



Fisheries Innovation Fund

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FUNDING PARTNERS

- NOAA

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Commercial fishing in Puget Sound, Washington

OVERVIEW

The Fisheries Innovation Fund is designed to foster innovation and support effective participation of fishermen and fishing communities in the implementation of sustainable fisheries in the United States.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and its partners launched the Fisheries Innovation Fund in 2010 to promote innovation in fisheries and seafood production in order to sustain livelihoods, working waterfronts and sustainable access to fisheries while rebuilding fish stocks. This public-private partnership is made possible through a cooperative agreement with NOAA.

Fisheries Innovation Fund funding priorities include bycatch reduction, recreational fisheries, and offshore aquaculture, including activities to build community capacity and encourage sustainable-use practices. Most projects have originated locally to address needs, challenges and opportunities at the community level.

Between 2010 and 2019, the fund awarded more than \$10.8 million for 113 projects in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, Pacific Coast, Alaska, Hawaii and the Great Lakes regions. These awards leveraged matching contributions of more than \$13.1 million, generating a total conservation impact of \$23.9 million.

Priorities funded include:

- Provide business and technical assistance to fishermen and coastal communities to build capacity
- Create regional/community fishing associations and advance community-supported fisheries
- Reduce bycatch
- Support improvements in recreational fisheries conservation and management