

# Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

LO: identify themes and potential projects for proposals in response to RFPs

# What is an RFP?

A document published by a granting agency describing research areas and resources available and inviting qualified individuals/institutions to submit proposals outlining projects that address research needs

# Who issues an RFP?

Government agencies (international, national, state) or non-governmental organizations (private (foundations, companies), not for profit)

# Why issue an RFP?

Government mandate, applied problem needs addressed (e.g. industry), advance an agenda, provide research funds

# How long is a funding cycle?

Typically 1–3 years, majority 2 years. Rare cases 5 years.

# How long is the process?

RFPs are released with proposals due typically 3 months after release. Proposal reviews approximately 3–4 months. Panel review 1–2 months. Notification of awards follow, typically 6 months after initial proposal submission. Institution has to then set up an account and project can start, up to 1 year after RFP is released

# RFP Timetables

## NPRB 2017

Release of 2017 RFP	September 28, 2016
Online Submission System Opens	September 28, 2016
<b>DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS</b>	<b>December 16, 2016, 4 pm AKST</b>
Peer Review	January – March 2017
Science Panel Review	March 2017
Advisory Panel Review	April 2017
Board Review	May 2017
Submission to Secretary of Commerce	May 2017
Notification to PIs	May 2017
Award document preparation	June – July 2017
Research Commences	No earlier than July 1, 2017

## WSG 2017

### 2017

Investigator briefing on outreach .....	February 13
Preliminary proposal due date .....	March 13
Notification of preliminary proposal review outcome .....	April 14
Full proposal due date .....	June 1
Peer review and project selection .....	June through September
Notification of funding decisions .....	Late September

# NSF Proposal Review

## PHASE I

PROPOSAL  
PREPARATION  
AND SUBMISSION  
90 DAYS

1

OPPORTUNITY  
ANNOUNCED

2

PROPOSAL  
SUBMITTED

3

PROPOSAL  
RECEIVED

## PHASE II

PROPOSAL  
REVIEW AND  
PROCESSING  
6 MONTHS

4

REVIEWERS  
SELECTED

5

PEER  
REVIEW

6

PROGRAM  
OFFICER  
RECOMMENDATION

7

DIVISION  
DIRECTOR  
REVIEW

## PHASE III

AWARD  
PROCESSING  
30 DAYS

8

BUSINESS  
REVIEW

9

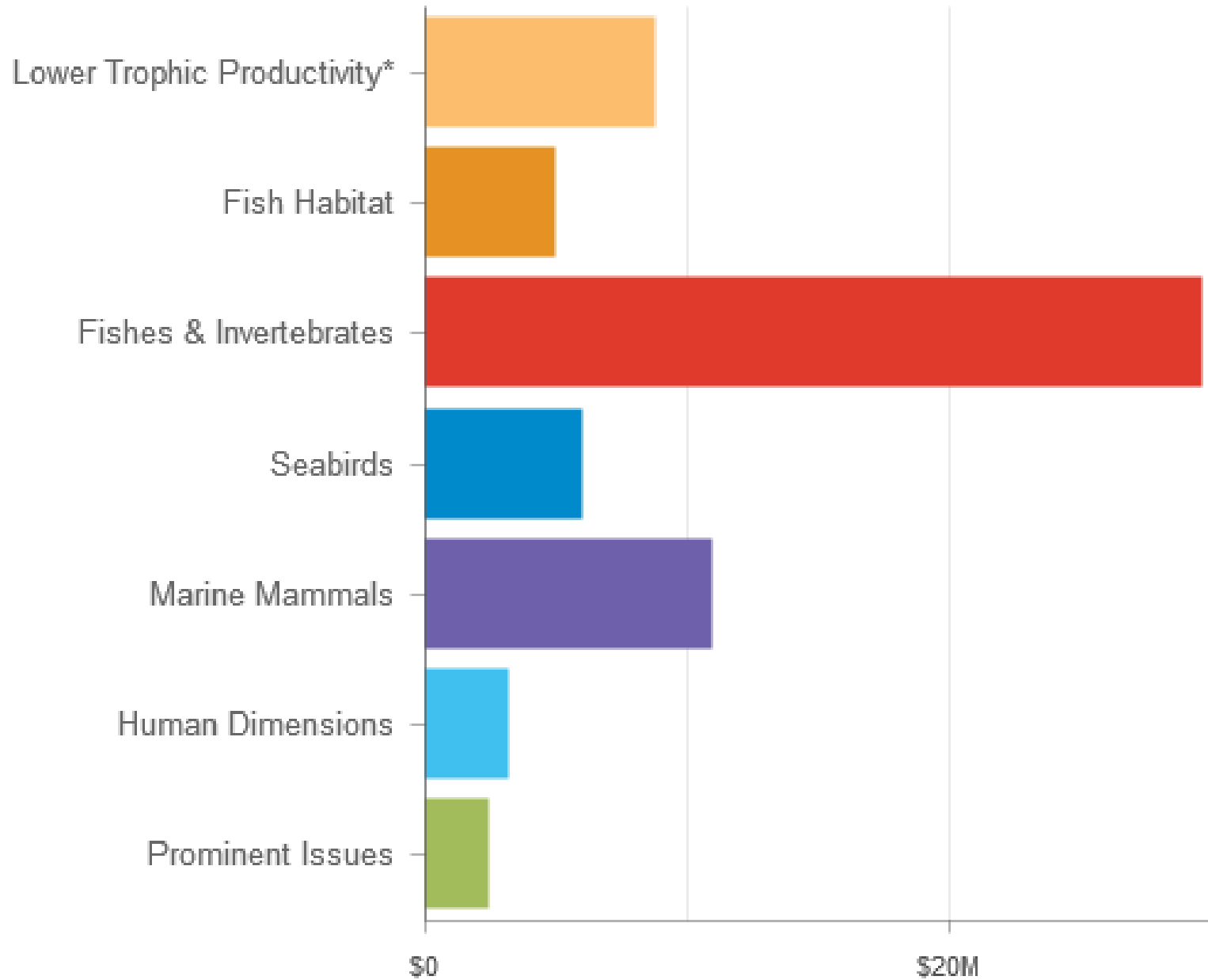
AWARD  
FINALIZED

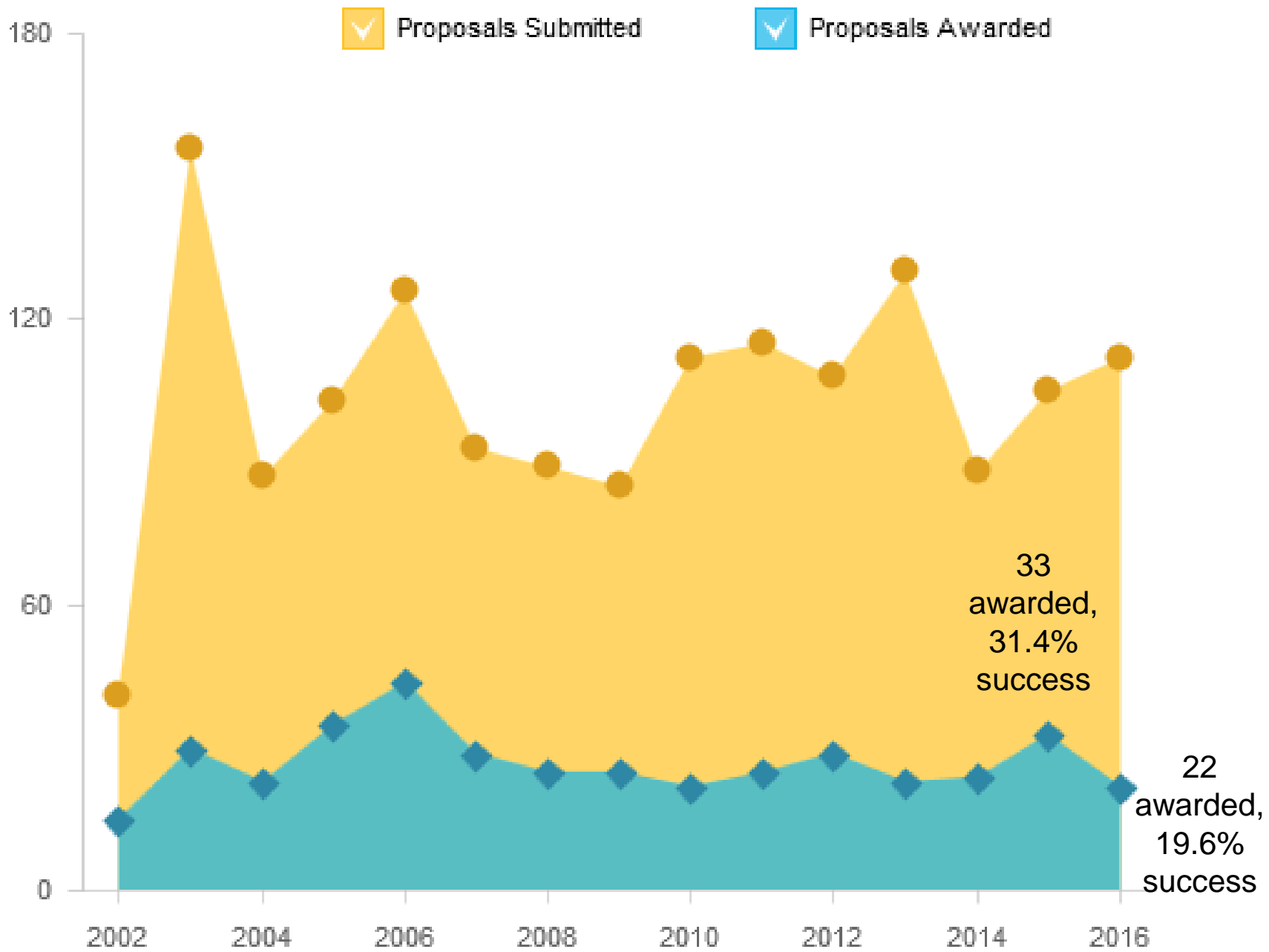
# How are RFPs organized?

Organized by theme, may have categories within theme.

	 Oceanography & Lower Level Productivity	 Fish Habitat	 Fishes & Invertebrates	 Marine Mammals	 Seabirds	 Human Dimensions
Pressing Fishery Management Needs  Marine Ecosystem Information Needs	Nutrient Dynamics Phytoplankton Ecology Phytoplankton - Sea Ice Dynmaics Zooplankton Ecology	Other Human Related Impacts Fishing Effects Habitat Mapping Ecosystem Functions of Habitat	Stock Assessment Research & Development Alternative Harvest Strategies Socio-economic Considerations Reducing Catch of Unwanted Species Causes of Perturbations of Major Species Ecosystem Change Implications on Fisheries Management	Other Human Related Impacts Fisheries Interactions Marine Habitat Use Foraging Success Population Dynamics Long-term Climate Change	Other Human Related Impacts Fisheries Interactions Marine Habitat Use Foraging Success Population Dynamics Long-term Climate Change	Fishery Management & Policy Baseline Assessment Issues Human Health & Marine Resources Human Values & Resource Protection Climate Variability & Change

# How are RFPs funded?







# Targeting Research Themes

- Research interests: expertise, address program need
- Available funding

How to combine your interests in a species/location/issue with elements of a research call?

# Targeting Research Themes

Section	% total
Ecosystem	60.2
Community	2.5
Cooperative	6.8
Technology	6.8
Data Rescue	1.7
Ecosystem Synthesis	22

Table 3. 2015 Request for Proposals: Research Priorities

Section Categories, Sub-categories and Topics	Target Funding
<b>1. General Research Priorities on Ecosystem Components</b>	<b>\$3,550,000</b>
<b>a. Oceanography and Lower Trophic Levels</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
i. Processes driving secondary production	
ii. Nearshore and landfast sea ice environments	<b>14%</b>
iii. Other oceanography and lower trophic level research	
<b>b. Fishes and Invertebrates (\$500,000 individual proposal limit)</b>	<b>\$1,300,000</b>
i. Stock assessment research and model development	
ii. Analyses and improvement of survey design and estimates of catchability	<b>36.6%</b>
iii. Forage species	
iv. Responses of fish and crab stocks to climate change	
v. Patterns in species movement and spatial distribution	
vi. Discard mortality rates	
vii. Other fish, invertebrate, and fish habitat research	
<b>c. Marine Mammals (\$500,000 individual proposal limit)</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
i. Areas of particular biological importance for arctic marine mammals	
ii. Areas of biological importance for Steller sea lions	
iii. Declining and depleted marine mammal populations	<b>28.2%</b>
iv. Effects of changes in sea ice	
v. Relationships between marine mammals and salmon in the Bering Sea	
vi. Application of recently developed technology for marine mammal studies	
vii. Other marine mammal research	
<b>d. Seabirds</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>
i. Retrospective studies	
ii. Other seabird research	<b>4.2%</b>
<b>e. Human Dimensions</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>
i. Human-ecosystem relationships	
ii. Social sciences applied to understanding management, policy, and communities	<b>11.3%</b>

iii. Local and traditional knowledge	
<b>f. Other Prominent Issues</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>
i. Zoonotic infections and biotoxins	
ii. Coastal contaminants	<b>5.6%</b>
iii. Invasive species	
iv. Other prominent issue research	
<b>2. Community Involvement (\$100,000 individual proposal limit)</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>
<b>3. Cooperative Research with Industry</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>
<b>a. Fishing Industry</b>	
i. Gear modification	
ii. Fishery monitoring	
iii. Marine observations and research	
iv. Marine mammal-fisheries interaction	
v. Other cooperative research with fishing industry	
<b>b. Other Maritime Industries</b>	
i. Species of special concern	
ii. Monitoring from infrastructure or vessels	
iii. Oil spill research in Arctic and subarctic marine ecosystems	
iv. Other cooperative research with maritime industries	
<b>4. Technology Development and Novel Applications</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>
<b>a. Molecular and Laboratory-Based Technology Development</b>	
<b>b. Marine Measurement Technology Development</b>	
<b>c. Marine Tagging and Marking Technology</b>	
<b>d. Other Technology Development Research</b>	
<b>5. Data Rescue</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>6. Focus Section: Ecosystem Syntheses</b>	<b>\$1,300,000</b>
<b>a. Aleutian Islands Ecosystem Synthesis</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>
<b>b. Gulf of Alaska IERP Synthesis</b>	<b>\$700,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,900,000</b>

Let's choose a category

# How are Proposals Evaluated?

Individual Reviews: 2 to 5 reviews of each proposal

Panel Reviews: group that scores and ranks all proposals

## NSF Review Criteria

1. What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?

How important is the proposed research to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields? How well qualified is the proposer to conduct the project? To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative and original concepts? How well conceived and organized in the proposed activity?

2. What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?

How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning? How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups? To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education such as facilities, instrumentation networks, and partnerships? Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding? What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?

# What Criteria are used to Evaluate?

## EC Horizon 2020 BG9 Stage I

Excellence

Clarity and pertinence of the objectives

Soundness of the concept, including trans-disciplinary considerations, where relevant

Extent that proposed work is ambitious, has innovation potential, and is beyond the state of the art  
(e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches)

Impact

The expected impacts listed in the work programme under the relevant topic

# EC Horizon 2020

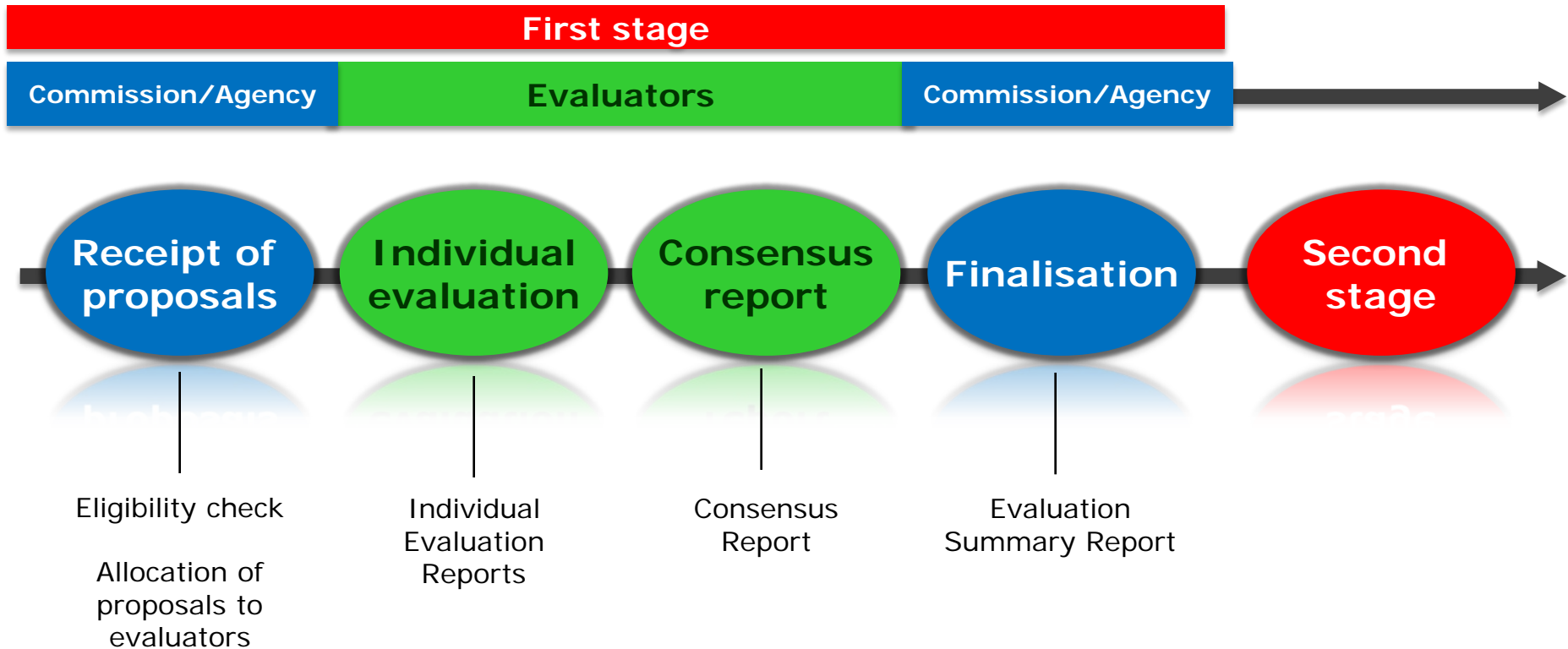
## Blue Growth 9

Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy

Underwater Acoustic and Imaging Technologies  
10Million Euro = 2 projects

11 projects scored high enough in 1<sup>st</sup> round to qualify  
for Panel Evaluation

# Evaluation



# Round II Evaluation Criteria

## Criterion 1 – Excellence

**Clarity and pertinence of the objectives**

**Credibility of the proposed approach**

**Soundness of the concept, including trans-disciplinary considerations, where relevant**

**Extent that proposed work is ambitious, has innovation potential, and is beyond the state of the art (e.g. ground breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches)**

## Criterion 2 – Impact

**Enhancing innovation capacity and integration of new knowledge**

**Strengthening the competitiveness and growth of companies by developing innovations meeting the needs of European and global markets, and where relevant, by delivering such innovations to the markets**

**Any other environmental and socially important impacts**

**Effectiveness of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), to communicate the project, and to manage research data where relevant**

## Criterion 3 – Quality and efficiency of the implementation

**Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources**

**Complementarity of the participants within the consortium (when relevant)**

**Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management**

# Scoring

0

The proposal **fails to address the criterion** or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

1

**Poor.** The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

2

**Fair.** The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.

3

**Good.** The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.

4

**Very Good.** The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.

5

**Excellent.** The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.



# Round II Evaluation

