Activity	Expected Timeframe
Plan a workshop to ...XYZ	Q1 (Oct-Dec 2025)
Host the workshop	Q2 (Jan-Mar 2026)
Finalize workshop report and recommendations	Q3 (Apr-Jun 2026)

6. Budget: Include a cost estimate breakdown (in addition to the text description and not included in the page limit) for each cost category covered during the budget period identified. Each proposal must be a minimum of \$300,000 per proposal. Detailed budget information is required for the following elements:

a. Personnel – For each employee working on the project, provide the time estimated to be charged to the project; the rate/year, month, day, or hour; and the resulting calculated cost assessed to the project.

b. Fringe Benefits – For each employee, identify all fringe-related costs and the rate applied.

c. Travel – Information must be provided on the purpose of travel, destination, daily cost charges, number of days, and number of travelers. If you intend to include foreign travel in your proposal, know that it must be

approved prior to execution in order to ensure compliance with relevant requirements (e.g., Fly America Act).

d. *Supplies and Materials* – List general categories of supplies and materials, including unit costs and quantities. The terms “miscellaneous” and “etc.” are not allowed.

e. *Contractual/Consulting Services* – List each contractor or consultant needed, and describe specific duties to be performed. Describe how the cost for the service was derived. Include a statement regarding your plan for selecting such contractor or consultant (e.g., competitive process).

f. *Other Costs* – List and describe other costs that are not assignable to the other direct cost categories. Indicate how these costs were derived.

Criteria for Evaluating Project Proposals

All proposals meeting the specified requirements will be evaluated through a technical review of independent experts. Proposals will be ranked based on the extent to which they meet the following criteria.

Addresses Funding Priorities – The project contributes to the overall IRA goals, and has specific, quantifiable performance metrics to evaluate project success. The proposal clearly articulates how the proposed work addresses at least one of the IRA funding priorities. 35%

Technical Merit – The project is technically sound and feasible, and there is a clear, logical, and achievable work plan and timeline. The project engages appropriate technical experts throughout project planning, design, and implementation to ensure activities are technically sound and feasible. The proposal includes objectives, methodologies, milestones, and a detailed budget. 30%

Budget Justification – Costs outlined in the proposal must be allowable, allocable, reasonable, and necessary. Proposal indicates how actions will be completed or in the final stages by the end of FY2026, and will not rely on additional post-IRA funds. 20%

Regional Collaboration – Projects including regional collaborators (NMFS National or Regional Offices, Science Centers) and/or stakeholders (e.g., commercial fishermen, seafood industry, and/or academia) are strongly

encouraged, where applicable. In these cases, proposals should describe which collaborators and/or stakeholders will be involved and what their roles will be. Proposals should include any plans to engage stakeholders and the public on the results of their project following its conclusion. 15%

The average scoring for each proposal by three technical reviewers (NOAA Fisheries Headquarters Offices, Regional Offices & Science Centers) based on the criteria above will have a strong influence over the final funding decisions. However, other factors, such as but not limited to, geographic distribution of overall funds, may influence final awards. High priority consideration will be given to actions that leverage existing tools, actions that will be completed within 3 years, and cross-council projects and initiatives (where relevant).