



FISHING FOR ENERGY 2018 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Full Proposal Due Date: **Thursday, April 19, 2018 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time**

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), on behalf of Fishing for Energy partners Covanta Energy Corporation (Covanta) and the NOAA Marine Debris Program (NOAA), is pleased to announce the availability of up to \$2 million in grant funding to support strategies to reduce the impacts of derelict fishing gear to marine and coastal environments. This solicitation also makes available funding provided through Community Service funds (arising from a federal environmental prosecution for benefits to marine wildlife and habitats).

Fishing for Energy launched in 2008 through a partnership among Covanta, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Program, Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Its goals are to provide a cost-free solution to fishermen to dispose of old, derelict or unusable fishing gear and to reduce the amount of derelict fishing gear in and around our coastal waterways.

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

Grants will target areas in U.S. coastal waters that have identified and prioritized derelict fishing gear reduction in state or regional plans, such as state marine debris action plans. Priority locations include the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and other important habitat for sea turtles and marine mammals in coastal waters along the Southern District of Florida, the Gulf of Maine in areas that are identified as priority for northern right whales, Puget Sound in priority habitat for killer whales as referenced in management plans, in Hawaii within the borders of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, and areas along Alaska that are important to marine mammals and have disposal access points through Dutch Harbor or Kodiak Harbor.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Project award decisions will prioritize removal efforts to reduce impact to threatened and endangered marine wildlife and the habitats they depend on. All proposals must specifically address the following components in their proposals:

- 1) **Site selection for removal effort:** describe efforts that have been made or will be made as part of this proposal to identify gear accumulation prior to removal and why this area is prioritized for removal (i.e., conservation benefit to sea turtles, marine mammals and coral reefs are of particular interest). Please also reference any state or regional plans that identify

this site as a priority or any link to known impacts at this location or from the target gear to wildlife and habitats of that area.

- 2) **Removal Methods:** Please clearly explain methods for removal, best practices that will be used to minimize impact to existing habitat, and compatibility with the NOAA Marine Debris Program Programmatic Environmental Assessment (see NOAA link [HERE](#)), status of any necessary permits and the composition and experience of the removal team. Please note any specific engagement of fishermen or veterans in removal efforts.
- 3) **Disposal:** Proposals must include anticipated disposal costs and logistics. Projects may be eligible to use the Fishing for Energy Gear Collection program, but applications must be submitted for approval prior to the full proposal submission so that staff can evaluate whether your project area is a good candidate for this service.
- 4) **Management Connection:** NFWF is seeking projects that will tie the direct conservation activity of derelict gear removal to broader impact around marine debris in the state or region. Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate work with local and national management agencies to address key questions around source, point of loss, rate of loss/accumulation, rate of decay, calculated impact to wildlife, bycatch rates, etc. that can be used to help adjust regulations, gear configuration and other management practices to minimize the occurrence and impact of lost gear. A letter of support is **REQUIRED** from the management agency (e.g., local, federal, park, etc.) that you are working with that specifically describes how the project will assist in meeting management needs, including information needs that will be met through the project.
- 5) **Awareness:** Priority projects will include activities to raise awareness around the effort and the findings of the project and where appropriate, engage the local public and fishing communities.

PROJECT METRICS

To better gauge progress on individual grants and to ensure greater consistency of project data provided by multiple grants, a list of metrics for the *Fishing for Energy Program* is available in Easygrants. Applicants will choose from this list for future reporting. We ask that applicants select only the most relevant metrics from this list for their project (all possible program metrics are shown in the table below). If an applicable metric has not been provided, please contact *Michelle Pico* (pico@nfwf.org) to discuss acceptable alternatives.

Project Activity	Recommended Metric	Additional Guidance
<i>Derelict Gear Removal</i>	<i># pounds of debris removed</i>	<i>Proposal and metric should focus on fishing gear and not other debris</i>
	<i>Land, wetland restoration - Acres restored</i>	<i>Number of acres cleared of derelict gear</i>

<i>Management Application</i>	<i>Management or Governance Planning - # plan activities implemented</i>	<i>Preferred metric for this action. Please reference the specific action and plan in the notes field.</i>
	<i>Research - # of research studies completed</i>	<i>Use this metric for the questions that will be answered which are supported by management but are not referenced in a specific plan</i>
<i>Outreach and Education</i>	<i>Volunteer participation - # volunteers participating</i>	<i>Please reference in the notes section if volunteers are anticipated to be fishermen</i>
	<i>Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people reached</i>	<i>Clearly describe the different target audiences that make up your target value and how you will determine whether they have been reached by your message</i>

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible and Ineligible Entities

- Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Indian tribes, educational institutions, commercial (for profit) organizations, or unincorporated individuals.
- Ineligible applicants include federal agencies or employees of federal agencies, foreign organizations and foreign public entities. Interested federal agencies may collaborate with eligible applicants but may not receive funds through this competition. All projects must take place within the United States or territories or their respective waterways.

Ineligible Uses of Grant Funds

- NFWF funds and matching contributions may not be used to support political advocacy, fundraising, lobbying, litigation, terrorist activities or Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations.
- NFWF funds may not be used to support ongoing efforts to comply with legal requirements, including permit conditions, mitigation and settlement agreements. However, grant funds may be used to support projects that enhance or improve upon existing baseline compliance efforts.

FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND MATCH

The majority of awards under this program will fall in the range of \$100,000 to \$500,000. The total amount of all awards made under this RFP is not expected to exceed \$2,000,000. Non-federal matching funds are not required, but are strongly encouraged and likely to impact competitiveness of the proposal.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

All proposals will be screened for relevance, accuracy, completeness and compliance with NFWF and funding source policies. Proposals will then be evaluated based on the extent to which they meet the following criteria.

Program Goals and Priorities – Project contributes to the Program’s overall habitat and species conservation goals, and has specific, quantifiable performance metrics to evaluate project success.

Technical Merit – Project is technically sound and feasible, and the proposal sets forth a clear, logical and achievable work plan and timeline. Project engages appropriate management and technical experts throughout project planning, design and implementation to ensure activities are technically-sound and feasible.

Transferability – Project has potential and plan to transfer lessons learned and knowledge to be integrated into government programs and policies.

Communication – Project includes a detailed plan to communicate information about the project to appropriate audiences.

Monitoring – Project includes a plan for monitoring progress during and after the proposed project period to track project success and adaptively address new challenges and opportunities as they arise.

Project Team – Applicant team has the appropriate expertise for the scope of work proposed and a proven track record. Project outlines partnerships to implement the project, including local partnerships that leverages additional funds or will sustain it after the life of the grant. (Note: a project partner is any local community, non-profit organization, tribe, and/or local, state, and federal government agency that contributes to the project in a substantial way and is closely involved in the completion of the project.)

OTHER

Budget – Costs are allowable, reasonable and budgeted in accordance with NFWF’s [Budget Instructions](#) cost categories. Federally-funded projects must be in compliance with [OMB Uniform Guidance](#) as applicable.

Matching Contributions – Matching Contributions consist of cash, contributed goods and services, volunteer hours, and/or property raised and spent for the Project during the Period of Performance. Larger match ratios and matching fund contributions from a diversity of partners are encouraged and will be more competitive during application review.

Procurement – If the applicant chooses to specifically identify proposed Contractor(s) for Services, an award by NFWF to the applicant does not constitute NFWF’s express written authorization for the applicant to procure such specific services noncompetitively. When procuring goods and

services, NFWF recipients must follow documented procurement procedures which reflect applicable laws and regulations.

Publicity and Acknowledgement of Support – Award recipients will be required to grant NFWF the right and authority to publicize the project and NFWF’s financial support for the grant in press releases, publications and other public communications. Recipients may also be asked by NFWF to provide high-resolution (minimum 300 dpi) photographs depicting the project.

Receiving Award Funds – Award payments are primarily reimbursable. Projects may request funds for reimbursement at any time after completing a signed agreement with NFWF. A request of an advance of funds must be due to an imminent need of expenditure and must detail how the funds will be used and provide justification and a timeline for expected disbursement of these funds.

Compliance Requirements – Projects selected may be subject to requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act (state and federal), and National Historic Preservation Act. Documentation of compliance with these regulations must be approved prior to initiating activities that disturb or alter habitat or other features of the project site(s). Applicants should budget time and resources to obtain the needed approvals and should report prior experience in securing permits/clearance for similar activities where appropriate. As may be applicable, successful applicants may be required to comply with additional Federal, state or local requirements and obtain all necessary permits and clearances.

Permits – Successful applicants will be required to provide sufficient documentation that the project expects to receive or has received all necessary permits and clearances to comply with any Federal, state or local requirements.

Federal Funding – The availability of federal funds estimated in this solicitation is contingent upon the federal appropriations process. Funding decisions will be made based on level of funding and timing of when it is received by NFWF.

TIMELINE

Dates of activities are subject to change. Please check the program page of the NFWF website for the most current dates and information: [Fishing for Energy](#).

Applicant Webinar	March 2, 2018, 1:00-2:00PM, Eastern
Full Proposal Due Date	April 19, 2018, 11:59PM, Eastern
Initial Review Period	May-June, 2018
Secondary Review Period	July-August, 2018
Awards Announced	September, 2018

HOW TO APPLY

All application materials must be submitted online through National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Easygrants system.

1. Go to easygrants.nfwf.org to register in our Easygrants online system. New users to the system will be prompted to register before starting the application (if you already are a registered user, use your existing login). Enter your applicant information. Please disable the pop-up blocker on your internet browser prior to beginning the application process.
2. Once on your homepage, click the “Apply for Funding” button and select this RFP’s “Funding Opportunity” from the list of options.
3. Follow the instructions in Easygrants to complete your application. Once an application has been started, it may be saved and returned to at a later time for completion and submission.

APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

A PDF version of this RFP can be downloaded [here](#).

A *Tip Sheet* is available for quick reference while you are working through your application. This document can be downloaded [here](#).

Additional information to support the application process can be accessed on the NFWF website’s [Applicant Information](#) page.

For more information or questions about this RFP, please contact:
Michelle Pico, Marine and Coastal Program Director
pico@nfwf.org
262-567-0601

For issues or assistance with our online Easygrants system, please contact:
Easygrants Helpdesk
Email: Easygrants@nfwf.org
Voicemail: 202-595-2497
Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm ET, Monday-Friday.
Include: your name, proposal ID #, e-mail address, phone number, program you are applying to, and a description of the issue.