


Summary Review Process for the 2020 Collaborative Research RFP

Decision Point & Emphasis	Inputs and Criteria	Who is Involved
1. Pre-proposal is accepted <i>Does the pre-proposal comply with the RFP requirements?</i>	Pre-proposal requirements as stated in the 2020 Collaborative Research Request for Pre-proposals	Science Collaborative Team
2. Pre-proposal panel review <i>How well does each pre-proposal meet the evaluation criteria? How should pre-proposals be prioritized for invitations to full proposal?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-proposal evaluation criteria Reserve manager assessments 	Review Panel
3. Invitation to submit a full proposal <i>Is there justification for selecting any of the recommended projects from step 2 out of rank order based upon one or more of the selection factors in the RFP?</i>	Inputs from step 2, plus the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Panel written reviews Review Panel discussion & ranking Selection factors as stated in the RFP 	Science Collaborative Team NOAA Program Officer
4. Full proposal is accepted <i>Does the proposal comply with the full proposal requirements?</i>	Full proposal requirements	Science Collaborative Team
5. Written technical review <i>How well does each proposal respond to the evaluation criteria in the full proposal requirements?</i>	Full proposal evaluation criteria	Technical Experts

Note: See below for an explanation of the role and composition of each group involved.



6. Panel review <i>How well does each proposal respond to the evaluation criteria in the full proposal requirements? How should proposals be prioritized and ranked for funding?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full proposal evaluation criteria • Written technical reviews • Applicant responses to technical reviews • Reserve manager assessments 	Review Panel
7. Proposal is selected for funding <i>Is there justification for selecting any of the recommended projects from step 7 out of rank order based upon one or more of the selection factors in the RFP requirements?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Review Panel recommendations • Selection factors as stated in the RFP • Available funds 	Science Collaborative Team NOAA Program Manager

2020 Collaborative Research Proposal Review Process: Summary of Participants

The following table summarizes the roles of each of the major groups contributing to the review process:

<p>NERRS Science Collaborative Team</p> <p><i>In consultation with the NOAA Program Officer, the NERRS Science Collaborative Team accepts proposals, conducts the minimum requirements review, manages the review process, and develops funding recommendations for NOAA.</i></p>
<p>Review Panel</p> <p><i>The review panel is engaged throughout the entire review process, including both the pre- and full proposal stages. The review panel conducts written reviews at the pre-proposal and full proposal stage. At both stages of the competition, the panel convenes to discuss and rank proposals, and develops summaries of their discussion of each proposal.</i></p>
<p>Technical Experts</p> <p><i>Review panel members as well as additional technical experts complete written reviews of the full proposals which inform the panel review process.</i></p>
<p>NOAA Program Officer</p> <p><i>The NOAA Program Officer actively advises the Science Collaborative Team on the review process, observes all panel meetings and discussions to ensure a fair and impartial process is maintained, and facilitates NOAA approval of funding.</i></p>

Who are the panelists and technical experts? What are their qualifications?

The Science Collaborative invites a balanced set of estuarine science and collaboration experts, including scientists, program leaders, practitioners, and consultants to participate in the panel and technical expert review processes. Prior to participating in the review process, panelists participate in a panel preparation webinar, during which the unique characteristics of the NERR System and the goals and objectives of the Science Collaborative and the RFP are discussed. Panelists with conflicts of interest related to a specific proposal do not participate in the review, discussion, or ranking process for that proposal, nor do they have access to the proposal's review documents.

In order to preserve their impartiality, we do not disclose the names of individual panelists or reviewers. Generally, panelists and technical experts are:

- Credentialed practitioners from partner organizations and agencies, typically with experience with collaborative research and/or coastal management, e.g., NEP, Sea Grant, IOOS, NOAA, USGS, USFWS, The Nature Conservancy, etc.
- Academic experts in estuarine science and/or collaboration, typically from applied research programs and institutes
- Geographically diverse, i.e., all reserve regions are represented on the review panel.