



2015 Fisheries Innovation Fund Grants

Western Pacific:

Increasing Resiliency of Commercial Fishing Operations in Hawaii

Grantee: Feed the Hunger Foundation

Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$110,000; Matching Funds: \$220,000 Total Project: \$330,000

The Feed The Hunger Foundation will implement a 24-month capacity building project working with fishermen in Hawaii to improve the economic viability of their fishing operations by (a) diversifying and increasing revenues through the development of business models adapted to low-volume, high-quality production strategies and targeting more stable, higher-value markets; (b) improving access to and eligibility for capital to improve operations; and (c) identifying strategies to enable retention of a greater share of product price premiums. This project will offer critical technical assistance and capacity building support to the commercial sector of Hawaii.

Pacific Coast:

Assessing Cost-effectiveness of Electronic Monitoring in the West Coast Groundfish Fishery (CA)

Grantee: Buccaneer Fishing

Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$111,750; Matching Funds: \$514,180 Total Project: \$625,930

Buccaneer Fishing will compare total costs and assess the feasibility of using electronic monitoring on trawl vessels fishing under maximized and optimized retention; determine which flatfish species can be authorized for discard by demonstrating consistent, accurate identification and quantification with electronic monitoring systems, and; assess the accuracy of logbooks as the initial source of catch data to balance quota accounts. This project will contribute to the development of standards for third-party electronic monitoring data reviewers and outline components of an electronic monitoring cooperative enforcement agreement.

Strengthening Resilience of Commercial Fisheries in Ilwaco, WA Via the Development of a Community Fishing Association

Grantee: Port of Ilwaco

Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$49,999; Matching Funds: \$15,000 Total Project: \$64,999

The Port of Ilwaco will facilitate the creation of new organizational capacity for the commercial fishing sector that will strengthen the asset and infrastructure base of community-based fleets and businesses including: purchase, holding, and leasing of Pacific groundfish quota shares and limited entry trawl permits; development of new dockside infrastructure in support of individual, independent fishing businesses; and, explore resource stewardship measures such as risk pool participation, electronic reporting tools, and gear innovations. The project will be collaboration of the Port, the Ilwaco Fish Company, the Columbia River Crab Fishermen's Association, the Nature Conservancy of Washington, Ilwaco Landing Cooperative LLC, and other interested parties such as Collaborative Fisheries Associates LLC.

North Pacific:

Refining Electronic Monitoring for Implementation on Small, Fixed-Gear Pacific Cod Boats in Alaska

Grantee: North Pacific Fisheries Association Inc.

Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$68,000; Matching Funds: \$60,000 Total Project: \$128,000

North Pacific Fisheries Association Inc. will continue to collect electronic monitoring data on small pot boats fishing for Pacific cod in the Gulf of Alaska Field, test two strategies to capture weights using electronic monitoring, and further develop and test Radio Frequency Identification tag and reader integration into an electronic monitoring system to facilitate data capture and review efficiencies.

Establishing a Community Fishing Association in the Gulf of Alaska to Provide Long-term Fishing Community Access and Stability (AK)

Grantee: Aleutians East Borough

Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$95,000; Matching Funds: \$48,000 Total Project: \$142,000

The Aleutians East Borough will support fishery community sustainability by developing and establishing a community fishing association and a community sustainability plan for inclusion in the Gulf of Alaska trawl catch share program. This project will support establishment of a community fishing association workgroup and facilitate input from Gulf of Alaska fishing dependent communities through meetings and workshops to help develop the Trawl Bycatch Management program of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Gulf of Mexico:

Optimizing Rapid Recompression Strategies for Increasing Survival of Discarded Red Snapper in the Gulf of Mexico (TX)

Grantee: Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi

Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$176,372; Matching Funds: \$32,954; Total Project: \$209,326

The Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi will provide essential information on barotrauma impairment and methods for reducing discard mortality of Red Snapper. The study will link barotrauma-related impairment indices to release conditions, evaluate the utility of several rapid recompression devices, and work with the local fishing community to determine best practices for implementing descender devices.

Initiating Barotrauma and Mortality Reduction Strategies with Gulf of Mexico Recreational Anglers

Grantee: FishAmerica Foundation

Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$60,000; Matching Funds: \$75,000 Total Project: \$135,000

The FishAmerica Foundation will further the implementation of Best Practices for releasing fish developed through the FishSmart collaborative process in 2014. Descending devices will be obtained and placed on recreational for-hire vessels to assess the adoption of tools/techniques and potential reduction of mortality of released fish in the Southeast region. Participants will undertake online instruction to reinforce effective use of devices and best practices.

South Atlantic:

Technical Solutions to Reduce Bycatch in the North Carolina Shrimp Trawl Fishery

Grantee: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$118,110; Matching Funds: \$25,299 Total Project: \$165,000

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources will form an industry work group and host a series of collaborative meetings to identify and prioritize new bycatch reduction devices and/or broad technological solutions that might achieve significant bycatch reduction over levels associated with industry “norm” shrimp trawl practices. Three commercial shrimp trawl vessels will field test the three, most-promising bycatch reduction device prototypes identified by the industry work group and compare results to present-day shrimp trawl bycatch levels.

New England:

Development of a Regional Windowpane and Yellowtail Flounder Bycatch Hotspot Mapping and Avoidance Network in New England

Grantee: Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Suffolk County

Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$130,681; Matching Funds: \$57,717 Total Project: \$188,398

The Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Suffolk County will create an additional avoidance network to focus on the bycatch of windowpane and yellowtail flounder in the Southern New England scup, whiting and squid fisheries and Georges Bank whiting and squid fisheries, along with Georges Bank groundfish fisheries in order to avoid bycatch “hot spots.”

Improving Gulf of Maine Groundfish Fishing Opportunities through Fishing Gear Modifications

Grantee: University of New Hampshire

Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$126,842; Matching Funds: \$19,000 Total Project: \$145,842

The University of New Hampshire will construct and distribute raised gillnets to fishermen throughout the Gulf of Maine, test their effectiveness in a broader range of conditions, and provide results to industry regarding their selectivity results and guidelines for construction, use and maintenance. The University of New Hampshire will work with Groundfish Sectors and Sector Managers to distribute the gear to 20 regional fishermen in 4 communities from Maine to Massachusetts.

Developing New Market Opportunities for Scup (*Stenotomus chrysops*), an Underutilized Species in the Northeast (RI)

Grantee: Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation

Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$59,683; Matching Funds: \$15,740 Total Project: \$75,423

The Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation will focus on facilitating the market development of a locally underutilized species, scup, building on previous success in identifying a process to debone and fillet scup by machine efficiently. Baseline marketing information will be compiled to determine new domestic and foreign market opportunities; product requirements needed to open up new markets; supply and demand logistics; and best marketing approaches and ways to present the final product to consumers. Additional goals include investigation of possible uses for processing byproducts; the costs and options for handling waste water disposal from processing; raising the awareness of this available underutilized species; and providing a model for how to increase the demand for local seafood.

Enabling Boat-to-Plate Seafood Traceability and Product Differentiation of New England Groundfish (ME)

Grantee: Midcoast Fishermen's Association

Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$175,008; Matching Funds: \$60,000; Total Project: \$235,008

The Midcoast Fishermen's Association will work with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Hannaford Supermarkets, Trace Register, and ThisFish to improve the quality, quantity, and timeliness of fisheries-dependent data used for science, management, and fishermen's business purposes. The project will create traceability systems that enable point-of-sale product differentiation for Maine seafood.

Implementing Electronic Monitoring to Achieve Individual Accountability and Improve Monitoring in the New England Groundfish Fishery (MA)

Grantee: GB Cod Fixed Gear Sector, Inc.

Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$166,216; Matching Funds: \$184,500; Total Project: \$350,716

The GB Cod Fixed Gear Sector, Inc. will leverage previous electronic monitoring initiatives and work with partners to develop and implement an innovative new electronic monitoring program for New England groundfish sectors by fishing year 2016. The project will develop program design, improve data management, install equipment, and document the first year of a fully functional electronic monitoring program that allows 5-7 vessels to verify area fished and catch (kept and discard) by species and gear type, for the purposes of monitoring sector Annual Catch Entitlement utilization.

Nationwide:

Supporting the Visibility and Viability of Community Supported Fisheries and Small-scale Fishermen Nationwide

Grantee: LocalCatch.org

Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$44,000; Matching Funds: \$8,000; Total Project: \$52,000

The LocalCatch.org will help fishermen gain access to the information and technical resources necessary to engage in community supported fisheries and similar direct marketing arrangements to increase the economic viability and efficiency of fishing businesses.

Development of Open-Source Software for Electronic Monitoring Data Review

Grantee: Saltwater Incorporated

Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$88,000; Matching Funds: \$38,000; Total Project: \$126,000

Saltwater Incorporated will develop a foundation of open-source software for review of electronic monitoring data. The software will expand on the capabilities of existing review software, and be easily adapted to different fisheries. The software will be tested and hardened during the project, and on completion will be made freely available to the public.