

FISHERIES INNOVATION FUND GRANTS 2010-2016

This comprehensive list of projects funded by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation's Fisheries Innovation Fund is organized by region, with no regard to preference. Within each region, the projects are listed in reverse chronological order, starting with the most recent grant cycle in 2016.

Pacific Coast

Developing a Fish Hub for Monterey: Improving Profits for Fishermen and Providing Local Sustainable Seafood Access for Markets and Consumers (CA)

Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust

2016 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$60,110 | Matching Funds: \$27,000

Develop a business plan for a fish hub to manage the aggregation, processing, and distribution of locally harvested seafood in Monterey, California. Project will increase market value of seafood for local fishermen by ensuring restaurants and consumers have access to fresh, locally-caught seafood.

Revitalizing and Strengthening Resilience of Commercial Fisheries through a New Entrant Commercial Fisheries Apprenticeship Program (CA)

Regents of the University of California - San Diego, Scripps Inst. of Oceanography

2016 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$118,180 | Matching Funds: \$41,186

Develop a State Commercial Fisherman Apprenticeship Program. Project will develop a progressive curriculum of classwork and on-the-water training for students and recruit veteran fishermen as employers to provide opportunities for new entrants into California commercial fisheries.

Operationalizing Electronic Monitoring in the West Coast Groundfish Fishery

Buccaneer Fishing

2015 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$111,750 | Matching Funds: \$550,000

Operationalizing electronic monitoring for the Pacific groundfish fishery by defining costs and operational protocols of different catch handling requirements. Project will compare total costs, retention scenarios, validate logbook accuracy, and help develop third party data review standards.

Strengthening Resilience of Commercial Fisheries in Ilwaco, WA via the Development of a Community Fishing Association (WA)

Port of Ilwaco

2015 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$49,999 | Matching Funds: \$15,000

Assess the feasibility of establishing a Community Fishing Association in the Port of Ilwaco, Washington. Project will facilitate organizational capacity, help to maintain dockside infrastructure, implement resource stewardship measures, and ultimately help retain fishing access in the community.

Business Planning Work to Support Financial Viability

Port Orford Ocean Resource Team

2014 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$50,000 | Matching Funds: \$7,620

Port Orford Ocean Resource Team will secure services from finance professionals to prepare business finance documents, including developing financial goals/reports to be used to apply for credit for purchase of fishing permits and quota. The applicant will host four meetings with fishermen to gather local knowledge about identifying species of fish to purchase, estimates of utility rates of quota pounds and documenting fishing business expenses to help develop assumption of appropriate lease rates.

Incorporating closed areas into catch share management

Fathom Consulting

2014 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$85,000 | Matching Funds: \$498,000

Fathom Consulting will advance a collaborative project to re-design the trawl Rockfish Conservation Area in the West Coast groundfish that enables fishermen to optimize revenues and product supply. Specifically, this project has three distinct but interrelated goals: 1. Guide post-catch share efforts to reconfigure the Rockfish Conservation Areas in a way that balances the goals of rebuilding with those of accessing target stocks; 2. Inform how under sampled but productive high relief rocky habitats are contributing to the rebuilding of constraining species; and 3. Inform bycatch avoidance plans of Risk Pools, fishing associations, and individual fishermen.

Regional Community Fishing Association and Sustainability Planning (CA)

Bodega Bay Fishermen's Marketing

2014 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$125,000 | Matching Funds: \$15,000

The Bodega Bay Fishermen's Marketing Association will create two new Community Fishing Associations, one in Bodega Bay and Bolinas, and develop business, sustainability, and legal entity plans to drive regional economic, social and environmental sustainability. This project will result in a clear understanding of Bolinas and Bodega Bay as fishing communities, and will empower them to create opportunities and strategies that successfully interact with the Pacific groundfish catch share program.

Revitalization of Historic Half Moon Bay Fishing Port (CA)

Half Moon Bay Groundfish Marketing Association

2014 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$125,000 | Matching Funds: \$82,900

The Half Moon Bay Groundfish Association will work with fishermen, experts, and local stakeholders to secure individual fishing quotas in the community. The grant will support the development of plans to establish a cooperative fisherman-owned facility for buying, processing and offloading, as well as providing assistance in branding, marketing, and business planning. The goal of this project is to position the port of Half Moon Bay as a flagship for innovative, sustainable fishing, successful local fishery management, and a groundbreaking independent fisherman owned supply chain.

Securing and Expanding Collaborative Fishery Advancement (CA)

Central California Seafood Marketing Association

2014 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$135,000 | Matching Funds: \$210,000

The Central California Seafood and Marketing Association will create an efficient, viable, and more formalized organizational structure and to develop and implement a collective operations plan and marketing plan. Goal include: I) Build capacity by employing a formal management structure; II) Improve conservation performance with collective operations plan; and III) Bring more value to fishermen members by creating a collective marketing plan.

Branding and Marketing, Next Steps in Sustainable Fisheries (CA)

Fort Bragg Groundfish Association

2013 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$100,000 | Matching Funds: \$70,000

The Fort Bragg Groundfish Association will build a branding, promotional and traceability strategy to capitalize on compliance with sustainability measures in the Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) fishery. This project will focus on collaborative action among Fort Bragg fishermen, fishermen from nearby ports in the Central Coast Risk Pool, and non-government partners to launch an innovative strategy, which will create the value necessary for a smaller scale fishing port to succeed in an ITQ management program.

Reduction of Rockfish Bycatch Mortality in Recreational Fisheries (CA)

M/V Outer Limits Inc.

2013 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$73,245 | Matching Funds: \$72,841

The M/V Outer Limits Inc. will 1) evaluate different descending devices for releasing rockfishes suffering from barotrauma, and 2) monitor long-term survival and behavior of rockfishes released using these devices. The research conducted for this study will occur off the coast of San Diego, CA. Upon request, the data gathered will be provided for incorporation into management plans and stock assessments, and may have immediate impacts on improving groundfish management along the Pacific Coast.

Scaling 'Local Catch Monterey Bay' to Serve Neighboring Community Fishing Associations (CA)

Local Catch

2013 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$100,000 | Matching Funds: \$3,000

The Local Catch Monterey Bay (LCMB) will create a strategy for scaling LCMB to support emerging community fishing associations, fishing cooperatives, and risk pools on the west coast by distributing their seafood to neighboring local communities. This project will develop a marketing and distribution plan, and sustainability metrics to monitor environmental, social, and economic benchmarks. The LCMB currently serves Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties. This project will expand activities across the California central coast to serve neighboring harbors and city centers from San Francisco to Morro Bay.

Develop Video Monitoring for Full Retention Fisheries (WA, OR)

Marine Conservation Alliance Foundation

2012 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$100,000 | Matching Funds: \$30,000

This project will develop a video-based catch monitoring system and computer-aided video review software. By reducing the number of human observers and reviewers involved in the monitoring of full-retention fisheries, it will lower the cost of observer programs.

Development and Evaluation of Image Recognition Software (CA)

Fishermen's Marketing Association, Inc.

2012 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$96,178 | Matching Funds: \$50,000

This project will develop and evaluate image recognition software that can be used to screen video images collected onboard commercial fishing boats. It will track discard activities and identify the species of fish being discarded. The software will be field tested and the results made available to the National Marine Fisheries Service, law enforcement, fishery managers, and the fishing industry.

Fishing Community Sustainability Planning and Development (CA)

City of Morro Bay

2012 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$135,000 | Matching Funds: \$125,000

This project will develop a strategic plan for Morro Bay and Monterey fisheries aimed at building economic, social and environmental sustainability, and community fishing association capacity. Plans aim to strengthen the fishing industries and perpetuate environmentally sustainable practices by creating strategic and financial resources for port policy makers and fishing industry leaders.

Shore-based Whiting Overfished Species Risk Pool Cooperative (WA, OR, CA)

Shore-based Whiting Cooperative

2012 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$75,000 | Matching Funds: \$105,000

The project will provide a Pacific whiting cooperative with the technical support infrastructure to manage rockfish bycatch, using real time, historic observer and electronic data to assist with hotspot avoidance. This information will be shared among fishers to support sustainable harvesting efforts that reduce bycatch of overfished species by 30% while harvesting 100% of members' allowable catch of whiting.

Collective Tools for Bycatch Management

Ilwaco Fishermen and Marketing Cooperative

2010 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$100,000 | Matching Funds: \$210,000

Collective arrangements will be made in the Pacific coast trawl Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) fishery to manage accidental bycatch of depleted groundfish species. Adaptive procedures will be used to collectively respond to such events and carry out the fishery in the best manner possible, should such an event occur. This will minimize both individual and collective risk, and allow fishermen to engage in best practices to successfully prosecute the fishery.

Preparing for Catch Shares Management in Port Orford, Oregon (OR)

Port Orford Ocean Resource Team

2010 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$75,000 | Matching Funds: \$10,000

The project will prepare the Port Orford, Oregon fishing community for catch shares management by facilitating the design and creation of a Community Fishing Association to enable the community to access quota, providing for resilient opportunity and economic stability. Public meetings, individual interviews and workshops will be supplemented by expert advice from scientists, economists, and sociologists to inform the rules for the local CFA.

Reducing Halibut Bycatch through Gear Modifications

Buccaneer Fishing

2010 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$72,600 | Matching Funds: \$80,000

The applicant will conduct the first systematic evaluation of a halibut bycatch reduction device for the Pacific coast trawl fleet and make recommendations on its applicability. By the end of the project, fishermen will have developed data and experience to allow for the successful adaptation of a halibut excluder device known to effectively reduce halibut bycatch rates.

San Francisco Long-Term Fishing Community Stabilization (CA)

San Francisco Community Fishing Association

2010 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$30,000 | Matching Funds: \$295,000

The project supports the further development of a community fishing association and will acquire an experimental fishing permit to participate in the groundfish catch-share program as a demonstration. This project will: 1) Test the effectiveness of vertical hook and line gear modified to avoid species of concern; 2) Allow for exploration of these HFG to better identify hot-spots.

Western Pacific

Implementing a Multi-fishery Seafood Traceability Program in Hawaii (HI)

Conservation International Foundation

2016 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$80,129 | \$48,926

Conservation International Foundation will partner with Suisan Co., Ltd., one of Hawaii's oldest and largest fresh seafood wholesale and retail operations, to develop and implement strategies that expand market opportunities and improve seafood traceability within the supply chain. Project will evaluate the market and non-market benefits and opportunities associated with providing traceable, sustainable, locally harvested seafood products in Hawaii.

Building Capacity and Economic Viability of Hawaii Fishing Operations (HI)

Feed The Hunger Foundation

2015 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$110,000 | \$220,000

This project will build capacity to improve the economic viability of fishing operations through business planning, improved access to capital, and retention of a greater share of product price premiums. It will offer critical technical assistance and support to the Hawaiian commercial fishing sector.

Local Ia: Developing a Community Supported Fishery in Hawaii (HI)

Conservation International Foundation

2014 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$100,000 | Matching Funds: \$132,165

Conservation International will develop and launch the first Community Supported Fishery (CSF) in Hawaii by integrating best practices and lessons learned from past NFWF FIF grantee "Local Catch" in Monterey Bay. The applicant will also create a tool for the identification of sustainable seafood through the development of a sociocultural, economic, and environmental seafood sustainability index, increase number of fishers/suppliers engaged in a sustainable seafood supply business, increase profit margin for engaged fishermen, establish a local seafood business dedicated to sustainability and social impact, which is supporting local 'green' jobs; and improve transparency within the seafood supply chain.

North Pacific

Building the Alaska Young Fishermen's Network (AK)

Alaska Marine Conservation Council

2016 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$105,025 | Matching Funds: \$103,000

Develop the Alaska Young Fishermen's Network, a coalition of young Alaskan fishermen that are educated and empowered to operate successful, sustainable fishing businesses. Project will build the leadership capacity of next generation fishermen through the growth of a structured support network.

Expanded Marketing Opportunities for the Bristol Bay Salmon Fishery through Fair Trade Certification (AK)

Wildfish Marketing LLC

2016 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$114,440 | Matching Funds: \$57,555

Apply the Fair Trade model to Bristol Bay salmon to expand market opportunities and support local fishing communities. Project will create demand with a well-recognized label and provide structure to guide fishermen and processors through pricing premiums and preseason purchasing commitments.

Local Fish Fund: Removing Barriers to Entry for Young Fishermen in the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery (AK)

Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust

2016 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$150,000 | Matching Funds: \$351,250

Grow the Local Fish Fund to facilitate transfer of fishing rights from established to emerging fishermen. Project will redress financial barriers to entry in the Gulf of Alaska groundfish fishery, increasing the number of young fishermen with access rights tied to sustainable fishing practices.

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

Aleutians East Borough

2015 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$95,000 | Matching Funds: \$48,000

Enhance community sustainability by developing a community fishing association inclusive of fishing dependent communities throughout the Gulf of Alaska. Project will draft a community sustainability plan for use in the Gulf of Alaska Trawl Bycatch Management program.

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

North Pacific Fisheries Association Inc.

2015 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$68,000 | Matching Funds: \$60,000

Test and gather electronic monitoring data on small pot boats fishing for Pacific cod in the Gulf of Alaska. Project will field test two strategies to estimate discard weights and further refine a strategy to improve data capture and review efficiencies using electronic monitoring.

The ASFT Local Fish Fund Inter-Generational Transfer Project (AK)

Alaska Sustainable Trust

2014 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$135,000 | Matching Funds: \$69,167

The Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust will develop and deploy viable processes for inter-generational transfer of fishery rights and best practices. The project will assist ASFT to preserve and enhance resiliency of the region. The proposed project utilizes existing legal and financial mechanisms in a novel way to achieve reach the goal of increased retention of economic benefits from fisheries in Gulf of Alaska communities.

Transitioning EM from pilot to integrated component of NPRP (AK)

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association

2014 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$135,000 | Matching Funds: \$38,000

The Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association will construct a structured, transparent process involving stakeholder collaboration to transition Electronic Monitoring in Alaska from the pilot program stage to an integrated fisheries monitoring tool across the fleet. The project intent is to incorporate key elements for success identified in the Fisheries Monitoring Roadmap and the recent National Electronic Monitoring Workshop (funded by NFWF) and create a model exportable to fisheries around the nation to improve fisheries management and conservation through this cost effective at-sea catch accounting.

Every Halibut Counts: Reducing Halibut Discard Mortality (AK)

Alaska Marine Conservation Council

2013 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$55,000 | Matching Funds: \$56,232

The Alaska Marine Conservation Council will conduct a collaborative, industry-driven conservation initiative to reduce mortality of discarded halibut in the Alaska sport fishing sector by facilitating broad use of best practices for careful release. The project focus will be on top ports for recreational halibut harvest and discards in both southeast and south-central Alaska stretching from Craig to Kodiak.

GPS Data Loggers as a Low-Cost Alternative to Vessel Monitoring Systems (AK)

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association

2013 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$110,000 | Matching Funds: \$181,500

The Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association will implement a two-stage field trial to fully evaluate and document the use of GPS data loggers as a low-cost alternative to Vessel Monitoring Systems in Alaska's catch share halibut and sablefish fisheries. The project will be based in Sitka, Alaska with field testing conducted throughout Southeast Alaska.

Testing Electronic Monitoring on Small Fixed-Gear Cod Boats (AK)

North Pacific Fisheries Association Inc.

2013 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$127,400 | Matching Funds: \$120,000

The North Pacific Fisheries Association Inc. will field test an improved electronic monitoring system on small fixed-gear boats (pot and hook-and-line) fishing for Pacific cod in the Gulf of Alaska. A comparison of costs of electronic monitoring to costs of observers in this fishery will be made. The project will be based in Homer, Alaska. Field tests will occur in the Gulf of Alaska, Western and Central Regulatory Areas.

Electronic Monitoring for Small Boats in Alaska—Next Steps (AK)

North Pacific Fisheries Association Inc.

2012 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$65,568 | Matching Funds: \$50,000

This project will field-test new electronic monitoring hardware and software in the small boat halibut fishery in Alaska. Software will include event-flagging and species identification to facilitate data review.

Securing Community Opportunity in Kodiak's Jig Fishery (AK)

Alaska Marine Conservation Council

2012 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$90,000 | Matching Funds: \$126,460

Through governance support, quality enhancement and market innovations, this project will assist the fishing community of Kodiak in securing entry-level opportunity in the jig fishery. Strategic and innovative marketing plans that both raise the ex-vessel price of jig seafood products and create fishermen-direct niche markets will be created and implemented.

Alaska Catch Share Plan for the Guided Sport Sector (AK)

Southeast Alaska Guides Organization

2010 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$205,000 | Matching Funds: \$70,500

In cooperation with the Alaska Charter Association, this project will support design of a pooled catch-share program, which entails building the sector's capacity to acquire and manage commercial halibut quota to increase allocation for recreational anglers. The plan will outline a way to provide the guided recreational fishery with a mechanism to supplement a base allocation of halibut quota by purchasing commercial halibut quota, which would be held in a guided recreational common pool.

Electronic Monitoring for Alaskan Catch Share Fisheries (AK)

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association

2010 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$220,000 | Matching Funds: \$161,000

This project will field-test electronic monitoring on small, community-based boats now participating in Alaska's halibut/sablefish catch-share fisheries. Findings will inform the development of restructured North Pacific observer program and other catch share fisheries.

Gulf of Mexico

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

FishAmerica Foundation

2015 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$60,000 | Matching Funds: \$75,000

Advance the implementation of FishSmart Best Practices designed to reduce mortality of fish released during recreational fishing. Project will distribute descending devices on recreational for-hire vessels and select recreational anglers to assess the adoption of Best Practices and potential reduction of post-release mortality.

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

Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi

2015 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$60,000 | Matching Funds: \$75,000

Evaluate barotrauma impairment and analyze methods for reducing discard mortality of Red Snapper. Project will link barotrauma-related impairment indices to release conditions, evaluate the utility of two rapid recompression devices, and determine best practices for implementing descender devices.

Gulf Wild Traceability and Data Collection in the Gulf

Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance

2013 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$150,000 | Matching Funds: \$165,000

The Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance will implement the Gulf Wild scalable traceability program to add value/market share to the commercial reef fish industry in the Gulf of Mexico. The project will identify tools for fishery and seafood data capture in the seafood supply chain, and will take place throughout the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Gulf of Mexico bordered by Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

Regional Capacity Building of Electronic Monitoring in the Gulf

Mote Marine Laboratory

2013 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$150,000 | Matching Funds: \$91,435

The Mote Marine Laboratory will establish an electronic monitoring (EM) center to advance the transition of EM to a regional capacity, and improve collection of accurate catch and release data from the commercial Gulf of Mexico reef fish fishery. The center would be located at Mote Marine Lab in Florida, and address the importance of monitoring, standardization of methods, and increasing accuracy and consistency in collection and reporting of data for management. Data capture will occur throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

Creating a Bycatch/Species Sharing Model for Louisiana Fishers (LA)

Southern Mutual Help Association, Inc.

2012 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$75,000 | Matching Funds: \$30,000

The project will conduct research, create peer-learning and technical assistance opportunities, and design model bycatch and species-sharing policy and processes among Louisiana's traditional family fishers.

Fishery Science & Management Education for Gulf Fishermen

Gulf of Maine Research Institute

2012 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$125,000 | Matching Funds: \$50,000

The project will develop and implement a Fishery Science & Management Education Program for commercial and recreational fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico. Modeled after the highly successful New England Marine Resource Education Program, it will involve the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, Gulf Fishermen's Association, and individual Gulf of Mexico fishermen who graduated from the New England MREP to improve the capacity of Gulf fishermen to engage in sustainable management.

Comprehensive Reef Fish and Headboat IFQ within the Gulf

Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance

2010 Recovered Oil Fund for Wildlife Funds: \$200,002 | Matching Funds: \$95,200

Nineteen species of Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish will be protected through the implementation of Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) systems for the remaining commercially caught reef fish and the establishment of a pilot IFQ for headboat operators (commercial operators who take paying customers on recreational fishing trips).

Electronic Fishery Monitoring for Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish

The Ocean Conservancy

2010 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$200,000 | Matching Funds: \$126,000

The project will evaluate electronic monitoring—closed circuit TVs, gear sensors, and a data storage system— as a viable data collection and fisheries accounting tool for management of the Gulf reef fishery.

North Atlantic

Bolstering Economic Development through an Ocean Farm Start-Up Training Program in New England

GreenWave

2016 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$100,000 | Matching Funds: \$415,000

Create the Ocean Farm Start-Up Training Program to support up to five new kelp and shellfish ocean farms in New England. Project will develop a training program to educate farmers on proper ocean farming techniques in addition to permitting and leasing requirements.

Developing an Integrated Marketing Plan to Differentiate New England Groundfish Products (MA)

BackTracker Inc.

2016 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$199,995 | Matching Funds: \$145,466

Integrate a marketing, traceability, and fishery improvement program to increase market access and promote local, underexploited resources of New England groundfish. Project will provide a verified supply of local underutilized species, increasing domestic product market access.

Diversifying Working Waterfronts: Strengthening the Economic Resilience of Fishing Communities in Maine (ME)

Island Institute

2016 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$54,742 | Matching Funds: \$54,742

Implement a community sustainability plan for the state of Maine. Project will improve the economic sustainability of coastal communities via technical assistance, access to resources, and by providing a platform to share innovative solutions among communities in Maine and nationwide.

Next Generation Commercial Fishing Crew Apprenticeship Program (RI)

Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island

2016 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$105,500 | Matching Funds: \$68,000

Establish the Next Generation Commercial Fishing Crew Apprenticeship Program to support new entrants to the New England groundfish fishery. Project will provide hands-on and classroom-based trainings by experienced commercial fishermen, shoreside businesses, and university fishery experts.

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

Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation

2015 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$59,683 | Matching Funds: \$15,740

Facilitate the market development of scup (*Stenotomus chrysops*), a locally underutilized species in New England. Project will compile baseline marketing information to determine new domestic and foreign market opportunities and evaluate the best consumer marketing approaches.

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

Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Suffolk County

2015 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$130,681 | Matching Funds: \$57,717

Create an additional avoidance network to focus on the reduction of windowpane and yellowtail flounder bycatch. Project will establish a communication network allowing fishermen to avoid bycatch “hot spots” in scup, whiting, squid, and groundfish fisheries in New England.

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

Maine Coast Fishermen's Association

2015 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$175,009 | Matching Funds: \$60,000

Create a traceability system that enables point-of-sale product differentiation for Maine seafood. Project will improve the quality, quantity, and timeliness of fisheries-dependent data used for science, management, and fishermen’s business purposes.

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

GB Cod Fixed Gear Sector, Inc.

2015 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$166,217 | Matching Funds: \$133,555

Develop and implement an innovative electronic monitoring program for the GB Cod Fixed Gear Sector as part of a larger implementation effort in multiple New England groundfish sectors. Project will document the first year of a fully functional electronic monitoring program for up to 7 vessels.

Improving Gulf of Maine Groundfish Fishing Opportunities Through Fishing Gear Modifications

University of New Hampshire

2015 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$126,338 | Matching Funds: \$19,000

Reduce Atlantic cod bycatch by constructing, distributing, and evaluating raised gillnets throughout the Gulf of Maine. Project will work with Groundfish Sectors and Sector Managers to distribute and test the gear among 20 regional fishermen in four Gulf of Maine communities.

Best Practices in Permit Bank Management (MA)

Community Development Partnership

2014 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$75,000 | Matching Funds: \$73,859

The Community Development Partnership will expand its work developing best practices in permit bank management and providing technical assistance to fishermen, to be shared with a national fisheries network via the Fish Hub. Project objectives include but are not limited to strengthening fishing businesses, deepening current work with the Cape Cod Fisheries Trust, recruiting additional fishermen to utilize the Fish Hub to strengthen their businesses, providing innovative financing options, enhancing the aggregate data capability of the Fish Hub and developing resource tools for business advisers to utilize the Fish Hub.

Building community capacity for Ecosystem Based Fishery Management: a pilot approach (ME)

Penobscot East Resource Center, Inc.

2014 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$100,000 | Matching Funds: \$80,000

Penobscot East Resource Center and the Northeast Fisheries Science Center will engage in a partnership to develop a pilot ecosystem based fishery management plan for an eco-region undergoing unprecedented ecosystem recovery. Addressing a regional fishery management priority, the grantee will build fishing community capacity to improve sustainability and resilience, and engage participants in discussions of ecology, oceanography and human communities.

Sustainability Planning for Maine Fishing Communities (ME)

Island Institute

2014 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$62,500 | Matching Funds: \$31,291

The Island Institute will create a regional Community Sustainability Plan guide for Maine - a tool kit of proven practical options and resources for fishing communities to improve their resiliency when faced with changing environmental conditions and regulatory environment. The Island Institute will build on their work with over 500 residents from island communities and the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association to identify the most promising ideas on which to conduct a more in-depth feasibility study. The resulting process and plan will build the capacity of communities to address the risks posed by shifts in the resource.

Best practices in Fisheries Trust Management (MA)

Community Development Partnership

2012 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$124,978 | Matching Funds: \$200,000

The project will develop a scalable model to transfer best practices and lessons learned in fishery trust management to national audiences, and to communities seeking to sustain local fishing businesses and economic growth.

Designing Fisheries Licensing for Community Resilience (ME)

Penobscot East Resource Center, Inc.

2012 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$31,977 | Matching Funds: \$48,072

In cooperation with Maine Sea Grant, this project will develop a viable licensing model for inter-generational and entry level access to diversified community fishing, and support sustainable small-scale fisheries.

Electronic Logbooks in a New England Groundfish Sector (ME)

Sustainable Harvest Sector

2012 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$20,000 | Matching Funds: \$5,000

The project will design and install software on vessels to report catch information electronically to the National Marine Fisheries Service and sector managers. Data will be integrated with shoreside catch monitoring systems and transferrable to other fisheries.

MCFA Gulf of Maine Cod Risk Pool (ME)

Maine Coast Fishermen's Association

2012 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$110,000 | Matching Funds: \$75,000

Fishermen will face a significant cut to their Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod allocation for 2012. This project will develop a GOM Cod Risk Pool that will help fishermen stay within bycatch limits while accessing healthy stocks.

New England Fishing Quota Investment Fund(s) (ME, RI, MA)

CLF Ventures, Inc.

2012 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$80,000 | Matching Funds: \$77,500

This project will investigate innovative financing approaches focused on a Triple-Bottom-Line (economic, ecological, and social) performance standard for fisheries. It will address the needs of investors and facilitate accelerated acquisition of permits and quota by community fishermen across the New England region.

Realizing Eco-Efficiency in the Seafood Industry (ME, NH, MA)

Gulf of Maine Research Institute

2012 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$50,000 | Matching Funds: \$29,732

In cooperation with New England Trawlers, Inc. and North Atlantic Seafood, Inc., the project will improve the efficiency associated with bringing groundfish to market in the Northeast region through innovation in the seafood supply chain. The project will build the capacity of fishing enterprises and communities, and improved their sustainability ecologically and economically.

Simplifying New England Groundfish Sector reporting (MA)

Northeast Sector Service Network Inc.

2012 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$110,000 | Matching Funds: \$20,000

This project will test and refine the Fishtrax Onboard module, a multifaceted reporting tool designed to simplify and satisfy the data requirements of New England Groundfish Sectors. This will be made possible by providing electronic transmission of the vessel trip report.

A Sustainable Fishing Community Model: CCFT & Loan Fund (MA)

Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association

2010 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$185,000 | Matching Funds: \$237,083

This project will launch a Cape Cod Fisheries Loan Fund to empower fishermen to invest in their own quota and develop a fisheries management data hub, a comprehensive source of models, tools, and data. Support will allow for two ground-breaking solutions to mitigating catch shares' detrimental impact on communities: the launch of a Cape Cod Fisheries Loan Fund to empower fishermen to invest in their own quota; and the development of a fisheries management data hub, a comprehensive source of models, tools, and data to serve stakeholders.

Catch Share New Entry System: Permit Bank and Sector Synergy (ME, NH, MA, RI, CT)

Penobscot East Resource Center

2010 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$185,000 | Matching Funds: \$110,000

Partners will develop a process to allow new entrants into the Northeast groundfish fishery through a permit network, business planning, and conservation or geographic permit covenants. The project will develop and pilot a permit bank model that makes entry to the fishery by community-scale fishermen financially viable and consistent with community and conservation values.

Designing a River Herring Catch-share for the East Coast

University of New Hampshire

2010 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$142,700 | Matching Funds: \$1,500

The project will gather existing scientific information to design a river herring catch-share, the first anadromous fish catch-share in the U.S. To do this, it will complete a coast wide river herring stock assessment to determine stock status and biological reference points. While doing so, the project will engage in public outreach to connect with stakeholders and report on the findings of their project.

Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association Pilot Sector (RI)

Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association

2010 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$86,200

The project will design an operational catch-share for charter and party boat captains that will debut as a pilot in 2012. The pilot program will test a variety of monitoring applications in an attempt to develop cost-effective, user-friendly methods acceptable to industry participants and fishery managers.

Tracking Catch in a New England Groundfish Sector

Sustainable Harvest Sector

2010 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$30,000 | Matching Funds: \$30,000

This project will develop and implement a harvest and quota trading system in the New England groundfish fishery for fishing year 2011. The program will be web-based, allowing quota holders and captains to view catch and trade data on a near real-time basis.

Mid-Atlantic

A New Take on Working Waterfront in Coastal North Carolina (NC)

Walking Fish Cooperative, Inc.

2013 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$83,320 | Matching Funds: \$300,000

The Walking Fish Cooperative, Inc., in partnership with the Carteret County Harbor Authority, will develop and implement a sustainability plan that demonstrates a new approach to working waterfront development and preservation. The plan will include innovative mixed-use development and non-traditional revenue streams to maintain a working waterfront for a small-scale fishing community in Town Creek Harbor, Beaufort, North Carolina.

Creating Community Supported Fisheries, Montauk, Long Island (NY)

Concerned Citizens of Montauk

2013 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$55,000 | Matching Funds: \$55,000

The Concerned Citizens of Montauk (CCOM) will establish a Community Supported Fishery (CSF) in Montauk, New York, the state's largest commercial fishing port. CCOM will use its' Creating CSFs application, a community capacity-building program, to strengthen the long-term viability of the Montauk fishing community by: generating and fulfilling consumer demand for sustainable, traceable fisheries products, and incentivizing participating producers through elevated profits. CCOM will then develop a best-practices guide to creating CSFs.

Development of e-Harvest Reporting for a Commercial Fishery (MD)

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

2013 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$103,963 | Matching Funds: \$100,000

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will develop an innovative electronic reporting system that links daily harvest reports with a hail system to improve data quality, accountability and enforceability of Maryland's commercial striped bass fishery. Outcomes will include accurate and near real-time harvest data necessary for effective management, more efficient operations for Maryland DNR Fisheries Service, and improved economic efficiency and business models for harvesters.

Bycatch Avoidance Network for River Herring/Butterfish (NY)

Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Suffolk County

2012 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$100,000 | Matching Funds: \$50,000

The project will initiate a fleet communication system to report and share real-time observations of river herring/shad and butterfish bycatch hotspots to reduce fleet-wide bycatch. Project will reduce fleet-wide bycatch to protect sensitive butterfish and river herring populations.

Maryland Commercial Watermen-led Catch-shares Design Effort (MD)

Maryland Watermen's Association

2010 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$100,000 | Matching Funds: \$115,000

This project will extend and enhance the current effort by Maryland's commercial fishing industry and its partners to design a catch-share program for Maryland's blue crab fishery. This project seeks to extend and enhance the efforts currently underway between the commercial fishing industry, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF).

Southeast

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

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

2015 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$118,110 | Matching Funds: \$7,255

Identify and test prototype bycatch reduction devices capable of achieving significant bycatch reduction compared to present-day shrimp trawl bycatch levels. Project will form an industry work group to prioritize new bycatch reduction devices to be tested onboard commercial shrimp trawl vessels.

Great Lakes

Stakeholder-centered Management of Lake Erie Yellow Perch (MI)

Michigan State University

2012 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$73,432 | Matching Funds: \$24,584

A stakeholder-centered working group will use Management Strategy Evaluation techniques to develop harvest policies for Lake Erie yellow perch fisheries. Stakeholders will work with managers and scientists in using models to determine the policies that work best for both the fishing community and the resource.

Caribbean

US Virgin Islands Digital Deck Pilot Project

Ecotrust

2013 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$168,587.24 | Matching Funds: \$150,000

Ecotrust will develop, test, and implement a prototype electronic trip ticket mobile application to support collaborative fishing efforts, better track and manage fisheries data, and provide information that can aid harvest management decisions. As a result, timelier and higher quality data will enable fisheries managers to more effectively monitor regulations, such as Annual Catch Limits, to better support sustainable fisheries in the Caribbean.

Nationwide

Enhance the Capacity of Fishing Businesses and Communities through Expanded Market Opportunities for Fresh Frozen Seafood (AK, CA, OR)

Ecotrust

2016 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$100,000 | Matching Funds: \$91,942

Address market barriers to fresh frozen fish using an innovative tool that measures seafood freshness. Project will partner with fishing communities from Alaska to California to increase consumer understanding in supply chain transparency, underutilized species, and seafood freshness and quality.

Development of Open-Source Software for Electronic Monitoring Data Review

Saltwater Inc.

2015 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$88,000 | Matching Funds: \$38,000

Develop a foundation of open-source software for review of electronic monitoring data. Project will use an iterative design process to expand on the capabilities of existing review software in order to create freely available software that can be easily adapted to different fisheries.

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

Third Sector New England

2015 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$44,000 | Matching Funds: \$8,000

Improve LocalCatch.org so that it can be managed more efficiently and continue to serve fishermen as the number of direct marketing arrangements increases. Project will help fishermen gain access to the information and technical resources necessary to engage in community supported fisheries and similar direct marketing arrangements, increasing the economic viability and efficiency of fishing businesses.

Developing NFWF Lending and Equity Financing Capability

Coastal Enterprises Inc.

2013 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$119,500

Coastal Enterprises Inc. (CEI) will explore approaches for developing a financing arm within the Fisheries Innovation Fund. CEI will develop procedures to: raise capital, identify and establish deals, create staff capacity to underwrite and service loans and investments, provide for monitoring to ensure collections, develop best accounting practices, and deal with delinquent loan accounts. The findings will apply to financing practices in areas of the US where NFWF would offer a combination of grants and lending capital to support projects.

iAngler - Angler Action Innovations for the Southern Atlantic and Gulf Regions

Snook Foundation, Inc.

2013 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$80,000 | Matching Funds: \$120,000

The Snook Foundation, Inc. will implement a combination of technical and communications/messaging innovations to augment the number of recreational anglers skilled in recording fishing trip data in a standardized mobile application system, which will then be used to inform stock assessments. Outreach will target anglers throughout the Florida coast, for data collection on species found in the Southern Atlantic and Gulf states in inshore, coastal and offshore waters.

National Electronic Monitoring Workshop for US Fisheries

Lowman and Associates

2013 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$88,984 | Matching Funds: \$77,000

Lowman and Associates will convene a national workshop focused on electronic monitoring (EM) pilot studies in US fisheries and EM tools and implementation strategies across regions, including emerging national guidance. The workshop and related website will facilitate information exchange across regions and help address outstanding challenges in implementing cost-effective monitoring systems. This national workshop will take place in Seattle, Washington. Participants and speakers will be invited from all fishery management regions of the U.S.

Community Fisheries Network Capacity Building and Expansion

Island Institute

2012 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$84,000 | Matching Funds: \$110,000

This project will expand the Community Fisheries Network by building organizational and business capacity in additional ports and regions, disseminating innovations that will improve the long-term sustainability of fishing communities and fisheries businesses.

Community-based Fisheries Trust Network

Ecotrust

2010 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$200,000 | Matching Funds: \$304,877

The project supports the emergence of effective community fishing organizations and business plan development for members of this network on both the West and East coasts. The Network partners seek to develop standards for what community-based fisheries entities value, represent, and how they contribute to marine ecosystem, economic, and community stewardship.

eCatch: Web-based Monitoring for Cooperative Fishing

The Nature Conservancy

2010 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$150,000

This project will enhance a tool (eCatch) that maps and monitors various aspects of collective fisheries data, to facilitate its use by other collective fishing arrangements. The benefits of modern technology will have economic, community, and conservation benefits.

Electronic Monitoring to Facilitate Affordable Catch-Shares

Fishermen's Marketing Association

2010 Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: \$200,000 | Matching Funds: \$275,000

The project will test whether video can accurately determine species identification for fish that will not be retained (bycatch). This project will demonstrate that the cost of equipment purchase and data analysis for electronic monitoring is a cost effective alternative to human observers in the Pacific Groundfish Trawl Fishery.