



Request for Proposals - 2015

The Morro Bay Community Quota Fund (MBCQF), established in 2012, was the first community quota fund of its kind on the West Coast. The MBCQF is a public benefit non-profit corporation intended to permanently secure fishing privileges historically associated with the Central Coast. The long term goal of the MBCQF is to ensure a financially stable and environmentally sustainable Morro Bay fishery, built upon local stewardship of groundfish resources, sufficient fishing activity to support marine-dependent infrastructure and services in Morro Bay, and provision for the next generation of locally based fishermen.

The overarching goal of the MBCQF is to support area-based management and improved environmental and economic performance of Central Coast fisheries. Under its broader “triple bottom line” mission (social, economic and environmental) the MBCQF will also engage in collaborative research to improve scientific knowledge and support local fisheries. Pursuant to the MBCQF bylaws, a portion of annual revenues from the leasing of fishery quota held by MBCQF is dedicated to a Research Fund to support collaborative research for the benefit of the fisheries and fishing communities of California’s Central Coast. Collaborative research is defined here as projects whereby fishermen and scientists share in a joint intellectual effort, each contributing expertise to the endeavor. This is in contrast to cooperative research, where a scientist might simply hire a fishing boat to deploy oceanographic equipment, for example.

This Request for Proposals (2015) seeks applicants to propose small research projects focused on the priority research topics listed below that can be completed within an 18 month timeframe. The intent of the MBCQF Research Fund is to support research that is applied in nature and to provide funding for projects that may not be eligible for grants from established granting agencies or projects that collect preliminary data needed for building a competitive future proposal.

Research Priorities: In accordance with MBCQF objectives, special consideration will be given to research projects that:

- Have a high potential for positive impacts on MBCQF participants or the Morro Bay and Port San Luis communities and ports;
- Focus on the groundfish fishery, or other fisheries important in Central California;
- Involve the fishing industry in a collaborative role with scientists;
- Address questions with a clear connection to better understanding and management of marine resources;
- Are not fundable through other established or likely granting agencies; and
- Are oriented to the “MBCQF mission”.

Actual research topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Improved understanding of the status of groundfish stocks

- Strategies for bycatch avoidance
- Impacts on habitats
- Barotrauma
- Gear or gear deployment innovations
- Marketing strategies for sustainably caught seafood
- Supply chain innovations
- Evaluation of management effectiveness

Details of the grant program: Award amounts for 2015 are expected to be in the \$5,000-\$15,000 range; proposals with a component of matching and/or leveraged funds will be reviewed favorably. The grant term is 12-18 months, with final deliverables due within 3 months of the end of the grant term. For final deliverables, grant recipients agree to:

- Provide a 2-3 page final report summarizing activities completed, outcomes or findings, and fishery management implications.
- Hold an informational meeting in Morro Bay with area fishermen, managers and scientists at the conclusion of their project.

Grant proposal format: A written proposal should include the following sections:

1. A narrative that clearly articulates (2 pages single-spaced maximum length):
 - The problem(s) being addressed by the research;
 - The potential for positive impacts on the Morro Bay and Port San Luis communities;
 - The relevance of the research to fisheries or fisheries management;
 - The proposed activities and results anticipated;
 - The involvement of the commercial fishing industry in a collaborative role; and
 - Any assumptions made or risks anticipated.
2. A budget with costs for personnel, equipment, travel, and other expenditures clearly articulated and identification of source and amount of any matching contributions (1 page maximum).
3. A timeline of activities, milestones, and deliverables (1 page maximum).
4. Resumes or CVs of key staff, and any other supporting materials.

Proposals are due: May 1, 2015 and must be submitted electronically.

Questions and written proposals should be directed to: Andrea Lueker, MBCQF Executive Director, alueker@morrobaycommunityquotafund.org.