Carryover to 2014 and OTN Phase II budget

In the absence of any responses for our previously submitted proposals and budgets, beginning with our statement of November 29, 2012, we wish to propose in order of priority: A) our comparative project on Atlantic and Pacific sturgeon; and B) our sociology of knowledge project. Depending on the funding SAC can devote to this work, we will pursue the funded projects.

Budget justification for the proposed projects:

1. Comparative study of Atlantic and Pacific sturgeon

The insatiable international market for caviar suggests that the long-term future of sturgeon will depend, in good part, on the success of sturgeon aquaculture. In terms of linking Atlantic and Pacific sturgeon studies, it becomes important for the project to acquire an understanding of sturgeon tracking, and its connections to aquaculture on the West Coast. To date, there appear to be two relatively new firms in British Columbia, Target Marine in Sechelt and Taste of BC Aquafarms in Nanaimo, as well as two older firms in northern California.

With the Atlantic sturgeon study largely completed in OTN Phase I, this project will focus on understanding the social and legal dimensions of Pacific sturgeon (both white and green), in order to conduct a governance comparison between the Atlantic and Pacific arenas. The social dimension component will be led by Richard Apostle who will conduct fieldwork in Nanaimo and Sechelt, B.C. and at aquaculture sites in northern California. He will interview sturgeon fishermen, and sturgeon aquaculturists, relevant natural scientists, and other stakeholders. This case study will also require consultation in the research design and data analysis of the Human Relations Area Files (HRAF) across North America. This will permit us to create historical maps of First Nations and settler utilization of sturgeon for food, tools, and ceremonial purposes.

David VanderZwaag will lead the legal dimension component. He proposes one trip to Vancouver to interview provincial and federal scientists and managers regarding fisheries conservation and species at risk recovery efforts for sturgeon.

To carry out the Atlantic –Pacific comparative sturgeon project for OTN phase II a total budget of $10,775 is requested. These funds will be used for covering fieldwork expenses on the west coasts of Canada.

Detailed budget:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sturgeon Project** |  |  |  |
| **Richard Apostle travel to Nanaimo - Sechelt– San Francisco (14 days)** |  |  |  |
| Travel: | 1,500 |  |  |
| Local travel: | 1,300 |  |  |
| Accommodation and meals: | 3,150 |  |  |
|  | **Total:** | **5,950** |  |
| **David VanderZwaag travel to Vancouver (4 days)** |  |  |  |
| Travel: | 1,200 |  |  |
| Local travel: | 200 |  |  |
| Accommodation and meals: | 925 |  |  |
|  | **Total:** | **2,325** |  |
| HRAF consultation |  | **2,500** |  |
|  |  | **Sturgeon Total:** | **$10,775** |

1. Sociology of Knowledge

To understand the full potential of OTN technology integration and its implications for scientific cooperation, conservation, and marine governance, a cross category case study will examine the use of OTN technology, information and knowledge flow among and between scientific communities, policy and decision makers, and other stakeholders across the country in all levels of governance. This sociology of knowledge sub-theme will cross all other case studies.

For the Sociology of Knowledge project for OTN phase II a total budget of $4,625 is requested. These funds will be used for covering fieldwork expenses in engaging stakeholders in Atlantic Canada and Ottawa.

Detailed budget:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sociology of knowledge Project** |  |  |  |
| **Richard Apostle / Tsafrir Gazit trip to Ottawa** |  |  |  |
| Travel: | 1,200 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Accommodation and meal | 1,200 |  |  |
|  | **Total:** | **2,400** |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Richard Apostle trip to Newfoundland (5 days)** |  |  |  |
| Travel: | 600 |  |  |
| Local travel | 500 |  |  |
| Accommodation and meals: | 1,125 |  |  |
|  | **Total:** | **2,225** |  |
|  |  | **Total:** | **$4,625** |

Since questions may arise concerning the excellent comparative project on Atlantic and Pacific salmon that Nathan Young and John Phyne were preparing, we have appended a letter from Nathan and John which explains their withdrawal from the network (see the attached file.

Monday, October 7, 2013

Dear Richard and David,

We are glad that you think highly of the proposal text that we wrote in anticipation of the Phase II funding cycle for OTN. Unfortunately, in crafting the proposal, we misunderstood the resources that were dedicated to the social science dimension of the call – leading us to vastly overestimate our capacity to do the research.

Learning that the budget for our salmon research would be truly minimal, at ~22k over 3-5 years, changes things considerably. With RA rates at the University of Ottawa running at around $40/hr, we would have to choose between having an RA (but for an extremely limited time) and actually doing the fieldwork. In either circumstance, it would inevitably fall on us to complete the research without much assistance. Moreover, we did not want to engage in minimal field-work on both the East and West Coasts. As you are both aware, field research usually involves at least two trips to a particular setting. In the cold light of rational time management, this just isn’t possible for the both of us. Nathan Young is currently involved in two other research projects, with the possibility of one or two more coming on line in the coming year. John Phyne is also involved in a research project on St. John’s with the possibility of being involved in another project that dovetails with that research. We simply cannot commit to two research projects that are not adequately supported, and for which there is little possibility of RA help that can be appropriately used for both projects.

We understand that you are both also frustrated with the funding situation. We have very much enjoyed working with you on these projects, and hope to have to opportunity to do so again. The decision to drop the proposal is instrumental, not personal. Our impression from afar, however, is that OTN seems happy enough to be affiliated with social scientists to enhance their own legitimacy, but at the end of the day doesn’t see this work as being terribly important. We suppose that is a loss for all of us. The funding that OTN seems to believe as adequate for social science work demonstrates either a complete misunderstanding of the resources we need for doing our work, or a mere indifference for what we are doing. Both of us feel that this entire process is a protracted and frustrating endeavour.

We reiterate that our position, in no way, reflects on the both of you. We appreciate the work that you have done to this point and thank you for wanting to have us involved. Perhaps, in the future, we can work on other endeavours where the appreciation for social science work is much higher.

Feel free to share these thoughts with the powers to be at OTN.

Yours Sincerely,

John Phyne Nathan Young

Professor Associate Professor

St. Francis Xavier University University of Ottawa