2014 BB-RSDA Project Proposal (Based on Project Solicitation Guidelines)

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BB-RSDA strategies and bylaws: Agency staff (Sergeant Quist) has read the BB-RSDA Five Year Strategic Plan for 2013-2018 and the BB-RSDA bylaws from 2012.

BB-RSDA Strategic objectives addressed: There is likely no commercial fishery in the State of Alaska in which AWT plays a more essential role than the Bristol Bay Salmon fishery. DPS/AWT is the first responder to nearly all search and rescue calls during the Bristol Bay salmon season. In addition, near constant AWT presence is mandatory to protect the salmon resource, enforce the laws and encourage a level playing field; all of which directly or indirectly promote the objectives described as "Primary Focus" items in the Strategic Plan.

The overall mission of AWT best relates to Strategy #4-Maintain Sustainability of the Fishery: Without AWT presence the effectiveness of and compliance with all laws that promote a sustainable fishery would be diminished.

Description of Project: Upgrade and/or replace equipment in order to maintain and further the AWT mission in Bristol Bay. This proposal addresses three specific items, descriptions and costs are as follows:

1. Replace patrol skiff: One of the primary patrol skiffs used in Bristol Bay is 14 years old and needs to be replaced, estimated replacement cost is approximately $120,000. The intent is to keep the old skiff that would be replaced in Bristol Bay as a spare. As it is, if one skiff from one of the patrol vessels goes down for maintenance, up to 50% of the patrol function of that vessel goes away.
2. Satellite communications system for PV Stimson: The Department of Public Safety recently transitioned to an internet based records management (RMS)/report writing system, all police reports are written on this system. In its present form the system requires constant internet communication in order to function. The PV Stimson does not have this essential equipment and the RMS does not function while the vessel is deployed in Bristol Bay. Addition of a reliable, modern satellite communications system to the vessel would also help with communications during search and rescue missions and for gathering routine weather and fishery information. Cost for equipment and installation is approximately $33,000.00 plus $1000.00 per month for the service.
3. Upgrade equipment on the PV Kvichak: The PV Kvichak is a 32 foot Bristol Bay drift gillnet vessel which is based in Bristol Bay and used almost exclusively for patrol of Bristol Bay commercial fisheries. The vessel currently is not equipped with either a reel or a bow thruster, both of which would enhance effectiveness and/or safety of the vessel. The addition of a reel would make the vessel less noticeable when mingling with the fleet thereby making it more effective in covert operations. The advantages of a bow thruster are obvious to anyone who has operated a Bristol Bay gillnet vessel. A used reel would cost roughly $5000.00 to purchase and install, a bow thruster would cost approximately $7000.00.

Total project cost: 120,000 + 33,000 + 2000 (satellite service for 2 months while in Bristol Bay) + 5,000 + 7000 = $167,000. The State of Alaska is obviously another funding source. Items two and three can be completed before the start of the 2014 Bristol Bay salmon season, item one would be subject to vendor schedules and would likely not be in service by the 2014 season.