



2019 Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership Request for Proposals

Deadline for proposals: Friday November 2, 2018

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Background on Funding Opportunity

The Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership (PMEP) is one of 20 regional fish habitat partnerships in the United States. Its mission is to provide science, data, and funding to conserve and restore West Coast nearshore and estuarine fish habitat. It is advancing estuarine habitat classification and mapping and is gathering and assessing information about estuarine fish habitat use. It also prioritizes and funds fish habitat restoration projects through a partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency (USFWS) and the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP).

PMEP's strategic plan recognizes, as a current priority, the importance of juvenile rearing areas within estuaries, as well as nearshore habitats for fisheries. Please review PMEP's strategic plan at <http://www.pacificfishhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/PMEP-Strategic-Plan-2018-draft-v6a-sm.pdf> for more information about its focus.

PMEP is seeking project proposals that restore nursery habitats for PMEP focal species within smaller estuarine systems (with an emphasis on habitat connectivity) or increase our understanding of fish habitats in estuarine and nearshore waters. The portion of the project that PMEP funds should be completed within two years.

PMEP will not consider proposals that:

- Place large woody debris, without addressing long-term habitat quality improvements or other means of restoring connectivity and function.

- Conduct only salmonid use assessments. Habitat use assessments must be primarily designed to elucidate the use of estuary or nearshore habitat by non-salmonid focal species. Multi-species focused assessments are preferred.
- Modify, rather than remove tidegates, unless the project will significantly improve both habitat connectivity and fish passage to areas above the tidegate.
- Are above impassable barriers.

All projects must show financial match and broad-based support for the work, though no specific match amounts are required.

To read about recent funded projects, please visit <http://www.pacificfishhabitat.org/pmep-funded-projects/>.

PMEP will award a total of \$100,000-\$150,000 in 2019 for projects that advance its mission. This amount is based on funding received from the USFWS and NFHP for this purpose. The exact amount of funding available varies annually and is not known at this time. Individual project awards are generally between \$30,000 and \$60,000. Strong project proposals that request less than \$50,000 will be given precedence in an effort to fund a diverse portfolio of projects. However, proposals of particular merit may be funded at a higher level at the discretion of the review panel. Final project grants will be administered by the USFWS.

How to Apply

To apply for funding, interested applicants should complete and submit the online application. Please read below for instructions regarding what information to include and the preferred format for information. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. **The deadline for project proposal submissions is Friday, November 2, 2018.**

Notification of awards will be made in Spring 2019, and funds are expected to be awarded in the Summer of 2019. Please note that this funding is linked to the federal budget. Funding award announcements and disbursements may be delayed as a result of delays in the federal appropriations process.

If you have any questions, please contact the PMEP Coordinator (info@pacificfishhabitat.org).

Evaluation Criteria

Project proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria.

- What extent does the project relate to / align with PMEP priorities and the priorities of other local, state, and regional plans?
- Does the project result in benefits for the habitat of one or more of PMEP's 15 focal species?
- Does the project yield a broad ecological benefit?
- Will the project demonstrate results within a reasonable timeframe?
- Does the project have an adequate monitoring and evaluation process for determining success?
- Does the project align with national conservation strategies?
- Is the project cost-effective?
- Does the project have the appropriate project management and technical expertise in place?
- Does the project include appropriate public outreach and partner support?
- Does the project align with national-level priorities?

Below are the scoring categories and point assignments.

Project Scoring
(10 points each)
Priority
Focal Species Benefit
Overall Ecological Benefits
Project Readiness
Project Alignment
Evaluation
Value
Project Management
Outreach
National/Federal Strategies

Application Description

The following describes the sections of the online application for funding. Please direct any questions about the application to the PMEP Coordinator referenced in the "How to Apply" section.

Project Overview Information

1. Name of Project. (name that uniquely defines your project. 8 words or less.)
(*limit: 100 characters*)
2. Requesting Organization. (*limit: 100 characters*)
3. Total amount of funding requested from PMEP.

4. Project Location. (City and state. Include name of estuary if applicable.) *(limit: 200 characters)*
5. Latitude, Longitude, and Datum of Coordinates for your project
6. Name of Individual submitting the application and contact info for same.
7. Name and contact info of Local Project Manager (if different from individual submitting application)
8. Requesting Organization's address.

Project Description

1. *Short Description of Project. (limit: 250 words)*
2. *Project Overview.* Please discuss the primary purpose of the project and project tasks. *(limit: 500 words)*
3. *Expected Conservation Outcomes.* Please describe the goals and objectives of the project and how the project design will meet these objectives. Describe the expected conservation outcomes, the timeline for those effects, and what success will look like for this project. *(limit: 500 words)*
4. *Geographic Scope.* Describe the geographic scope and scale of your project. (e.g. number of shoreline miles, number of tidally influenced river miles, number of estuarine acres) *(limit: 500 words)*
5. *Project Timeline.* Please describe your project timeline. Briefly describe the current status of the project. Show how PMEP funds will help advance specific milestones. Ensure your timeline clearly indicates where you are in the permitting process. *(limit: 500 words)*
6. *Ecological Benefit.* Please discuss the project's overall ecological benefits. Explain how the project restores ecological function and connectivity and how the project's ecosystem benefits are expected to be sustained over time. Explain how the project will aid in resiliency of natural systems over time. *(limit: 500 words)*
7. *Maps.* Attach a vicinity map of your project that shows the general location of the project. Attach a project map or schematic if applicable. Only upload .pdf files.
8. *Location Data:* Upload location data if available as a zipped shapefile or google earth kml.
9. Is your project associated with a mitigation project, and if so, please describe. *(limit: 250 words)*

Alignment with PMEP Objectives

1. *PMEP Objectives.* Describe how your project aligns with and will further the following three objectives of PMEP:
 - Protect, restore, and enhance fish habitat in estuaries with an emphasis on juvenile rearing areas.
 - Protect, restore, and enhance fish habitat in the nearshore Pacific Ocean.

- Increase connectivity between habitats in PMEP's geographic scope. *(limit: 500 words)*
2. *PMEP Focal Species.* What species will your project focus on and/or benefit?
 - Green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*)
 - Leopard shark (*Triakis semifasciata*)
 - Bat ray (*Myliobatis californica*)
 - Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*)
 - Bay shrimp (*Crangon franciscorum*)
 - Dungeness crab (*Cancer magister*)
 - California halibut (*Paralichthys californicus*)
 - English sole (*Parophrys vetulus*)
 - Starry flounder (*Platichthys stellatus*)
 - Shiner perch (*Cymatogaster aggregata*)
 - Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)
 - Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)
 - Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)
 - Brown rockfish (*Sebastes auriculatus*)
 - Staghorn sculpin (*Leptocottus armatus*)
 3. Describe how your project will benefit the species you checked. *(limit: 500 words)*
 4. Will your project adversely affect any of the species listed? *(limit: 250 words)*
 5. Describe the vulnerable fish habitat protected *(if applicable)* *(limit: 250 words)*

Project Readiness

1. Will the portion of your project that PMEP may be funding be completed within two years?
2. Are all permits in place? If not, please describe the expected timeline needed for permit approval. *(limit: 2000 characters)*
3. What percentage of the overall project funding is already secured? What percentage is pending?

Budget

1. Total amount of funding requested from PMEP.
2. Total Project Cost.
3. Do you have matching funds for this project?
4. Total Other funding received.
5. Will this project be fully funded if PMEP funds are received?
6. Attach project budget tables (see Appendix A for the desired format)
7. List other funding partners.

Project Monitoring and Evaluation

1. *Monitoring Plan.* Describe your monitoring plan. What metrics or criteria will you use to evaluate the success of your project? How will you monitor for

ecological outcomes in the short and long term? Will any of your monitoring involve monitoring for juvenile fish or fish habitat associations? *(limit: 250 words)*

Project Support

1. *Partners.* List major project partners and their roles. *(limit: 500 words)*
2. *Technical Expertise.* Describe the technical expertise for this project. (include key staff and contracted companies and their qualifications) *(limit: 250 words)*
3. *Community Support.* Describe any community support for (or opposition to) this project. *(limit: 250 words)*
4. *Outreach.* Describe any outreach activities associated with this project. *(limit: 250 words)*

Conservation Strategy Alignment

1. *National Fish Habitat Partnership Goals.* Select all NFHP goals that the project helps address.
 - Goal 1: Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems
 - Goal 2: Prevent further degradation of fish habitats that have been adversely affected.
 - Goal 3: Reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve the overall health of fish and other aquatic organisms.
 - Goal 4: Increase the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic species.
2. Provide specific information about how your project addresses these national goals. *(limit: 500 words)*
3. *Recovery Plans.* Describe how this project addresses priorities identified in recovery plans or initiatives. *(limit: 500 words)*

Appendix A: Budget Sheet Template

Please attach two budget sheets in .xls or .pdf format to your application. If using .xls, please send one file with two clearly marked sheets within the file. One table should outline the detailed project budget and the other should outline funding sources and status of that funding. See below for example formats to follow. Please include a short budget justification for the requested amount.

DETAILED PROJECT BUDGET

PROJECT NAME:

	Hours or Units of Amount Requested	Hours or Units of Cost Share	Hourly Rate or Unit Price	Amount Requested	Amt. of Cost Share	Total Project Cost
A. PERSONNEL SERVICES						
<i>TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICES</i>						
B. CONTRACTED SERVICES						
<i>TOTAL CONTRACTED SERVICES</i>						
C. OPERATING EXPENSES						
<i>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</i>						
D. OTHER EXPENSES (INCLUDES OVERHEAD OR INDIRECT IF APPLICABLE)						
<i>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES</i>						
TOTAL COST						

Sources of Funding
Project Name:

Source	Cash	In-kind	Status S, P, U (secured, pending, unknown)	Anticipated Award Date	Total
PMEP					
Other Federal Name(s) and amount(s) of each:					
State Name(s) and amount(s) of each:					
Other Sources Name(s) and amount(s) of each:					
Applicant					
Total					