



This is the final year of our 2005-2009 grant and a new grant will be required for the next five years. However, due to the extremely late timing of the receipt of FY 2009 funding and the ongoing nature of many programs in 2009 (e.g., amendments for annual catch limits, groundfish biennial management specifications, salmon EFH review, trawl rationalization, and perhaps ecosystem base management) a one year no cost extension of the 2005-2009 grant will be needed for transitional purposes in 2010. The one year no cost extension will utilize the available funding above the level proposed in the 2009 CY budgets. The Council staff will need to formally apply for and receive approval for a one year no cost extension of the 2005-2009 grant to provide for this purpose.

### **Preliminary Expectations for Future Funding**

Dr. Coon reported that the President's FY 2010 budget request includes \$18.5 million for the regional council line item. If approved, this would only be about \$600,000 more than the 2009 line item budget and result in a Pacific Council appropriation of about \$2.7 million. As we have noted in the past, the line item total alone would be well short of the funding level the regional councils need to maintain status quo operations under the combination of hard and soft funding they have been receiving. That is again why the approval of a no cost one year extension of the 2005-2009 grant is important.

With regard to further details of the no cost extension for 2010, Dr. Coon indicated that further detail would be made available in September on the specific amounts and budget elements. Also, a better idea of the actual 2010 Federal FY funding available to the Council may be available at that time. At the September Budget Committee meeting, staff will provide recommendations for budget adjustments to reflect the best use of available funds.

### **Payment of Stipends to Eligible Scientific and Statistical Committee Members**

Dr. Coon reported on the need to address language in the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) concerning payment of stipends. Subject to the availability of appropriations, the MSA provides for payment of a stipend to members of Council scientific and statistical committees (SSC) and advisory panels who are not employees of the Federal Government or a State marine fisheries agency.

The Council has received funds from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that may be used for the purpose of supporting our SSC review process, including payment of stipends. However, there are no specific guidelines beyond the limited language in the MSA for determining the details of the program with regard to limits on who may be paid, the basis for pay (meeting and/or travel time), the rate of pay, and other pertinent details.

### **Budget Committee Recommendations**

#### **2009 Base Budget, Trawl Rationalization Budget, and Preliminary 2010 No Cost Extension Budget**

Recognizing the operational funding received by the Council in CY 2009, the Council guidance from November 2008, and the uncertainties of the budget process for 2010, the Budget Committee recommends the Council:

1. Adopt the initial CY 2009 proposed operational base budget of \$3,478,027;
2. Adopt the initial CY 2009 proposed trawl rationalization program budget of \$573,240;
3. Review funding and budget information available at the September Budget Committee meeting to determine recommendations for the details of the no cost one year extension of the 2005-2009 grant and make any other appropriate budget changes as a result of that review.

#### **Payment of Stipends to Eligible Scientific and Statistical Committee Members**

The Budget Committee notes that funds are available in CY 2009 for payment of SSC stipends and recommends the Pacific Council consider whether or not to pay stipends to eligible SSC members. Prior to any decision on stipends, the Budget Committee recommends the Council give guidance and direct staff to develop a draft Council Operating Procedure (COP) that sets out the criteria for such a program (e.g., priority for paying stipends, who is eligible, rate of pay, and other necessary administrative procedures). Such a draft COP might be developed and submitted for approval at the September Council meeting.

PFMC  
6/18/2009