Pelagic Fisheries Research Program

Request for Proposals
January 16, 2006

The Pelagic Fisheries Research Program (PFRP) sponsors research on pelagic fisheries to provide the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WPRFMC) with scientific information to support development of optimal management policies for fisheries for tunas and billfish in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The PFRP is soliciting letters of intent to submit proposals to conduct research on pelagic fisheries in this region. Total funds to be awarded for FY 2006 are approximately $1,400,000. Individual awards may be as large as $250,000, but higher awards can be made to support projects of exceptional quality.

The PFRP is soliciting letters of intent to conduct research on all subjects relevant to the management of pelagic fisheries as developed during the November 2005 PFRP Research Priorities workshop (workshop report on the PFRP website).

Some specific topics include:

**Applied economics:**
1. standards for distribution of economic data to decrease model development time
2. economic models to identify efficient methods for evaluating policy choices

**Ecosystem integration:**
3. ecosystem and multi-species management strategy evaluation, including data collection, control rules, monitoring, and assessment methods
4. influence of meso-scale oceanography (fronts, eddies, seamounts) on ecosystems, with emphasis on protected species

**Biology and life history**
5. early life history of tuna and other sensitive marine species, particularly in relation to area closures as a management tool.
6. behavior of target and non-target fish species in relation to fishing gear selectivity and points of aggregation

**Fishing communities**
7. sources, distribution channels, quantity, and end use of fishing products with and between fishing communities
8. impacts of past and current regulations on fishermen and associated communities and to determine whether such impacts can be predicted for future regulations.
Application Process

a. Interested specialists should submit a completed Pre-proposal application by **February 24, 2006**. The fillable PDF is available on the PFRP web site and includes instructions for completing and submitting the form to PFRP. Applicants must use either the *Adobe Acrobat 7* or *Adobe Reader 7* software. Annual costs of proposed projects can be as high as $200,000, but higher costs will be considered for exceptional projects. Proposals for projects expected to extend for several years are welcome, but funds can only be allocated on an annual basis. Such projects should be structured to ensure that measurable results are presented on an annual basis.

b. The PFRP Steering Committee will review the letters of intent for relevance to PFRP and WPRFMC priorities. Certain research projects will be selected and the authors will be invited to prepare full proposals.

c. Research proposals will then be sent out for peer review.

d. A special panel will be convened to review the research proposals and peer review comments, and to make funding recommendations to the PFRP Steering Committee.

e. Final decisions on awards will be taken in **June 2, 2006**.

Applicants must transmit letters of intent electronically by using the Pre-Proposal Application available on the PFRP website. Correspondence should be addressed to the PFRP Program Manager, Dr. John Sibert, Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, University of Hawaii at Manoa, 1000 Pope Road, MSB 312, Honolulu, HI 96822, email: sibert@hawaii.edu

Further Information

The PFRP is currently sponsoring research projects on the biology of tunas and billfishes, on the oceanographic environment of pelagic fish, on the influence of environment on fishery performance, and on social and economic factors influencing fisheries. A list of projects supported by the PFRP, publications and other information can be obtained from the PFRP web [http://soest.hawaii.edu/PFRP/](http://soest.hawaii.edu/PFRP/)