

Urchin Disaster 2016/2017

Request for Proposal (RFP) Main Discussion Points from Kelp Remediation Group meetings

And Update on Direct Disaster Payments

(Prepared by CDFW for CSUC meeting 9-17-21)

The Kelp Remediation Group (KRG) was formed during a CSUC meeting to discuss the concepts described in the spending plan for funding mitigation projects. The plan allocates \$656,734 for mitigation through competitive grants to improve resiliency of the fleet to future changing ocean conditions. High priority research topics include kelp forest restoration, marketing, urchin recruitment studies, and socioeconomic assessments. The KRG included industry members and CDFW staff. The group met on February 3rd, August 27th, September 3rd, and September 17th of 2021. The following are the main results of discussions that the Department plans on incorporating into the final Request for Proposals (RFP) to be submitted to Pacific States:

- (1) All four concepts from spending plan (kelp forest restoration, marketing, urchin recruitment studies, and socioeconomic assessments) will be included in the RFP. However, we will combine the concepts into two groups to allow for a broader scope of proposals that will receive a higher or lower percentage of funds.
 - a) GROUP 1: Kelp Forest Restoration and Marketing
 - b) GROUP 2: Recruitment Studies and Socioeconomic Assessments
- (2) The funding will be allocated as follows:
 - a) At least 50% of the funds will be awarded to GROUP 1
 - Since GROUP 1 has a higher priority (based on survey of KRG members), at least 50% of the funding will go to those proposals
 - b) No More than 50% of the funds will be awarded to GROUP 2
 - Since GROUP 2 was a lower priority (based on survey of KRG members), only 50% or less of the funds will be awarded to this group. This will allow for more funds to be awarded to GROUP 1, if not all of Group 2 money is allocated or no qualifying projects are submitted.
- (3) Evaluation Criteria
 - I. **Pre-proposal**
 - a) Does the proposal address one of the four concepts?
 - b) Does the proposal directly benefit northern California?
 - c) Can this project be completed within the required timeline?
 - II. **Full Proposal** will be evaluated against the following factors:
 - a) Scope of Work Addresses Research Interests
 - b) Qualifications, experience, references, and ability to address research program priorities
 - c) Work Plan/Technical Approach
 - d) Cost and Project Budget
 - e) Minimum qualifying score will be required

(4) Proposals miscellaneous

- a) Proposal process to include a pre-proposal (not scored) and then request for a full proposal (scored) when they are chosen in the first screening.
- b) If subcontracting is required, a full budget detail would be required. More information needed on this from Pacific States.
 - For example, a group hiring commercial divers or other types of groups must identify who will be doing the work.
- c) Industry will help score to select finalists, but agencies will make the final decisions
 - At least two industry reps to serve on initial scoring team. At least one processor and one diver.
- d) Applicants must identify required permits and are responsible for obtaining them (e.g., Scientific Collecting Permits).

(5) RFP Timing

- a) CDFW plans on submitting RFP guidance by the end of September
- b) A six-month timeline is expected between RFP issuance and when awards are granted
- c) The pre-proposal for RFP will be due 60 days from issuance announcement

(6) Issuance of Direct Payments

- a) Last call to update contact. A letter was sent to all qualified divers last month. CDFW staff will extract addresses in mid-September
- b) A letter from Pacific States will be sent out after CDFW finalizes their spreadsheets for qualified participants.
- c) Pacific States will require strict deadlines (e.g., respond within 60-90 days). Qualified disaster participants could miss out on payouts if they do not respond.
 - Industry feedback on deadline would be helpful