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Coastal Restoration Fund

Expression of interest guidelines

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Application guidelines

The following information provides applicants with an overview of the Coastal Restoration Fund (CRF), and guidance on developing an expression of interest (Eol). Proponents are **required** to submit an Eol as part of the CRF application process. Should your project meet with the program's requirements and is chosen as a project, you will be contacted by your DFO regional office to provide further details about your project as part of the development of the contribution agreement. All sections of the Eol form must be completed to be considered for funding under the CRF.

Information provided to Fisheries and Oceans Canada will be treated in accordance with the [Access to Information Act](#) and the [Privacy Act](#). These laws govern, protect and limit the collection, use and disclosure of personal, financial and technical information by federal government departments and agencies.

A. Coastal restoration fund context

On November 07, 2016, the Government of Canada launched the Ocean Protection Plan (OPP), a \$1.5B investment in improved marine safety and responsible shipping, protection of Canada's marine environment, and new possibilities for Indigenous and coastal communities. Under the OPP's commitment to preserve and restore marine ecosystems, the Government has established the Coastal Restoration Fund (CRF) to facilitate collaborations that contribute to developing and implementing coastal restoration plans, identifying restoration priorities, implementing restoration projects, and addressing threats to marine species (e.g., whales) located on Canada's coasts.

Program objective

The objective of the program is to support projects that will:

- Contribute to strategic planning and studies in key coastal areas;
- Rehabilitate aquatic habitats that contribute to the mitigation of stressors affecting marine life and their habitats;
- Contribute to the long-term sustainability of aquatic coastal habitats through monitoring and maintenance; and
- Encourage and build local community capacity to maintain and restore aquatic habitats.

Preference criteria

The CRF will support coastal habitat restoration projects at the local and community level along Canada's coasts, and contribute to mitigating marine stressors in aquatic coastal ecosystems. Given this approach, preference for program support will be given to those projects that:

- Address a Government of Canada, DFO or regional coastal priority (check for the latest information on the [website](#));
- Include Indigenous partners;
- Are medium to large projects (e.g., \$200,000 to \$1,000,000 per year), though projects as low as \$50,000 (minimum request allowed per fiscal year) will be considered if they are of strategic value;
- Engage a broad number of partners; and
- Are multi-year projects.

Government support

The total financial support for a CRF project from all levels of government (i.e., federal, provincial, territorial and municipal) cannot exceed 100% of the eligible expenditures of the activity, and of the total project value.

The cost of activities or personnel funded by federal contribution programs (e.g., Habitat Stewardship Program), as directly related to implementing a CRF project, will count towards the federal and stacking limits.

B. General program information

Eligible groups

Eligible groups under the CRF include:

- Indigenous organizations (e.g., Indigenous communities, Tribal Councils, Governments of self-governing First Nations, Indigenous conservation groups);
- Community based organizations (i.e., Non-profit organizations situated in municipalities or regions, including stewardship bodies);
- Non-profit organizations including environmental non-governmental organizations and stewardship bodies; and
- Academic researchers/institutions across the country.

Eligible activities

The program supports projects that focus on the Government of Canada's commitment to address areas of increased marine shipping, coastal development, new whale protection measures, as well as regional coastal priority areas and activities identified on the [website](#).

The CRF will support a broad range of activities, including:

- **Feasibility and diagnostic studies, environmental evaluations, mapping**

This includes studies that contribute to the development of coastal zone restoration plans. In addition, this also can apply to pre-feasibility and feasibility studies, diagnostic studies, baseline monitoring, environmental evaluations, information gathering, proposal development, planning, mapping and reporting. However, any studies or planning activities must be associated with a specific restoration project or contribute to the program's priorities (i.e., standalone studies or planning projects are not eligible under this program).

- **Rebuilding, restoring and rehabilitating aquatic habitat**

This includes activities that rebuild, restore and rehabilitate aquatic habitats. It could include, but not limited to, activities related to the return of degraded or altered marine, estuarine, coastal, and habitats of diadromous and oceanodromous fish to functioning habitats or techniques that provide species access to their historic habitats. For example, physical habitat restoration, such as riparian planting, stabilization/enhancement of habitat along eroding banks, removal of anthropogenic structures that is causing coastal area ecosystem lost, and the installation of instream restoration structures and in-water structures (e.g., artificial reefs).

This could include inland aquatic habitats that have an impact on coastal zone environments, or on marine species (e.g., issues related to prey availability).

All projects must have an evidence-base that demonstrates the project's feasibility (i.e., the program will not fund experimental research or activities).

- **Skills development including management and technical training**

This includes activities that contribute to the long-term sustainability of the project, for example, management and technical training that supports long-term maintenance and monitoring of restoration projects and aquatic habitat (e.g., workshops, consultation).

- **Monitoring of and reporting on projects**

The CRF encourages activities that support the continued maintenance of an aquatic habitat. This could include monitoring of and reporting on projects to ensure the sustainability of the rehabilitation efforts. CRF will fund monitoring activities that are used to assess the effectiveness of the project and provide an appraisal of the habitat function. Regulatory-based monitoring activities are not eligible under CRF.

- **Construction, architectural, engineering, design, and maintenance activities**

This includes activities that facilitate physical changes to the environment to address/mitigate marine stressors and contribute to the restoration of coastal habitats, for example construction, architectural design, engineering, as well as, maintenance and project design activities.

Eligible expenses

Under the CRF eligible expenses are limited to:

- professional and technical services;
- training;
- construction and related costs;
- purchase or rental of machinery and equipment;
- materials and supplies;
- rental of facilities;
- salaries and wages and employer mandatory benefits of non-core personnel;
- travel, including accommodation, meals, and allowances, based on National Joint Council Directives on travel guidelines;

- conferences, workshops and meetings;
- maintenance and repair;
- to further distribute funding to an agency or a third party; and
- administrative overhead up to 10% of eligible costs of the project.

Ineligible activities and costs

The program cannot support activities that do not support the objectives of the program or address a specific marine stressor. For examples:

- The development of new commercial and recreational fishery – though program funding may be used to restore a previously-existing fishery habitat impacted by marine stressors;
- Human resource costs for core/salaried personnel of the proponent;
- Land purchase/securement;
- Regulatory-based activities and costs (e.g., offsetting, authorizations/permits and associated fees);
- Construction of an alternate water supply for cattle (e.g., well pumping station);
- Construction of a replacement boat launch, pier, fishing platform, etc.;
- Stocking of fish (doesn't include seeding for shellfish bed shoreline stabilization);
- Financial audit costs, where the recipient wants to audit its own books (if DFO determines that an audit is required for DFO monitoring purposes, DFO will cover the costs of the audit);
- Communication (other than mandatory CRF signage), and;
- Shoreline stabilization that is not associated to fish habitat restoration.

C. Evaluation of Eol submissions

Each expression of interest will be initially screened to determine if it meets the minimum requirements to be considered an eligible CRF project. The initial review will assess:

1. Is the applicant eligible under the program?
2. Are the activities and expenses within the scope of the program?
3. Does the amount request fit within the program's funding profile?
4. Does the project proposal address the objectives of the program?

If a project is deemed eligible, it is then assessed to determine whether or not it is to be considered a potential CRF project. The national evaluation will assess each Eol based on:

- **Strategic Value:** does it address Government of Canada priorities;
- **Ecosystem Value:** as defined by the benefits of a project to the ecological, biological, and ecological services (i.e., the benefits people obtain from ecosystems, such as clean water); and
- **Technical / Program Specifics:** does the project have potential success as presented (i.e., is the projects technically sound).

D. Instructions to complete the Eol form

Please follow the step-by-step instructions below to ensure your Eol form is complete. For any inquiries related to the application process, please contact the appropriate regional contact listed on the [program's website](#).

1. Project title

The project title will be used in all communications related to the project (suggested format: water body name followed by a brief description of the project, such as "Eastville Coastal Bank Restoration"). Maximum 100 characters.

2. Funding requested

Indicate the CRF requested amount corresponding to each fiscal year (1 year to 5 year projects).

3. Application information

Enter the full legal name of your institution/body/organization. If the project is selected for funding, you will enter into an agreement with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and payments will be made to this institution/body/organization name. A general description of your institution/body/organization (or on the group implementing the project) must also be provided, including details on the capacity and expertise required to achieve the proposed project.

4. Project location

Additional sets of rows should be added for projects with more than one work site. The preferred format for identifying a project location(s) is in latitude and longitude decimal coordinates in degrees, minutes and seconds.

5. Project summary

Provide an overview of the project and make sure the description answers the following questions:

1. What are the project objectives and how are you planning to achieve them?

List the specific objectives of the proposed project and all issues you intend to address (e.g., restoration plan development for sediment control along the Bay of Fundy through stabilization of the shore). Indicate any proven technique/methodology you will use.

2. How does the project address Government of Canada, DFO or regional coastal restoration priorities or does it respond to a documented/recognized regional coastal restoration problem?

List any of the issues and/or priorities to be addressed and identify all proposed solutions and actions to answer them.

3. How does the project benefit/impact the aquatic ecosystem?

Provide details on how the project will benefit the aquatic ecosystem (what will be the positive impacts of the project). Also describe how the project demonstrates an ecological need and/or restores an ecological service.

4. Does the project benefit/impact aquatic species?

List all aquatic species impacted by the project and describe how they will benefit from the proposed project (e.g., fish, marine mammals notably endangered or threatened species).

5. What are the expected long-term results of the project?

Identify any long-term impact the project might have (e.g., ecologic, socio-economic impacts) as well as monitoring or follow-up actions that might be taken.

6. How does the project support, involve, or engage Indigenous organizations, other partners and stakeholders?

Provide a list of project supporters and describe how the project supports, involves, or engages Indigenous organizations, other partners and stakeholders. Identify all groups are involved/engaged or impacted by the project and what are the positive outcomes on the communities and the coasts.

7. What measures will be implemented to ensure the long term sustainability of the project (including beyond the CRF project lifecycle)?

Identify the activities that will be taken to ensure the long term sustainability of the projects (e.g., on-going monitoring, maintenance beyond the CRF project lifecycle).

6. Milestones

Provide a short title (e.g., project planning, consultations on restoration activities, training, monitoring) and a description for each project milestone. List all of your project's key milestones, for each fiscal year (from April 1st to March 31st of each year).

7. Sources of support

Provide expenses estimates (cash and in-kind) to be covered by **all sources of support** in the table. For each source of support, you must include a brief description of the expenses to be covered and the amount requested **for the whole duration of the project**. Each organization must be listed using separate rows (i.e., one organization/row).

8. Signature

By selecting the checkbox, you confirm that all information contained in the EoI form is accurate.

The EoI Form must be e-mailed to the appropriate regional Fisheries and Oceans Canada e-mail address listed on the [website](#). Confirmation of receipt of each application will be sent within 5 business days; a file number will be assigned for use in future correspondence.

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