

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

# FUND FOR MARINE MAMMAL BYCATCH SOLUTIONS

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## Overview

The Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium, in collaboration with the Global Bycatch Exchange and the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, is pleased to announce the availability of funding to support capacity building in developing countries for reducing marine mammal bycatch.

Bycatch is considered the most immediate threat to many populations and species of marine mammals worldwide. The focus of this fund is on building capacity within low and medium income nations to mitigate this problem within one or more fisheries. In addition, project support is intended to help achieve the new U.S. seafood import provisions under the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act.

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## **Funding priorities**

The kinds of projects to support can include:

- 1) Evaluation of potential marine mammal bycatch reduction techniques;
- 2) Establishing estimates of bycatch and calculating bycatch limits in fisheries that interact with marine mammals; and
- 3) Advancing measures to prohibit intentional killing or serious injury to marine mammals associated with fishing operations.

Approximately US\$75,000 is available to support projects. We anticipate granting two to three awards and will consider a maximum request of \$50,000, and a minimum of \$10,000. Priority will be given to applications from developing countries, and can focus on national initiatives or projects within particular fisheries, with preference given to ones that export seafood to the United States. For projects that are not in developing countries, proposals should outline relevant application of results to developing countries. There is no matching fund requirement.

## **Eligibility**

Eligible applicants can be academic, non-profit institutions, fishing industry groups, or foreign governments. Applications involving direct collaboration with relevant government agencies (e.g., with jurisdiction over fisheries, environment, and agriculture) are encouraged. Applications can involve adjacent countries as part of a regional initiative. Priority will be given to applicants from the countries in which projects are to take place, but in special circumstances, proposals from extra-national entities will be considered.

## **Project Period**

Project activities should be for no more than one year in duration. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through the end of 2019, and projects may begin as soon as August 1, 2019.

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## Proposal Outline

To apply for an award, please submit a proposal with the following:

1. Title of proposal
2. Contact information for key personnel
  - a. Name, Address, Telephone, Email
  - b. CV and bio of Principal Investigator, as well as CVs of key project staff
  - c. Affiliation(s)
  - d. Overview of the affiliated institution(s), with official documentation indicating legal status
  - e. Two professional references with email addresses
  - f. Letters of support from collaborating individuals and agencies
3. Amount of request (please indicate currency)
4. Project timetable
  - a. Project start and finish dates
5. Project overview
  - a. Summary of request: One to two sentences summarizing the work and the reason for the request
  - b. Rationale for project
    - i. Describe the bycatch problem or threat your proposed work will be addressing, and explain why this work is necessary.
    - ii. Describe all and any fishery/gear involved, including target catch and marine mammal species affected, as far as known. Include any available figures on marine mammal bycatch levels.
  - c. What are the relevant organizations working on this issue in your region?
6. Project description
  - a. What are the project objectives?
  - b. What methods or actions will be taken to achieve these objectives?
  - c. How will progress toward meeting the objectives be measured?
  - d. Timeline of activities.
7. Project budget
  - a. List or provide a table of detailed budget including narrative justification for each expense and indirect cost rate/overhead.

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- b. List any additional sources of funding (confirmed and pending; amount and donor) that would be used in achieving the project objectives, including why funds are required from this funding source.
  8. Summary
    - a. Please provide a short summary paragraph of this project, which will be published on the Global Bycatch Exchange (GBE) website should your proposal be accepted.

All proposals must be submitted in English. The quality of writing may affect the evaluation of the proposal.

If desired, a brief Letter of Inquiry or Pre-proposal may be submitted in advance of a full proposal to determine the project's eligibility for this grant opportunity.

### **Proposal Review**

Applications will be reviewed by relevant ACCOL and NMFS-IASI staff, using both quantitative and qualitative assessment of proposal content, relevance to the objectives of the fund, and capabilities of project personnel. Outside anonymous reviewers may be asked to provide additional evaluation. The review process will generally be completed within three weeks following submissions.

### **Reporting**

If a grant is awarded, reporting requirements include:

- Two progress reports, one at five months and one at ten months.
- A final report including a financial report due within one month following project completion;
- At least five good-quality photographs and/or videos of project activities for use on the GBE website. By submitting these, you will be giving the GBE permission to publish the images on the bycatch.org website. Any photos or videos published will be credited to the photographer and the project;
- A blog post about your project for the Global Bycatch Exchange website.

Please email proposals, pre-proposals, Letters of Inquiry and questions to Michelle Cho, [mcho@neaq.org](mailto:mcho@neaq.org); 1-617-573-0748.

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## **Fund Administration**

The GBE is an initiative of the Consortium for Wildlife Bycatch Reduction, which consists of the Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium, the Blue Water Fishermen's Association, Duke University, the Maine Lobstermen's Association, and the University of New Hampshire. Grants will be administered by the Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium as part of its collaborative research program between scientists and the fishing industry to identify practical bycatch reduction solutions for endangered species. The New England Aquarium is a U.S. 501(c)(3) nonprofit institution.