

Summary of Research and Integrated Assessment Proposal Review Process

Proposals are considered independently and reviewed based on their own merit. Only in the case where two or more proposals are ranked equally are regional representation, topical diversity, or a reserve's funding history considered.

Decision Point & Emphasis	Inputs	Who Approves
1. Pre-proposal is Accepted <i>Does the pre-proposal comply with the RFP requirements?</i>	RFP requirements	Science Collaborative Team
2. Invitation to Submit a Full Proposal <i>How well does the pre-proposal respond to the evaluation criteria in the RFP?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-proposal evaluation criteria • Reserve manager assessments • Review Panel written reviews • Review Panel discussion & ranking 	Science Collaborative Team NOAA Program Officer
3. Full Proposal is Accepted <i>Does the proposal comply with the full proposal requirements?</i>	Full Proposal Requirements	Science Collaborative Team
4. Invitation to Present Full Proposal <i>How well does the full proposal respond to the evaluation criteria in the full proposal requirements?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal evaluation criteria • Reserve manager assessments • Technical expert written reviews • Review Panel discussion of written technical reviews • Review Panel recommendations 	Science Collaborative Team NOAA Program Officer
5. Proposal is Recommended for Funding <i>What proposals best respond to the evaluation criteria in the full proposal requirements?</i>	Inputs from step 4, plus the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team presentations to the panel • Review Panel discussion of proposals & presentations • Review Panel ranking and recommendations • Available funds 	Science Collaborative Team NOAA Program Officer

Research and Integrated Assessment Proposal Review Process: Summary of Participants

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

<p style="text-align: center;">NERRS Science Collaborative Team</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>In consultation with the NOAA Program Officer, the NERRS Science Collaborative Team accepts pre- and full proposals, manages the review process, and makes funding recommendations to NOAA.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Review Panel</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><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 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 style="text-align: center;">Technical Experts</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Technical experts complete written reviews of the full proposals which inform the panel review process. These technical experts do not include any of the review panel members.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">NOAA Program Officer</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><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 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 qualities and characteristics of the NERRS and the goals and objectives of the NERRS Science Collaborative are shared and discussed. Panelists with conflicts of interest in a specific proposal do not participate in the review, discussion, or ranking process for that proposal.

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 conducting collaborative research, 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, e.g., all reserve regions are represented on the review panel