

# **Maine Shellfish Restoration and Resilience Project**

## **Request for Proposals**

Posted September 2021

**DEADLINE: January 19, 2022**

This will be the Fund's fourth and final year of funding.

The Maine Shellfish Restoration and Resilience Project invites proposals for projects that will improve the management and conservation of clam flats and mussel beds. Specifically, this funding opportunity seeks to support new or expanding projects that restore shellfish flats, improve clam flat or mussel bed productivity, find and fix pollution, work with town and state officials to open closed flats, increase volunteer participation in co-management and conservation activities, strengthen civic partnerships, and/or update shellfish conservation and co-management policies.

### **Eligibility**

Applications may be submitted by fishermen, shellfish wardens, town officials, or other stakeholders in partnership with a town or nonprofit (for example a land trust or other community organization). Applications must demonstrate involvement of clam or mussel harvesters. The review committee will favor projects that also include shellfish committee members and shellfish wardens as well as scientists, regulators, managers, and other key partners. If clam or mussel harvesters have a project idea and need assistance connecting with a town official or representative from a non-profit organization, support will be provided (see contact information for questions below). Though projects may include an education component, this fund is not intended to be used exclusively for education initiatives.

### **Past MSRRF Grantees**

Groups that have received funding in the past may ask for additional funds for their current project or apply for another project. Organizations and towns that received grants in 2020 were given 12 month project extensions because of the many challenges caused by COVID 19. We understand the pandemic has continued to create delays and project changes. Please contact us if you have any questions (see contact information below).

### **Ineligible Expenses**

Activities that are part of the organization's mission with no clear start or end date, or those that have been implemented for more than three years and are continuing without expansion. Equipment expenses need to be part of a defined project.

### **Proposal Evaluation Criteria**

- Measurable benefit to shellfish harvesters and the community
- Timeliness and urgency of the proposed activity
- Ability to foster relationships with other partners
- Innovation and relevance to emerging issues

- Interdisciplinary approach to shellfishing sustainability (i.e. includes multiple forms of knowledge and considers both social and environmental issues related to shellfishing)

### **Timing**

The deadline for application is **January 19, 2022**. Grants can only be used to support projects or activities that occur after the grant has been awarded.

### **Award Amount**

Grant size will range from \$1,000 to \$20,000. We hope to award at least 10 grants, but may have to decline some requests based on available funds. Proposals for planning grants (max. \$5,000) will also be considered.

### **Application Materials**

Complete application packet should be emailed to [maineshellfishfund-group@maine.edu](mailto:maineshellfishfund-group@maine.edu) by **January 19, 2022**.

Materials to include:

- Contact information for project coordinator, include phone number and email address
- List of key personnel and project partners, include phone numbers and email addresses
- The name of the organization or town that would receive the grant. Please include staff contact, phone number, email address, and mailing address.
- Start date and end date for project (grant funds will be released by the end of March, 2021)
- Project budget with expenses and revenue, including in-kind support and income from other sources
- Please include a statement indicating that everyone named in the proposal has been contacted, knows that they are included in the proposal, and that they have agreed to participate.
- A 2-3 page narrative with the following sections:

**Problem statement:** What is the problem you intend to address and why does it matter for the health and sustainability of shellfishing?

**Solutions:** How will you address this problem? What specific strategies, activities or products will you produce?

**Capacity:** Who is involved in this project, what are the specific roles and responsibilities, and why is this group well positioned to do the work you propose? Also, how will the group seek the participation of community members and stakeholders that aren't normally involved in conservation or efforts with harvesters? How will the group accommodate different stakeholders' abilities, comfort level, or willingness to participate or be involved in projects?

**Limiting factors:** Are there any specific challenges or limiting factors that could shape your ability to achieve success in your project? This information will be helpful in identifying opportunities for project advisors to work with and help your group achieve its goals.

**Sharing project data and learning:** If applicable, how will the project work to archive and share data with the town, state, and other interested parties? Please indicate your willingness to participate in meetings to help other grantees learn about your project.

## **Questions**

Andrea Perry, Broad Reach Fund: [andrea@broadreachfund.org](mailto:andrea@broadreachfund.org)

Bridie McGreavy, University of Maine: [bridie.mcgreavy@maine.edu](mailto:bridie.mcgreavy@maine.edu)

For more information and to see a list of previously-funded projects, please visit the MSRRF website: <https://umaine.edu/shellfish-restoration/>. The Mudflat website also has details about related shellfish projects across the region (<https://themudflat.org/ongoing-projects/>) and other resources that may be useful for project development.

This funding effort is part of a collaboration that involves the Broad Reach Fund of the Maine Community Foundation, the Maine Shellfish Advisory Council, the University of Maine's Department of Communication and Journalism and Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions. An advisory committee comprised of scientists, agency staff, harvesters, and other stakeholders will review proposals and make funding recommendations.

The Broad Reach Fund is a component fund of the Maine Community Foundation. The Fund has awarded fisheries-related projects for over a decade and is embedded in the philosophy of community-based management.

The Maine Shellfish Advisory Council is established and governed by Maine Statute. The Council addresses matters of concern to the shellfish industry. ShAC will raise awareness about this funding opportunity within the industry and in municipal shellfish programs across the state.

The University of Maine serves in an advisory role and provides logistical support to the project. Dr. Bridie McGreavy is an Assistant Professor in UMaine's Department of Communication and Journalism and faculty fellow with the Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions. Dr. McGreavy's engaged research with Maine's shellfishing and coastal communities helps inform and support this project.