

Fisheries Innovation Fund

Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Grant Program

2015 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Full Proposal Due Date: **April 13, 2015 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time**

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) will run a national program that will award grants to catalyze the implementation of electronic technologies (ET) for catch monitoring in US fisheries. We anticipate awarding up to \$4 million through this solicitation, and expect that approximately 50% of the funds will support projects in the Gulf of Mexico.

BACKGROUND

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that preserves and restores our nation's native wildlife species and habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF establishes partnerships to invest public conservation dollars, matched with private funds, in the most pressing environmental needs. NFWF has a long and successful history of working with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to establish public-private partnerships to support the agency's conservation priorities.

Since 2010 NFWF has managed the Fisheries Innovation Fund (FIF), a Public Private partnership with NOAA focused on awarding grants to foster innovation and support effective participation of fishermen and fishing communities in the implementation of sustainable fisheries in the US. Approximately 30% of the FIF projects have focused on testing different aspects of electronic monitoring and reporting in fisheries across multiple regions. NFWF will draw on this experience to ensure the success of the Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Implementation Grant Program (EMR Grant Program).

The EMR Grant Program will advance NOAA's sustainable fisheries goals to partner with fishermen and other stakeholders to systematically integrate technology into fisheries data collections and observations for fisheries management. The EMR Grant Program will solicit proposals that advance implementation of promising electronic technologies that improve the timeliness of fisheries data, increase knowledge of the fisheries for management purposes, and empower fishermen and other citizens to become more actively involved in the data collection process.

In FY15 the focus will be supporting the implementation of a voluntary cost-shared electronic monitoring and reporting programs that support fisheries conservation and management, including but not limited to, the for-hire recreational fishery in the Gulf of Mexico, pursuant to Public Law 113-235, Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

The EMR Grant Program will consider applications from all US fisheries, including but not limited to commercial and recreational fisheries that catalyze the adoption of electronic monitoring and reporting consistent with NOAA Fisheries Regional Electronic Technology Plans or data collection programs identified by Regional Fishery Management Councils.

NOAA and the Fishery Management Councils created the [Regional Electronic Technology Plans](#) to provide a schedule of where and how to adopt appropriate electronic technologies, if any, for all fishery management plans. Click below to read individual regional plans:

- [Greater Atlantic](#)
- [Atlantic Highly Migratory Species](#)
- [South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean](#)
- [West Coast](#)
- [Alaska](#)
- [Pacific Islands](#)

Proposals that are likely to be competitive under the ERM grant program will:

- Advance cost effective implementation of priorities identified in the Regional Electronic Technology Plans;
- Improve reporting and monitoring of fisheries including, but not limited to, assisting commercial and recreational fisheries with acquiring and deploying appropriate electronic technologies needed to advance at scale implementation of the regional electronic technology implementation plans;
- Build on successful pilot project(s), or on other EMR implementation projects that have demonstrated that the approaches being proposed will increase the quality of the fisheries data and the speed of the data entering the management process;
- Improve capacity to ensure that electronic data being reported from the field is communicated and processed efficiently; meets appropriate standards for chain of custody, confidentiality, and archiving; and complies with rigorous standards needed for inclusion in stock assessments, catch accounting and management (and provide at a minimum, trip level catch or discards at least by species and number);

- Coordinate closely on data management with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Entities

- ✓ Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations, state and federal government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Indian tribes, educational institutions, businesses, unincorporated individuals, international organizations.

Ineligible Uses of Grant Funds

- ✗ NFWF funds and matching contributions may not be used to support political advocacy, fundraising, lobbying, litigation, terrorist activities or Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations.
- ✗ NFWF funds may not be used to support ongoing efforts to comply with legal requirements, including permit conditions, mitigation and settlement agreements. However, grant funds may be used to support projects that enhance or improve upon existing baseline compliance efforts.

FUNDING AVAILABILITY

The 2015 EMR Grant Program will award up to \$4 million in grants, and expect that approximately 50% of the funds will support projects in the Gulf of Mexico. The majority of awards under this program will fall in the range of \$200,000 to \$500,000, although upper or lower limits to award size are not specified. Matching contributions (both cash and in-kind) are preferred but not required. However, applicants are encouraged to seek out matching funds because these grant proposals may be more competitive. Applicants will be prompted to include information on other sources of funding for the project in the application section entitled “Matching Contributions.” Project periods may run for up to two years.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

All proposals will be screened for relevance, accuracy, completeness and compliance with NFWF and funding source policies. Proposals will then be evaluated based on the extent to which they advance the priorities of this RFP and meet the following criteria.

Technical Merit– Project is technically sound and feasible, and the proposal sets forth a clear, logical and achievable work plan and timeline. Project engages appropriate technical experts throughout project planning, design and implementation to ensure activities are technically-sound and feasible. Project provides timely data in a format useable for fishery management.

Budget – Costs are allowable, reasonable and budgeted in accordance with NFWF’s [Detailed Budget Instructions](#) cost categories. Federally-funded projects must be in compliance with OMB

Uniform Guidance as applicable (<http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-id?SID=704835d27377ef5213a51c149de40cab&node=2:1.1.2.2.1&rgn=div5>).

Partnership – An appropriate partnership exists to implement the project and the project is supported by a strong local partnership that leverages additional funds and will sustain it after the life of the grant.

Funding Need – Project establishes a clear need for the funds being requested, and demonstrates that activities would not move forward absent funding.

Monitoring – Project includes a plan for monitoring progress during and after the proposed project period to track project success and adaptively address new challenges and opportunities as they arise.

TIMELINE

Dates of activities are subject to change. Please check the Program page of the NFWF website for the most current dates and information (<http://www.nfwf.org/fisheriesfund>).

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| ✓ Full Proposal Due Date | <i>April 13, 2015, 11:59 PM, Eastern</i> |
| ✓ Awards Announced | <i>June 1, 2015</i> |

HOW TO APPLY

All application materials must be submitted online through National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Easygrants system.

1. Go to www.nfwf.org/easygrants to register in our Easygrants online system. New users to the system will be prompted to register before starting the application (if you already are a registered user, use your existing login). Enter your applicant information.
2. Once on your homepage, click the "Apply for Funding" button and select this RFP's "Funding Opportunity" from the list of options.
3. Follow the instructions in Easygrants to complete your application. Once an application has been started, it may be saved and returned to at a later time for completion and submission.

APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

A Tip Sheet is available for quick reference while you are working through your application. This document can be downloaded [here](#). Additional information to support the application process can be accessed on the NFWF website's "Applicant Information" page (<http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/home.aspx>).

For more information or questions about this RFP, please contact:

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For issues or assistance with our online Easygrants system, please contact:

Easygrants Helpdesk

Email: Easygrants@nfwf.org

Voicemail: 202-595-2497

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm ET, Monday-Friday.

Include: your name, proposal ID #, e-mail address, phone number, program you are applying to, and a description of the issue.