



FishAmerica Foundation and NOAA Restoration Center Request for Proposals for Community-based Habitat Restoration Projects

The American Sportfishing Association's [FishAmerica Foundation](#) invites proposals for citizen-driven habitat restoration projects under its partnership with the [NOAA Community-based Restoration Program](#).

Proposal Deadline – **May 16, 2011 at 5:00 PM (EDT)**
Grant Awards Announced – **October 2011**
Download Grant Applications – <http://www.fishamerica.org>

Request for Proposals

The partnership requests proposals for local efforts to accomplish meaningful on-the-ground restoration of marine, estuarine and riparian habitats, including salt marshes, seagrass beds, mangrove forests, and freshwater habitats important to anadromous fish species (fish that migrate to and from the sea). Emphasis is on using a hands-on, grassroots approach to restore fisheries habitat across coastal America, the Great Lakes region, and the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

Eligible Projects

Projects must result in the implementation of locally-driven habitat restoration projects that emphasize stewardship and yield ecological and socioeconomic benefits. These projects must clearly demonstrate significant benefits to marine, estuarine or anadromous fisheries resources, particularly sportfish, and should involve community participation through an educational or volunteer component tied to the restoration activities. Applicants are encouraged to incorporate the participation of NOAA Restoration Center staff to strengthen the development and implementation of sound restoration projects.

Projects in the Great Lakes must restore habitat for diadromous sportfish such as lake sturgeon, walleye, and brook trout in the Great Lakes and applicable tributaries. Projects focusing on the management or removal of aquatic invasive/nuisance species will not be considered.

Projects that will benefit both sportfish and threatened and endangered fish species under the National Marine Fisheries Service's jurisdiction may receive additional consideration. Please find a list of these fish species at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/esa/fish.htm>.

The following activities will not be considered under partnership awards: (1) Activities that constitute legally required mitigation for the adverse effects of an activity regulated or otherwise governed by local, state or federal law; (2) activities that constitute restoration for natural resource damages under federal, state or local law; and (3) activities that are required by a separate consent decree, court order, statute or regulation.

Eligible Applicants

Non-profit organizations such as local sporting clubs and conservation associations, educational institutions, and local and state governments may apply for funding. Non-profit organizations **must** provide proof of non-profit status (i.e. 501(c)(3) letter from the IRS). Local and state agencies, educational institutions and other government entities must provide their EIN number. If available, applicants must also provide their DUNS Number (<http://www.dnb.com>).

Applicants may utilize a fiscal sponsor for the project however the fiscal sponsor must be a non-profit organization, must provide proof of non-profit status, and must be listed on the application.

Proposal Guidelines

Eligible budget items include on-the-ground restoration materials (vegetation/planting materials, culverts, streambank stabilization materials, etc.), contractual labor (heavy equipment rental and operation, engineering, etc.), on-site salaries directly associated with project coordination or implementation (project manager, volunteer coordinator, etc.), and monitoring equipment. The partnership will not provide funding for indirect costs. Awards will range between \$10,000 and \$75,000 per project. Proposals may be part of a larger restoration project funded through additional sources, however, FAF/NOAA-funded on-the-ground restoration activities should be completed within one year of a grant award.

Contact FishAmerica at (703) 519-9691 x247 for specific budget questions.

Applying for Funding

Applicants must submit the complete application packet and all required documentation on **TWO CDs**. The application is available for download on FishAmerica's website at <http://www.fishamerica.org>.

Permit Requirements

Applicants must provide a list and current status of all necessary federal, state, tribal and local permits and approvals required to complete the project and the appropriate regulatory agency contact (name, title, phone) for each permitting agency. FishAmerica will require copies of permits, approvals and compliance documentation once they are secured and prior to the release of grant funds.

FishAmerica grantees will be required to satisfy all financial and programmatic requirements and

meet all local, state and tribal environmental laws and Federal consistency requirements before project implementation.

National Environmental Policy Act Requirements

All proposals will be reviewed and approved for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance by NOAA Fisheries with assistance from the FishAmerica Foundation. All projects must comply with NEPA before FishAmerica will release funds. For more information on NEPA, please visit NOAA's website at <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov>. Applicants will be required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non-indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, the presence of historic structures, and impacts to coral reef systems) in order for NOAA to make a NEPA determination on each proposal.

In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying and implementing feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal.

Monitoring Requirements

Restoration projects will be expected to have clearly identified goals and specific, measurable objectives for the project period. Proposals should describe the associated parameters or metrics, including the monitoring of fish species that will be monitored during the project period. FishAmerica and NOAA will work with successful applicants to finalize monitoring parameters and develop success targets to evaluate project results.

For stream barrier removal projects (e.g. dam removal, culvert removal), specific monitoring parameters that should be included in the proposed project include:

1. Number of stream miles made accessible.
2. Final project designs compared to as-built conditions/designs, including whether or not the site as constructed meets standard fish passage criteria or published passage guidance.
3. Presence/absence of target diadromous fish upstream of project site before and after barrier removal.
4. Number of community participation hours associated with the project.
5. Community enhancement activities associated with barrier removal, if applicable.
6. Change in operations, maintenance, and/or liability costs as a result of the project, if applicable.
7. Change in public safety as a result of the project, if applicable.

Total Available Funding

The FishAmerica Foundation and the NOAA Restoration Center anticipate the availability up to \$1 million under this solicitation. Anticipated awards however are contingent on the provision of federal funding to the FishAmerica Foundation.

Grant Award Reimbursement

Grant funds will be available to successful applicants at a specific reimbursement schedule during the grant period. Recipients will be contacted prior to receipt of the grant contract to discuss the reimbursement schedule.

In all cases, funds will not be released until FishAmerica has received a signed contract and is assured that the project meets all financial and programmatic requirements. This includes having copies of all required permit and compliance documentation and assurances of NEPA compliance in-hand.

Grant Award Matching Requirements

All applicants should seek to provide at least a 75% match of non-federal contributions for grants awarded under the FishAmerica Foundation/NOAA Restoration Center partnership. However, the most competitive projects will include matching contributions at 100% (or greater) of the approved award amount. Match may consist of cash, in-kind services, and/or volunteer time. The dollar value of volunteer time is \$20.85 per hour (http://independentsector.org/volunteer_time). Grant recipients will be contacted prior to receipt of the grant contract to discuss matching requirements.

Please contact the FishAmerica Foundation at 703-519-9691 x247 or pegan@asafishing.org if you have any questions regarding match requirements.

Proposal Submission

The FishAmerica Foundation must receive **two CDs** each with a copy of the completed application, project narrative, budget table and copies of all required supporting documentation **no later than May 16, 2011 at 5:00 PM EDT.**

Mailed or faxed paper applications and electronically mailed (email) applications will **NOT** be accepted. **THIS IS NOT A POSTMARK DEADLINE.**

Proposals must be submitted to:

FishAmerica Foundation
2011 FAF/NOAA RFP – Grant Applications
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 420
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Proposal Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked jointly by NOAA technical staff and FishAmerica staff. Recommended proposals will be forwarded to the FishAmerica Conservation Committee for final funding consideration. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Completeness of the grant application.
2. Extent to which the proposal describes the complete restoration objective.
3. Potential of and extent to which the project will improve habitat for marine, estuarine or diadromous fisheries resources, particularly sportfish.
4. Technical and scientific merit of the project.
5. Extent to which the project is identified as a locally-driven, hands-on project that emphasizes stewardship and yields significant ecological and socioeconomic benefits.
6. Project feasibility, including the ability of the proposed project to deliver the stated restoration objective.
7. Extent to which the applicant has described a realistic implementation plan achievable within a reasonable time period, including the ability to yield minimum monitoring data.
8. Degree to which proposal includes an effective mechanism to evaluate project success, using appropriate structural and functional monitoring parameters.
9. Qualification of project applicant and partners to accomplish the stated restoration objective, including necessary resources and administrative capabilities.
10. Ability of action to achieve specified results, benefits to species, and/or products for outreach and education.
11. Cost effectiveness and budget detail and justification.
12. Likelihood of long-term success and degree to which the restoration is self-sustaining.
13. Partnership/cooperation from local community groups and other organizations, including approval/support of participating landowners.
14. Extent of community, outreach, education and involvement.
15. Availability of matching funds.

Contact Information

Grant applicants may contact FishAmerica at pegan@asafishing.org with questions regarding potential proposals. Applicants are also encouraged to contact their local/regional NOAA biologist with specific project inquiries. Please visit FishAmerica's website for a list of contact information. For more information, please visit the following websites:

FishAmerica Foundation:

<http://www.fishamerica.org>

NOAA Community-based Restoration Program:

<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/restoration/programs/crp.html>