

# **Guidelines for Submitting and Writing a Project Investigation Plan, Project Executive Summary, and Project Budget for the 2026 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program**

## **Submission Guidelines**

For consideration in the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (Monitoring Program) review process, the investigator must prepare and submit a Project Investigation Plan, Executive Summary, Project Budget spreadsheet, and a Project Budget Narrative. The Principal Investigator has the lead for the project and is responsible for submission of information for all Co-Investigators involved in the project. Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) staff will review Project Investigation Plans and Project Budgets, while the Technical Review Committee will evaluate, score, and rank projects based on these materials.

Project Executive Summaries and associated Technical Review Committee proposal rankings will be assembled into a draft “*2026 Fisheries Resources Monitoring Plan*.” The draft plan will be distributed for public review and comment through Regional Advisory Council meetings beginning August 2025. The Federal Subsistence Board will review the draft plan and will accept additional comments at its January 2026 meeting. At that time, the Federal Subsistence Board will make a recommendation to the Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management, on the suite of projects to include within the final “*2026 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan*.”

Apply for the Funding Opportunity in [GrantSolutions.gov](https://www.grantsolutions.gov) or in [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) using the funding number, **D25AS00214** Please email the OSM Grants Management Specialist at [michelle\\_stpeters@ios.doi.gov](mailto:michelle_stpeters@ios.doi.gov) or the appropriate OSM staff region lead identified on the next page for technical assistance or if you have any questions regarding writing and submitting these documents.

Guidelines are provided on the following pages for preparing Project Investigation Plans, Project Executive Summaries, and Project Budgets that meet the requirements of the Monitoring Program.

The Project Period of Performance is defined by (1) the Start Date, which is the beginning of the project, and (2) the End Date, which is the date for submission of the project’s Final Technical Report (the expected submission date for the final version following review and approval of a draft version by OSM staff).

The reporting requirements are built into the Deliverables/Products and Schedule sections found on page 7. Please incorporate any variations from these reporting requirements (i.e., Financial Reports, Performance Reports, and a Final Technical Report) for your project into the schedule.

Any proposed project must have a linkage to Federal subsistence fishery management for consideration for funding. This means that the project must have a direct association to a Federal subsistence fishery, and either the subsistence fishery or fish stocks in question must occur in or pass through waters within or adjacent to Federal public lands in Alaska (National Wildlife Refuges, National Forests, National Parks and Preserves, National Conservation Areas, National Wild and Scenic River Systems, National Petroleum Reserves, and National Recreation Areas) or non-navigable waters on Bureau of Land Management general domain lands.

## **Contacts**

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# Project Investigation Plan Guidelines

## Project Investigation Plan Guidelines

The Project Investigation Plan must be clear, concise, and no more than 15 pages in length (not including references and appendices). Each Project Investigation Plan is evaluated, scored, and ranked according to strategic priority, technical-scientific merit, investigator ability and resources, partnership-capacity building, and cost/benefit. Project Investigation Plans must be submitted in Microsoft Word using Times New Roman 11 pt. font.

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**Title:** Project Title (Location, Species, and Goal; Example: Kuskokwim River Chinook Salmon Stock Identification.)

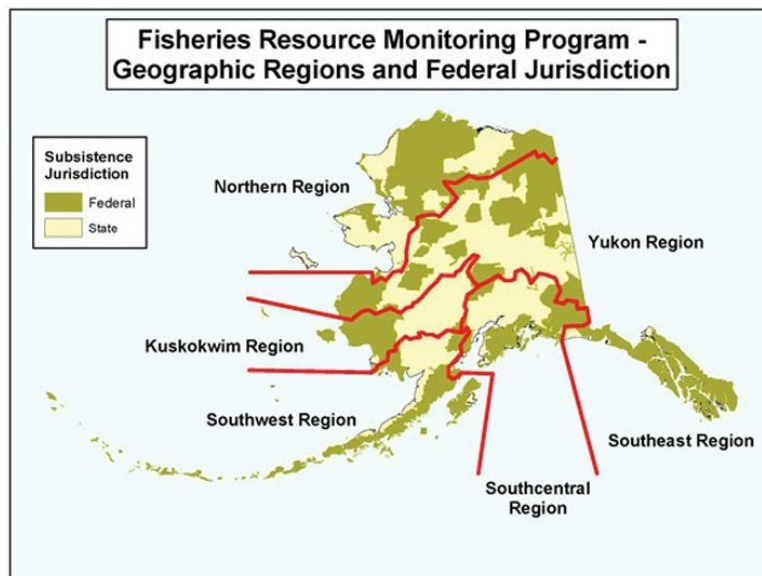
**Investigator(s):** For the Principal Investigator, include name, agency or organization, address, phone number, email (if available), fax number, and UEI (Unique Entity Identifier assigned by the System for Award Management SAM.gov).

For each Co-Investigator identify the name, agency, or organization, and the UEI. In a table format, provide the cost each year.

Cost:	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total:	\$	\$	\$	\$

**Project Period of Performance:** Start: (beginning day, month, year) End: (submission of approved Final Technical Report – day, month, year). The Start is the date the funding instruments would be completed and work is to begin.

**Geographic Region:** List the region where the project would be conducted. If the project spans more than one region, list it as “Multi-regional.”



## Project Investigation Plan Guidelines

**Federal Conservation System Unit:** List the National Wildlife Refuge, National Forest, National Park and Preserve, National Conservation Area, National Wild and Scenic River System, National Petroleum Reserves, National Trails System, Natural Wilderness Preservation System, and National Recreation Areas) or non-navigable waters on Bureau of Land Management general domain lands that the project addresses.

**Type:** State whether the project will collect stock status and trends, conduct harvest monitoring, and/or document traditional ecological knowledge information.

**Issue Addressed:** All proposals must clearly articulate their relevance to Federal subsistence management. Proposals that do not demonstrate a clear link to Federal subsistence management will not be considered. This means that a proposed project must have a direct association to a Federal subsistence fishery, and that either the subsistence fishery or fish stocks in question must occur in or pass through waters within or adjacent to Federal public lands. The Office of Subsistence Management is targeting this Funding Opportunity towards projects that address specific priority information needs identified by Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils. The *2026 Priority Information Needs* can be accessed at the Monitoring Program's webpage at <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/frmp/funding>. Investigators wishing to address information needs other than those identified in the list must include a compelling rationale regarding strategic importance and application to Federal subsistence management.

Describe why this project is necessary (significance/value) and include supporting information. Summarize previous or ongoing efforts (by you/your organization, and other organizations or individuals) that are relevant to the proposed work. Explain the successes or failures of past efforts and how your proposed project builds on them. If you have received funding previously (from the Service or any other donor) for this specific project work or site, provide a summary of the funding, associated activities, and products/outcomes. Identify how, where, and when the subsistence fishery takes place within a Federal Conservation System Unit. Also, the applicant must ensure that the species addressed in the proposal is a resource that is managed through the Federal Subsistence Management Program (see “2025-2027 Fisheries Regulations” <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries>).

**Background:** Describe the ecological, cultural, social, and fishery context for the project. This information should provide the basis for defining key questions or hypotheses that would be addressed by the project. The applicant should provide a concise review of pertinent information and past literature on the subject. This review could include information from published literature, agency and organization reports, as well as unpublished information, personal contacts, etc. All sources of published information should be cited in the text (author and year) and listed in the References section (see below). All sources of unpublished information are cited in the text only (name, affiliation, and personal communication).

Provide a description of the extent and depth of subsistence use of the resource(s) proposed for the project. This use may be expressed as the actual number or pounds harvested, and/or the number of households or villages using the resource, as well as the extent of use over time. One possible source for these types of information is the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's website (<https://adfg.alaska.gov>), specifically the [Community Subsistence Information System](#), [Technical Paper Series](#), and [Annual Management Reports](#).

**Objectives:** State the long-term, overarching goal(s) of the project. State the objectives of the project. Objectives are the specific outcomes to be accomplished in order to reach the stated goal(s).

## Project Investigation Plan Guidelines

The project objectives should be specific, measurable, realistic, and achievable (attainable within the project's proposed project period). For continuing projects previously funded under the Monitoring Program, summarize project findings, and justify continuation of the project, placing the proposed work in context with the ongoing work being accomplished. For additional guidance on how to establish objectives, (see "*Establishing project objectives*" <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/frmp/funding>).

**Project Activities and Methods:** List the proposed project activities and describe how they relate to the stated objectives. Activities are the specific actions to be undertaken to fulfill the project objectives and reach the project goal(s). Provide a detailed description of the method(s) to be used to carry out each activity. Include any resulting tables, spreadsheets, or flow charts within the body of the Project Investigation Plan (do not include as separate attachments). Where applicable, describe sample size and define how this was determined. For continuing projects, please state complete study design. To maintain the highest ethical standards and scientific integrity, research on fishes should conform to the American Fisheries Society's "*Guidelines for the Use of Fishes in Research*" <https://fisheries.org/docs/wp/Guidelines-for-Use-of-Fishes.pdf>, and research should conform to the National Science Foundation's "*Arctic Research Plan 2022-2026*" <https://www.nsf.gov/geo/opp/arctic/conduct.jsp>. Any exception must be described. To improve clarity, the Methods section should be divided into subsections that represent different components of the project, such as:

1. **Project Area:** Describe the proposed site(s) at which work would be conducted, including any maps and figures needed to illustrate key points. The description could include geographic, geologic, ecologic, and anthropologic characteristics of the site(s), as well as, pertinent measurements or statistics.
2. **Project Design:** For each objective, describe experimental and sampling designs and provide rationale for selecting them. Address sample sizes, sample dates, sampling effort, and methods of sampling. Cite references containing more detail.
3. **Data Collection and Reduction:** Describe the data collected from each sample and the protocols for collecting them. Describe the path the data would take after they leave the field. Include descriptions of data editing, the media used to record data, and the software used to store data.
4. **Data Analysis:** Describe the analytical procedures to be used. Cite references as appropriate. There should be a description of the analysis that would provide estimates of each parameter identified in the objectives.

**Project Monitoring and Evaluation:** Detail the monitoring and evaluation plan for the project. Building on the stated project objectives identify what you will measure (i.e., quantitative/quantifiable indicators) and how you will measure (i.e., methods, sample size, survey tools). Reference the stated project timetable and budget information. Identify the products/services to be delivered and how/to whom they will be delivered. Detail the expected direct effect(s) of the project on beneficiaries. Include any available questionnaires, surveys, curricula, exams/tests, or other assessment tools to be used for project evaluation. Describe the resources and organizational structure available for gathering, analyzing and reporting monitoring and evaluation data. If applicable, describe how project participants and beneficiaries will participate in monitoring and evaluation activities. Describe how findings will be fed back into decision making and project activities throughout the project period.

## Project Investigation Plan Guidelines

**Investigator Ability and Resources:** Provide a brief description of the applicant organization and all participating entities and/or individuals. Identify which of the proposed activities each agency, organization, group, or individual is responsible for conducting or managing within the project. For each investigator, clearly identify his/her roles and responsibilities. Provide complete contact information for the individual within the organization that will oversee/manage the project activities on a day-to-day basis. Provide resumes or abbreviated curriculum vitae of no more than five pages for each Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator that include descriptive overviews of their education, experience, and other skills that make them qualified to carry out the proposed project. To prevent unnecessary transmission of Personally Identifiable Information, do not include Social Security numbers, the names of family members, or any other personal or sensitive information including marital status, religion, or physical characteristics on the description of key personnel qualifications. Additional evidence of ability and resources, such as reprints and letters of support, may be included as an appendix.

**Consultations:** Include a summary of ongoing consultations with rural communities, Alaska Native organizations, agencies, and other organizations. The purpose of consultation is to ensure that local communities and organizations are aware of, and support, the proposed project. To the greatest practical extent, consultations are also intended to identify opportunities for local communities and organizations to participate in projects. Letters of support for a project from these entities can strengthen a proposal and each letter should be included as individual documents and addressed to the Director of the Office of Subsistence Management.

All projects must observe appropriate research ethics (see National Science Foundation's "*Arctic Research Plan 2022-2026*"). For projects that utilize human subjects for collecting data, including surveys, key informant interviews, community mapping, and other methods, researchers must follow general standards for ethical research with human subjects including gaining informed consent, protection of privacy, dignity, and confidentiality, acknowledgement of local contributions, and return of results to participating communities.

**Partnerships and Capacity Building:** Describe the ways in which this project would develop partnerships and build the capability and expertise of rural and Alaska Native organizations to more meaningfully participate in management of Federal subsistence fisheries. If applicable, describe specific plans to hire and train local residents and the type of skills that would be taught. Summarize how the project would promote interaction among rural residents, agencies, and other organizations in information gathering, data analysis, reporting, and information sharing.

**Budget Summary:** The budget should be developed under an annual funding cycle, 12 months from Period of Performance start and provided in the tabular form shown below. Identify the annual funding cycle used. The first year may exceed 12 months if needed to start the field season on time and to bring it into compliance with the fiscal year that your entity uses (e.g., April 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027, for year 1, July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028 for year 2, and so on), and should be budgeted appropriately on the table.

## Project Investigation Plan Guidelines

Year	Federal Agency	State Agency	Alaska Native Org.	Other Org.	Partners Program	Total Request	Voluntary Uncommitted Resources
2026							
2027							
2028							
2029							
Total							

**Deliverables/Products:** Describe the products to be developed during the course of the project. The project ends with submission of the reviewed and approved Final Technical Report.

**Schedule:** Estimate the beginning and completion dates for critical segments of the project, including all deliverables, and provide in tabular form. Include in the timetable project activities (grouped by month) for each month over the project period.

Example: Project with four years of funding and annual reporting (dates and reporting requirements may vary by project). Start: April 1, 2026 – End: March 31, 2030.

Task	Jan–Feb	Mar–Apr	May–Jun	Jul–Aug	Sep–Oct	Nov–Dec
Start up		April 1, 2026				
Sampling			May–Jun 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029	Jul–Aug 2024, 2027, 2028, 2029		
Data Entry				Jul–Aug 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029		
Analysis					Sept–Oct 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029	
Interim Financial & Performance Report Submitted						Dec. 30, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029
Final Financial & Performance Report Submitted				July 29, 2030		
Draft Final Technical Report Submitted		Jan 31, 2030				
Final Technical Report Submitted			Mar 31, 2030			

**Literature Cited:** Provide complete citations for published literature referenced in the above sections.

**Examples:**

Beacham, T. D. 1982. Fecundity of Coho Salmon (*Onchorhynchus kisutch*) and Chum Salmon (*O. keta*)

## **Project Investigation Plan Guidelines**

in the northeast Pacific Ocean. Canadian Journal of Zoology 60: 1463-1469.

Coffing, M. C. 1991. Kwethluk subsistence: contemporary land use patterns, wild resource harvest and use, and the subsistence economy of a lower Kuskokwim River area community. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. 157, Juneau, Alaska.

Edwards, M.R. and D.R. Hildreth. 2005. Estimation of sockeye salmon escapement into McLees Lake, Unalaska Island, Alaska, 2005. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, King Salmon Fish and Wildlife Field Office, Alaska Fisheries Data Series Report Number 2005- 16, King Salmon, Alaska.

**Map of Project Area:** Map should clearly delineate the project area and be large enough to be legible. Label any sites referenced in the project narrative/investigation plan.



## Project Executive Summary Guidelines

### Project Executive Summary Guidelines

The Project Executive Summary must be provided as a separate document from the Project Investigation Plan and consist of a concise summary of the proposed project. The Project Executive Summary will be included in the “2026 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan” for public review through Regional Advisory Councils and the Federal Subsistence Board. The Office of Subsistence Management reserves the right to edit the Project Executive Summaries for clarity and brevity. **Project Executive Summaries must not exceed two pages** and must be submitted in Microsoft Word using Times New Roman 11 pt. font.

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**Project Number:** [leave blank].

**Title:** Project Title

**Geographic Region(s):** State the Monitoring Program geographic region of project.

**Information Type:** Stock Status and Trends and/or Harvest Monitoring and/or Traditional Ecological Knowledge

**Principal Investigator:** Include name and agency or organization.

**Co-Investigator(s):** Include name(s) and agency or organization.

In a table format, provide the per year cost.

<b>Project Cost:</b>	2026: \$	2027: \$	2028: \$	2029: \$
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**Total Cost:** \$

**Issue:** Briefly discuss the issue(s) that the project would address.

**Objectives:** Numerically list the objectives in the sequence they would be completed.

**Methods:** Briefly describe the methods that would be used to conduct the project.

**Partnerships/Capacity Building:** Describe the ways in which this project would develop partnerships and build the capacity of rural and Alaska Native organizations to participate in management of Federal subsistence fisheries.

# Project Budget Guidelines

## Project Budget Guidelines

The project budget is evaluated for consistency and cost effectiveness. Detailed descriptions must be provided to explain the projected costs. The budget must be prepared in the Budget Table Template accessible at the Monitoring Program's webpage <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/frmp/funding>

### Annual appropriations may be budgeted as follows:

- For Federal agencies, the budget year will be the Federal fiscal year:  
  
Year 1 – April 1 or identified start of project – September 30 (or end of project if only one year)  
  
Year 2 – October 1 – September 30 (or end of project if two year duration)  
  
Year 3 – October 1 – September 30 (or end of project if three year duration)  
  
Year 4 – October 1 – End of Project
- For State agencies, the budget year will be the State's fiscal year:  
  
Year 1 – April 1 or identified start of project – June 30 (e.g., April 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 = 15 months)  
  
Year 2 – July 1 – June 30 (or end of project if two year duration)  
  
Year 3 – July 1 – June 30 (or end of project if three year duration)  
  
Year 4 – July 1 – End of Project
- Or a twelve-month period:  
  
Year 1 – April 1 – March 31 (or end of project if only one year)  
  
Year 2 – April 1 – March 31 (or end of project if two year duration)  
  
Year 3 – April 1 – March 31 (or end of project if three year duration)  
  
Year 4 – April 1 – End of Project

Provide a separate budget for the Principal Investigator and each Co-Investigator (worksheets within the Budget Table Template). Co-Investigator funding will be provided to the Principal Investigator organization for fund distribution and administration of the sub-award(s).

### Direct costs, indirect costs, and matching funds are defined as follows:

- Direct costs must be itemized, and generally include personnel, travel, contractual, materials and supplies, and equipment. Personnel costs should include the sum of salary and benefit costs (fringe). Divide personnel costs into permanent fulltime positions, temporary/seasonal positions, and local hires. Each position should be listed independently. Costs for personnel must be broken down into months budgeted and the monthly cost.

## Project Budget Guidelines

- Local hire is defined as personnel costs for hiring rural residents as personnel or sub-contracting or sub-agreements with rural or Alaska Native organizations. Local hire costs are presented in the budget as a subset of personnel costs and should not be entered as either permanent or temporary personnel costs.
- Indirect costs are incurred by the investigating entity as a result of administering the project. Indirect costs generally include space, rental, utilities, postage, data processing, training, safety management, affirmative action programs, administrative support, and supervisory oversight. Since indirect costs cannot be itemized, they are computed as a percentage of the total direct costs. The percent or indirect rate must be stated.

Federal programs should use their approved overhead rate for Intra-Agency Agreements. State agencies and Alaska Native organizations should use their provisional rate. Provide a copy of the current approved **Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement**. We suggest closely coordinating with your organization's finance officer. Finance officers should coordinate with OSM when they receive new approved indirect rates.

- Matching funds and Voluntary Uncommitted Resources are non-Federal funds the agency or organization will expend for salaries and equipment to conduct the project. These funds should be described in the Comments section of the budget Excel spreadsheet. Equipment costs should be itemized.