



FY2021 Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership Request for Proposals

Issue Date: Monday, August 31, 2020

Deadline for proposals: Friday, October 30, 2020 5:00PM PST

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Funding Opportunity Description

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. Learn more about PMEP at www.pacificfishhabitat.org. PMEP is advancing estuarine habitat classification and mapping and is gathering and assessing information about estuarine and nearshore marine fish habitat use. It also prioritizes and funds fish habitat restoration projects through a partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the [National Fish Habitat Partnership](http://www.pacificfishhabitat.org/nfhp) (NFHP). To read about recent PMEP-funded projects, please visit <http://www.pacificfishhabitat.org/pmep-funded-projects/>.

Funding available and project budget

PMEP will award a total of \$100,000-\$250,000 in 2021 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. In an effort to fund a diverse portfolio of projects, strong project proposals that request less than \$50,000 are preferred. However, proposals of particular merit may be funded at a higher level at PMEPE's discretion. Final project grants will be administered by the USFWS.

All projects must show financial match and broad-based support for the work, though no specific match amounts are required. Matching funds may come from federal or non-federal sources.

A detailed project budget is required, specifying which components of the project will be paid for with PMEPE funds. Matching funds, and their status (in-hand, proposed, in-kind) should be indicated. See Appendix A for information required.

Project period and timing of funding

The project or portion of a project that PMEPE funds must be completed within two years and all PMEPE funding should be spent during that time. The proposal should include a detailed timeline for the use of PMEPE funds. See Appendix B.

Timeline for project funding

October 30, 2020	Proposals due
November, 2020	Proposal evaluation and project ranking by PMEPE committees
December 3, 2020	Final approval of ranked project list by PMEPE Steering Committee
January, 2021	Notification of project ranking (not award notification)
Summer, 2021	Announcement of award recipients*
Summer 2021	Funding available*

*Funding availability is dependent upon the federal appropriations process and USFWS agreements.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants include state, tribal, and federal management agencies, non-governmental organizations (e.g. conservation groups, community associations, watershed councils, cooperatives, civic groups), municipalities, universities, schools, private landowners, and local governments.

Eligible projects

Restoration and protection projects - PMEP funding may be used to pay for a small habitat restoration or protection project or parts of a larger project. Restoration and protection projects should clearly describe the need for the project relative to regional or local restoration and protection planning efforts. Proposals should clearly detail which part of the proposed project will utilize PMEP funds in the project budget, see Appendix A.

Assessment projects - PMEP will fund assessment projects that fill data gaps identified for estuary and nearshore marine fish habitats in its region. Proposals should clearly justify the assessment in relation to needs identified in PMEP or other planning documents. PMEP encourages projects that assess the effectiveness of restoration techniques. If PMEP funds will be used to pay for a part of a larger assessment project, proposals should clearly detail which part of the project will utilize PMEP funds in the project budget, see Appendix A. Any data collected should conform with data collection methods recommended or used in PMEP assessments.

Ineligible projects

PMEP will not fund projects that:

- Place large woody debris, without addressing long-term habitat quality improvements or other means of restoring connectivity and function.
- Conduct salmonid-only habitat use assessments. Habitat use assessments must be primarily designed to elucidate the use of estuary or nearshore habitat by non-salmonid PMEP focal species. Assessments that focus on multiple species are preferred.
- Modify rather than remove tide gates, unless the project will significantly improve both habitat connectivity and fish passage to areas above the tide gate.
- Are located above impassable barriers.
- Are primarily research studies (fish habitat assessment projects can be funded and are not considered research).
- Conduct long-term monitoring (this includes long term monitoring of fish populations).

Ineligible costs

- Pre-award costs associated with preliminary design, surveys and appraisals.
- Realty costs (e.g., lease or purchase interests in real property or to make rental or other land use incentive payments to landowners).

- Operation and maintenance of facilities or structures. This applies to buildings and structures only and not to maintenance or construction of earthen structures.
- Actions required by existing regulatory programs, except that funds may support activities under voluntary agreements that exceed regulatory requirements for conserving habitats (e.g., hydropower licensing in which the licensee enters into a voluntary agreement to restore habitat that exceeds regulatory requirements).
- Incentive payments.

Priority Species and Priority Areas

Projects considered for funding should address science-based habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement activities that benefit fish habitat in PMEP's geographic scope. Assessment projects that fill identified data gaps about fish use and habitat will also be considered. PMEP's strategic plan recognizes the importance of juvenile rearing areas within estuaries, as well as nearshore habitats, for fish. Please review PMEP's strategic plan at <https://www.pacificfishhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/PMEP-Strategic-Plan-2018-updated-013020.pdf> for more information about its focus and geographic scope.

PMEP has determined that smaller estuarine systems receive less attention and restoration funding due to the relatively smaller area of treatment. However, smaller systems provide unique values and benefits.

PMEP is seeking project proposals that restore nursery habitats for PMEP focal species within smaller estuarine systems (with an emphasis on habitat connectivity) or that increase our understanding of fish habitats in estuarine and nearshore habitats. Smaller estuarine systems are defined as having an Estuary Size Class of 0-250 acres in the PMEP Estuary Explorer data tool <http://estuaries.pacificfishhabitat.org/explore>.

PMEP has identified the following priority/focal species:

- 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*)

Project proposals that benefit these priority species and smaller estuarine areas will score higher during the proposal evaluation process. **However, worthy projects that benefit other species and areas will be considered.**

Project proposals should also benefit USFWS priority species. The list of USFWS priority species can be found [here](#). Note that PMEP spans USFWS Regions 1 and 8.

Projects must also support the goals of the National Fish Habitat Partnership:

- Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems
- Prevent further degradation of fish habitats
- Reverse declines in quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve overall health of fish and other aquatic species
- Increase quality and quantity of fish habitat that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic species

For a full description of NFHP goals and objectives, see [The National Fish Habitat Action Plan, 2nd edition](#).

Climate and ocean change

Restoration project proposals will be evaluated with climate and ocean change dynamics in mind. Projects should identify how they will perform under climate and ocean change scenarios and how they will contribute to ecological resilience over time. Assessment projects that improve our understanding of the threats to fish habitat posed by climate and ocean change are encouraged. Applicants should cite appropriate climate and ocean change models, assessments, or scientific studies they have used to develop their project.

Project monitoring

All project proposals must include a monitoring plan. At minimum, projects should describe the implementation monitoring plan designed to document that the project was constructed or completed as proposed. Additional effectiveness monitoring is advised, though the short timeframe available for spending PMEP

funds generally does not allow our funds to be used for long-term effectiveness monitoring. For a good description of the difference between implementation and effectiveness monitoring, please see <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/habitat-conservation/monitoring-and-evaluation-restoration-projects>.

Data collection

Any tidally restored areas should be mapped and spatial data should be provided to PMEP for inclusion in its Tidally Restored Areas data layer.

How to Apply

To apply for funding, complete and submit the online application at

<https://form.jotform.com/92315972569166>

NOTE: YOU MUST COMPLETE THE APPLICATION IN ONE SESSION. YOU CANNOT SAVE YOUR ANSWERS AND RETURN TO THE APPLICATION.

See below for an example of the Jotform application questions. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. **The deadline for project proposal submissions is 5:00 PM PST, Friday, October 30, 2020.**

Notification of awards will be made in Summer 2021, and funds are expected to be awarded in the Summer of 2021. Please note that this funding is linked to the federal budget.

If you have any questions, please contact the PMEP Coordinator at (<mailto:info@pacificfishhabitat.org>).

Evaluation Criteria

Project proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria.

- To what extent does the project relate to / align with PMEP priorities and the priorities of other local, state, and regional plans?
- To what extent does the project relate to / align with PMEP geographical priorities?
- Does the project result in benefits for the habitat of one or more of PMEP's 15 focal species and priority species of the USFWS?
- Does the project align with national conservation strategies?
- Does the project yield a broad ecological benefit? How does the project incorporate climate and ocean change?
- Will the project demonstrate results within a reasonable timeframe?
- Does the project have an adequate monitoring and evaluation process for determining success?
- 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?

Below are the scoring categories and point assignments.

Project Scoring	Restoration/ protection projects	Assessment projects	Weight
(10 points each)			
Priority area/data gap*	Regional plan priority - 10	PMEP identified data gap - 10	2
	Local plan priority - 5	Other identified data gap - 5	
	No identified priority - 0	No identified gap - 0	
Project Alignment	Small estuarine - 10	Small estuarine - 10	2
	Other estuary / nearshore - 5	Other estuary or nearshore - 5	
	Neither - 0	Neither - 0	
Overall Ecological Benefits	Process restoration and climate/ocean change resilience - 10	Fills a management need. Builds understanding of restoration technique effectiveness and impacts of climate/ocean change - 10	2
	Process restoration or climate/ocean change resilience - 5		
	Neither process restoration nor climate/ocean change resilience - 0	Fills a management need, builds understanding of restoration technique	

Project Scoring	Restoration/ protection projects	Assessment projects	Weight
		effectiveness or of impacts of climate/ocean change - 5 Does not fill a management need. Builds understanding of neither restoration technique effectiveness nor impacts of climate/ocean change - 0	
Focal Species Benefit *must address both PMEP and FWS species	Multi-species - 10 Single species - 5 Salmon only - 0	Multi-species - 10 Single species - 5 Salmon only - 0	2
National/Federal Strategies	Addresses more than 1 strategy - 10 Addresses 1 strategy - 5 Does not address strategy - 0	Addresses more than 1 strategy - 10 Addresses 1 strategy - 5 Does not address strategy - 0	1
Project Readiness	Complete within 1 year - 10 Complete within 2 years - 5 Not complete in 2 years - 0	Complete within 6 mos. - 10 Complete within 18 mos. - 5 Not complete in 2 years - 0	2
Evaluation	Implementation & effectiveness monitoring - 10 Implementation monitoring - 5 Inadequate monitoring - 0	Provision of spatial data to PMEP described and Interim milestones identified - 10 Provision of spatial data to PMEP described or Interim milestones identified - 5 Neither interim milestones or PMEP data conformance described - 0	1
Value	Cost share 3:1 - 10 Cost share 1:1 - 5 Cost share 0:1 - 0	Cost share 3:1 - 10 Cost share 1:1 - 5 Cost share 0:1 - 0	1
Project Management	Applicant and key partners have completed similar projects >5 projects - 10 1-5 projects - 5	Applicant and key partners have completed similar projects >5 projects - 10 1-5 projects - 5	1

Project Scoring	Restoration/ protection projects	Assessment projects	Weight
	0 projects - 0	0 projects - 0	
Outreach	Public contacts involving news media and affected landowners - 10 Information provided online, e.g., through social media - 5 Report on website - 0	Publication in peer-reviewed journal - 10 Self-published report disseminated through press and social media - 5 Report on website - 0	1

*Local plans could include specific watershed or estuary management plans or property management plans, etc. Regional plans could include larger watershed or species recovery plans, etc..

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 sheet 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.

DETAILED PROJECT BUDGET						
PROJECT NAME						
	# Units	Unit	Unit Price	PMEP funds Requested	Cost Share	Total Project Cost
A. PERSONNEL SERVICES (add rows for each item/person)						
B. FRINGE BENEFITS						
C. TRAVEL						
D. EQUIPMENT						
E. SUPPLIES						
F. CONTRACTUAL						
G. CONSTRUCTION						
H. OTHER						
I. TOTAL DIRECT CHARGES						
J. INDIRECT CHARGES						
TOTAL COST						

MATCHING FUNDING						
PROJECT NAME						
Funder	Funding type (federal, state, local, other, program income)	Cash	In-kind	Status S, P, U (secured, pending, unknown)	Anticipated Award Date	Total
Total						

Appendix B: Project Timeline Template *(Include significant milestones in completing the project and any accomplishments to date)*

DETAILED PROJECT TIMELINE					
PROJECT NAME					
Project Activity (eg. permitting, construction, data analysis, etc.)	Start date	Completion date	PMEP funds requested	Cost Share	Total Activity Cost
TOTAL COST					



PMEP Funding Opportunity - 2020

Please complete and submit this online application to be considered for funding from PMEPE and its partners for 2021.

See the RFP for instructions at: <http://www.pacificfishhabitat.org/funding-opportunities/>

Please direct questions to info@pacificfishhabitat.org.

Deadline for submitting proposals is 5 pm PST Friday, October 30, 2019.

PLEASE NOTE YOU MUST FILL OUT THIS APPLICATION IN ONE SESSION. YOU CANNOT SAVE YOUR WORK. PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR ANSWERS ON A SEPARATE DOCUMENT AND FILL THEM IN AT ONE SETTING.

Project Overview

Name of Project *

Requesting Organization *

Total Amount of Funding Requested from PMEPE *

\$0.00

Project Location Description *

For example: Grays Harbor Estuary, Washington

Latitude of project *

Please use decimal degrees. Example: 46.960

Longitude of project *

Please use decimal degrees. Example: -124.017

Datum of Lat/Long Coordinates *

Example: WGS 1984

Name of Individual Submitting Application *

First Name Last Name

Submitter's Email *

example@example.com

Submitter's Phone Number *

Area Code Phone Number

Name of Project Manager (if different from above)

First Name Last Name

Project Manager's Email

example@example.com

Project Manager's Phone Number

Area Code Phone Number

Organization's Address *

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City

State / Province

Postal / Zip Code

Description of requesting organization (100 words) *

Brief summary.0/100

Summary information

Project purpose: Conservation Actions & Project Outcomes (700 characters) *

Example: Project actions will restore floodplain habitat connectivity to 270 acres benefiting juvenile listed Oregon Coast ESU Coho Salmon, a FWS Trust Species and PMEP focal species while maintaining agricultural production. Implementing a Water Management Plan will maximize the effectiveness of new tidegates by flooding the property during winter months when salmon and other fish are rearing. The restored channel network and remaining 200+ acres of the project area is estimated to provide habitat sufficient to rear more than 40,000 juvenile coho. With an average return rate of 5%, the Seestrom project area is anticipated to produce an additional 2,000+ coho returning annually to the Coquille Basin. Effectiveness monitoring will be conducted in partnership with ODFW.

0/700

Measurable Goals & Objectives (700 characters) *

Example: The Seestrom Tidelands Restoration project will restore floodplain habitat connectivity to 270 acres of a working ranch. Project sponsor will replace two failing tidegates, remove one tidegate, reconstruct 19,000 ft of tidal channels, construct 36,000 ft of livestock exclusion fencing, and plant 7,000 native hardwoods and shrubs. Implementing a cooperative Water Management Plan will maximize the effectiveness of new tidegates, improving control for summer grazing. The project is a high priority tidegate removal identified through The Nature Conservancy Optipass tidegate prioritization model which considers climate change. The project addresses Goals 1 and 3 of PMEP's Strategic Plan and falls within a priority smaller estuarine system.

0/700

Statement of Need

Statement of Need (500 words) *

Explain why the project is necessary.0/500

Project Description

Methods/Approach (500 words) *

Describe the methods used to achieve the stated objectives.0/500

Ecological Benefit *

0/500

Geographic Scope *

0/250

Climate and ocean change considerations (500 words) *

0/500

Plan alignment (250 words)

0/250

PMEP Region *

Habitat type *

For Estuary projects: Size Class

Is your project associated with a mitigation project? If so, please describe. (250 words)

0/250

Alignment with PMEP Objectives

PMEP Objectives (select all that apply) *

- 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.

Describe how your project addresses PMEP priorities or other plan priorities. (500 words) *

0/500

PMEP Focal Species *

- Green sturgeon
- Leopard shark
- Bat ray
- Pacific herring
- Bay shrimp
- Dungeness crab
- California halibut
- English sole
- Starry flounder

Shiner perch
Steelhead
Coho salmon
Chinook salmon
Brown rockfish
Staghorn sculpin

List USFWS priority species benefited by your project. (250 words) *

0/250

Description of how species are benefited. (500 words) *

0/500

List any species adversely affected and explain how they are affected. (250 words) *

0/250

List the vulnerable fish habitat protected (if applicable) (250 words) *

Example: estuarine habitat, fish spawning habitat, etc.0/250

National Strategy Alignment

National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) Goals (select all that apply) *

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.

NFHP Goals. Provide a description of how your project addresses goals. (250 words) *

0/250

Project Readiness

Will the portion of your project that PMEP may fund be completed within two years? *

Yes

No

Are all permits in place for this project? *

Yes

No

If not, please describe the expected timeline needed for permit approval. (250 characters)

0/250

What percentage of the overall project funding is secured? What percentage is pending? *

Project Monitoring and Evaluation

Brief Monitoring Plan description (250 characters) *

0/250

Monitoring Plan (250 words) *

0/250

Budget

Total amount of Funding Requested from PMEP *

Total Project Cost *

Do you have matching funds for this project?

Yes

Total matching funds for proposed project. *

\$0.00

Will this project be fully funded if PMEP funds are received?

Yes

No

Budget narrative. (500 words) *

Describe and justify requested budget items and costs identified on the budget table. Provide sufficient information to show cost effectiveness.

0/500

Please list other funding partners (comma separated).

Example: The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Project Management

Technical Expertise of project sponsor. Identify the Project Lead of Principal investigator. Please list up to 5 previously completed projects. (500 words) *

0/500

Partners (comma separated) (500 words) *

0/500

Community Support (250 words) *

0/250

Outreach

Outreach - describe project outreach and results dissemination (250 words) *

0/250

Submit

Tags