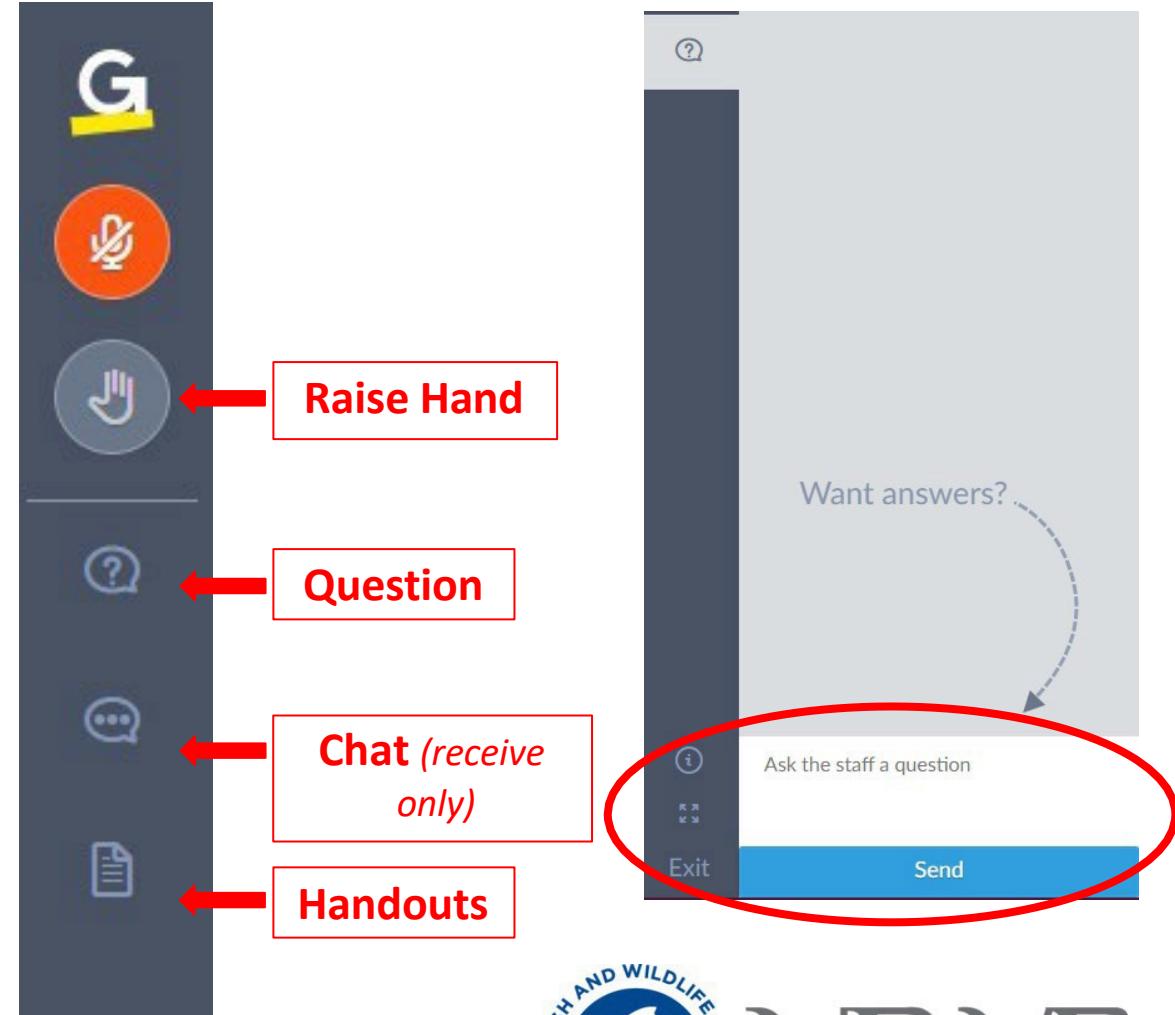


# WELCOME TO THE CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP FUND RFP– 2026 PRE-PROPOSAL WEBINAR

We will get started momentarily ...

- To improve sound quality, all participants will be muted for the duration of the webinar. If you want to ask a question you have two options:
  1. Enter your query where it says “Enter a question for staff” and click send. A NFWF staff member will type a response or read your question aloud when we pause for Q&A.
  2. Write it down and contact us after the webinar. We have a lot of material to cover, so you may prefer to have a more in-depth discussion later.
- We may ask you to raise your “hand” in the webinar dialogue box to confirm participants can hear us.
- If you experience a technical glitch, please type it into the question box, since we can’t hear you. (We may not know about the glitch unless you say something!)

*The webinar recording will be sent to all participants via email.*



NFWF



# NFWF

**Coral Reef Stewardship Fund**  
2026 Applicant Pre-Proposal Webinar  
January 28, 2026

# NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

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- Created by U.S. Congress in 1984
- Independent, 501(c)(3) non-profit
- Public/Private partnerships
  - Federal agencies, corporations, and private foundations
- Focus on conservation outcomes
- No advocacy, lobbying, litigation



NFWF



# Agenda

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**Program Website Information**

**RFP Highlights**

**Request for Proposal 'Hidden Info'**

**Considerations for the Full Proposal**

**Calendar and Additional Help**

<https://www.nfwf.org/programs/coral-reef-stewardship-fund>



# CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP FUND

Program Website



ALL PROGRAMS

# Coral Reef Stewardship Fund

In This Section:

Coral Reef Conservation Fund  
2026 Request for Proposals



Programs

...



Since 2000, NFWF has responded to the alarming decline in both the quantity and productivity of the world's coral reef ecosystems through multiple coral conservation initiatives that aim to improve management, increase public awareness, and reduce threats to coral reefs both domestically and

## Partners



SUMMARY

APPLICATION INFORMATION

PROGRAM INFORMATION

## Application Information

01/21/2026

Coral Reef Conservation Fund 2026 Request  
for Proposals

VIEW NOW

## Due Dates

DUE DATE

NAME

02/18/2026

Coral Reef Conservation Fund 2026 Request for Proposals



# Coral Reef Stewardship Fund

Coral Reef Stewardship Fund  
2025 Request for Proposals

[Home](#) / [Programs](#) / ...



**S**ince 2000, NFWF has responded to the alarming decline in both the quantity and productivity of the world's coral reef ecosystems through multiple coral conservation initiatives that aim to improve management, increase public awareness, and reduce threats to coral reefs both domestically and internationally. NFWF works with local, state, federal and regional partners to explore new techniques for addressing persistent, practical challenges faced by coral reef managers – such as non-point source pollution, over harvest of functional reef species, vessel damage and environmental stressors.

## Partners



[SUMMARY](#)

[APPLICATION INFORMATION](#)

[PROGRAM INFORMATION](#)

Coral reefs are one of the world's most valuable ecosystems in terms of ecological, economic and cultural capital. However, recent reports indicate that 58 to 70 percent of coral reefs globally are directly threatened by human-associated activities and increasing global bleaching events. Overfishing,



09/09/2024

Program Fact Sheet

[DOWNLOAD THE PDF](#)

09/09/2024

2024 Grant Slate

[DOWNLOAD THE PDF](#)

09/19/2023

2023 Grant Slate

[DOWNLOAD THE PDF](#)

09/12/2022

2022 Grant Slate

[DOWNLOAD THE PDF](#)

10/26/2021

2021 Grant Slate

[DOWNLOAD THE PDF](#)

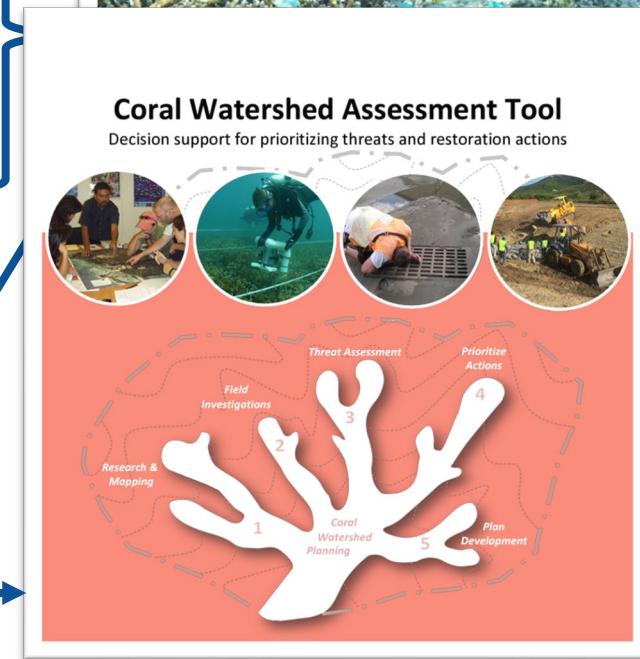
04/13/2021

Coral Reefs Program Investment Strategy

[DOWNLOAD THE PDF](#)

12/03/2019

Coral Reef Assessment Tool

[DOWNLOAD THE PDF](#)**NFWF**

# CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP FUND

RFP Highlights





- Applicant Eligibility
- Geographic Priorities
- Program Priorities
- Looking Ahead to Full Proposal

Monk Seal

# ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

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## Eligible

- State, tribal, territorial government agencies
- Municipal government
- Non-profit 501(c) organizations
- Educational institutions
- For Profits and Unincorporated individuals – contact [Pico@nfwf.org](mailto:Pico@nfwf.org)

## Ineligible

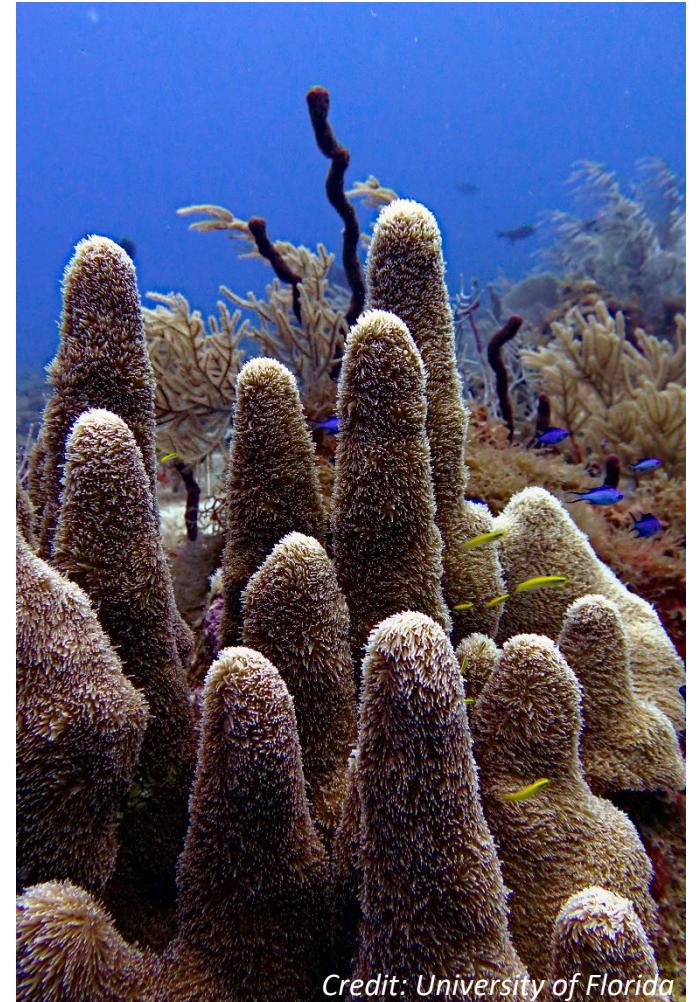
- Federal agencies or employees of federal agencies
- Foreign organizations
- Foreign public entities

NOAA employees **cannot** assist with proposal writing

# FAQ AROUND ELIGIBILITY

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- An applicant/organization may submit multiple applications and may receive multiple awards
- Current/previous grants do not impact **eligibility**, but
  - Should discuss current state of previous projects and why timing is right
  - Watch double counting match & salaries



*Credit: University of Florida*

# PRIORITY GEOGRAPHIES

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- All US Tropical Coral Systems are eligible
- Listed watershed and reef priorities help NFWF target comprehensive conservation where possible
- Jurisdictional priorities listed in NOAA Program document are also of higher priority
- High conservation impact trumps geographic priority



*Credit: The Nature Conservancy*

# Non-Federal Match- Strongly Encouraged

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- In-kind match COUNTS
  - Volunteer hours
  - In-kind support
  - Deferred indirect costs
- Must be specific to the scope of work for the project and within the period of performance
- Pre-proposals are not rejected based on match
  - If concern for competitiveness then flagged at Full Proposal



*Credit: Miami-Dade County, Volunteer Restoration, Cutler Bay, FL*

# PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Finding Hidden Text



# RFP Priorities

## Threat Reduction to Priority Sites



Land-based  
Pollution Inputs

Management  
Priorities  
Measurable  
Impact



Increase Fish  
Stocks of Key  
Species

Priority  
herbivores  
Management  
Priorities

## Response and Restoration Capacity



Disturbance  
Response

Innovation / Pilots



Out-planting  
Success

Known hurdles /  
Actionable  
Science



Increase Scalability

Cost-effectiveness /  
Coordination



NGO Support to  
Management

Sustainable  
Support

# Key Links

- Coral Reefs Strategy
- HI Business Plan
- Jurisdictional Priorities
- Specific Reef Restoration Plans
- Tip Sheet
- NFWF Terms and Conditions

## PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Competitive applications under this funding opportunity will work directly with local coral reef managers to implement priority projects in the following conservation categories for reefs associated with the priority geographies and plans identified above. U.S. coral reef conservation projects that fall outside of or only indirectly address these priority categories or geographies are still eligible for funding but are considered a lower priority than those with a direct nexus.

As a starting point, NOAA has developed a [reference list](#) of contacts and curated U.S. jurisdictional priorities that support the program priorities in this RFP as a starting point. While it is not required to address one of the listed jurisdictional priorities, it may increase proposal competitiveness.

Additionally, projects that directly implement specific strategies and goals under the [NFWF Hawaii Conservation business plan](#) and/or [NFWF Coral Reefs Strategy](#) will be most competitive for funding. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review these documents and highlight any areas of their proposed work that overlap with these specific strategies, geographies, and goals.

Applicants under this program are strongly encouraged to contact a local manager that they feel is most applicable to their project scope and/or the NOAA CRCP Regional Federal Program Officer for the jurisdiction where they plan to work (see contact list through the link above). It is helpful to list the name, title, and affiliation of the individual you have contacted in the pre-proposal but it is not required. A letter indicating their knowledge of the project may be required at the Full Proposal stage depending on the scope of work.

\*All linked on the 2026 Corals RFP page and PDF



NFWF

# Coral Reef Conservation Fund 2026 Request for Proposals



Programs

Coral Reef Stewardship Fund

/

...



## RFP GUIDANCE

NFWF is committed to operating in full compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and Executive Orders. We continuously monitor legal and regulatory developments to ensure our policies, procedures, and operations align with current federal directives. We encourage all applicants to do the same.

The ability and extent to which NFWF is able to make awards is contingent upon receipt of funds from federal agencies and/or other funding partners. Final funding decisions will be made based on the applications received and the level and timing of funding received by NFWF.

### Related Content

[RFP Tip Sheet](#)

[NFWF Standard Grant Award Conditions](#)

[RFP PDF](#)



NFWF

## Jurisdictional Management Priority Activities for the NFWF Coral Reef Stewardship Fund 2026 Request for Proposals

The following activities were identified as priorities for coral reef conservation activities in fiscal years 2024-2026 by the NOAA CRCP and local management agencies during 2022 workshops to align jurisdictional needs with the [NOAA CRCP Strategic Plan](#). Many of these priorities are continuing needs that are expected to extend beyond 2026.

### I. Threat Reduction to Priority Reef Sites

Reduce land-based pollution inputs to coral reefs:

- Implementation of sediment and nutrient threat reduction activities outlined in existing watershed management plans that meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency nine elements for a watershed management plan (Guam; CNMI; Florida; Hawaii; Puerto Rico; and USVI)
- Training and technical assistance on green/gray infrastructure (including permitting and environmental compliance); knowledge exchanges and/or technical assistance for stormwater compliance monitoring and enforcement (American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, Hawaii, and USVI)
- Consistent site-specific analyses of water quality and the efficacy of watershed restoration actions (CNMI, Guam, Florida, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, USVI)
- Baseline monitoring of water quality and benthic community composition near watershed restoration sites (Achugao, CNMI; Piti-Asan, Guam; and Salt River, USVI).

Increase fish stocks of key species along priority reefs:

- Support the enhancement of citizen science and community monitoring programs (CNMI, Guam, Hawaii)
- Training and/or other capacity building activities (e.g., gap analysis, tools, mentoring, etc.) for effective fisheries enforcement (CNMI, Florida, Guam, Puerto Rico, USVI)
- Technical assistance with management planning efforts, especially place-based management (CNMI, Hawaii, Guam)
- Evaluate performance of place-based marine managed areas (Florida, Guam, Puerto Rico, USVI)

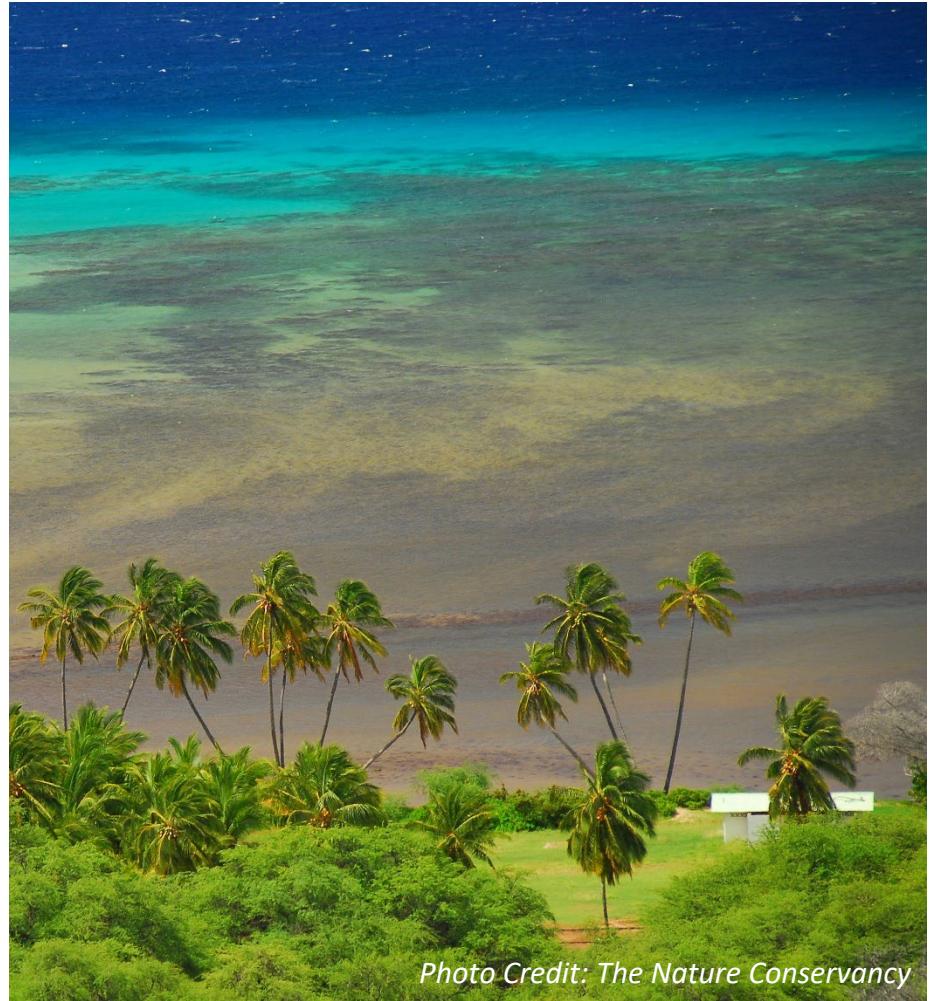
### \* A Note on Working with Agency Liaisons

- Specific areas of interest within each of the listed RFP priorities
- Which jurisdictional managers are specifically looking for these activities
- Contact information for liaisons for each jurisdiction that can help match you up with managers and agency priorities and partners for project scoping
- Things to highlight in your narrative

# WHAT MAKES A PROPOSAL COMPETITIVE

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- Demonstrate with **specific** references how your project contributes to priorities
- Ensure that your project is at a scale for **impact** OR propose a transferrable or scalable approach for a pilot
- If your project is scalable or has multiple components list general budget elements at the bottom of your narrative for consideration of a smaller grant



*Photo Credit: The Nature Conservancy*

# What is NOT a priority?

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- General program/operations funding
  - Need specific conservation outcomes
- Stand alone research projects
  - Look for specific management questions
- Public Outreach / K-12 Education
  - Targeted outreach to specific audiences
- General Monitoring
  - Targeted monitoring for specific goals



*Photo Credit: Arizona State University*

# LOOKING AHEAD

Considerations for the Full Proposal



# Application Information

Redwood trees, California

In This Section:

[Pre-Proposal Summary](#)

[Full Proposal Summary](#)

[Budget Instructions](#)

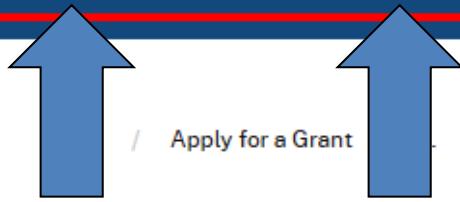
[Easygrants Mapping Tool](#)

[Indirect Cost Policy](#)

[Indirect Cost Calculator](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Required Financial Documents](#)



[/ Apply for a Grant](#)



## Application Information

- [Budget Instructions](#)
- [Map Instructions](#)
- [IDC Policy and Calculator](#)
- [Required Financial Documents](#)
- [Required Information in Full Proposal](#)

an 70 grant programs to protect and  
u to read our complete list of  
es to select the one appropriate for you.  
application and management system.

Federal, state, and local governments, educational institutions and nonprofit organizations are welcome to apply for matching grants from our conservation priority programs. For other funding opportunities, application timelines, scope and guidelines vary.

# PERMITTING & NEPA

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## Permitting

- Must ensure compliance with all Federal, state or local requirements
- Obtaining all necessary permits and clearances are the Applicant's responsibility

## NEPA

- Projects with NOAA funds will undergo a NEPA review
- Be as specific with location and methods as possible



Underwater coral monitoring in Florida Keys. Credit: Coral Restoration Foundation

# ESTABLISHING GOALS & EVALUATING PROGRESS

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## Metrics

- Review Tipsheet for advanced view of metrics recommended for your activities
- Consider evaluation needs in budget and period of performance



Nutrient runoff work in Maui Nui

- Budget Restrictions
- Procurement & Equipment
- Cost Effectiveness
- Publicity and Acknowledgement
- Receiving Funding

Other Stuff **We Expect** You to Read!

# OTHER APPLICATION RESOURCES

Calendar and Additional Help



## Coral Reef Conservation Fund 2026 Request for Proposals

[Home](#) / [Programs](#) / [Coral Reef Stewardship Fund](#) / ...



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#### Related Content

[RFP Tip Sheet](#)

[NFWF Standard Grant Award Conditions](#)

[RFP PDF](#)

- Easygrants Walkthrough
  - Pre-proposal
- Recording of this webinar

# New Bookings Tool

BookNFWF Coral Reefs

Discuss Project Ideas or Amendment Needs

ptions 

**Discuss Project Ideas or Amendment ... **

30 minutes 

Free

January 17

uary 2025

Staff group:  
Michelle Pico,

 All the staff must be available at the same time.

T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	<b>17</b>	18
21	22	23	24	25

9:00 AM 1:00 PM 1:30 PM  
2:00 PM 2:30 PM

Add your details

First and last name \*

Email (optional)

Address (optional)

Phone number (optional)

Notes

Add any special requests (optional)

<https://outlook.office365.com/book/Book@nfwf.org/>



# CALENDAR AND TIMING

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- **Pre-Proposal** Applications due: February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

*\*Email will confirm submission*

- Full Proposal Invitations: March 2026

*\*Look for reviewer comments and webinar information*

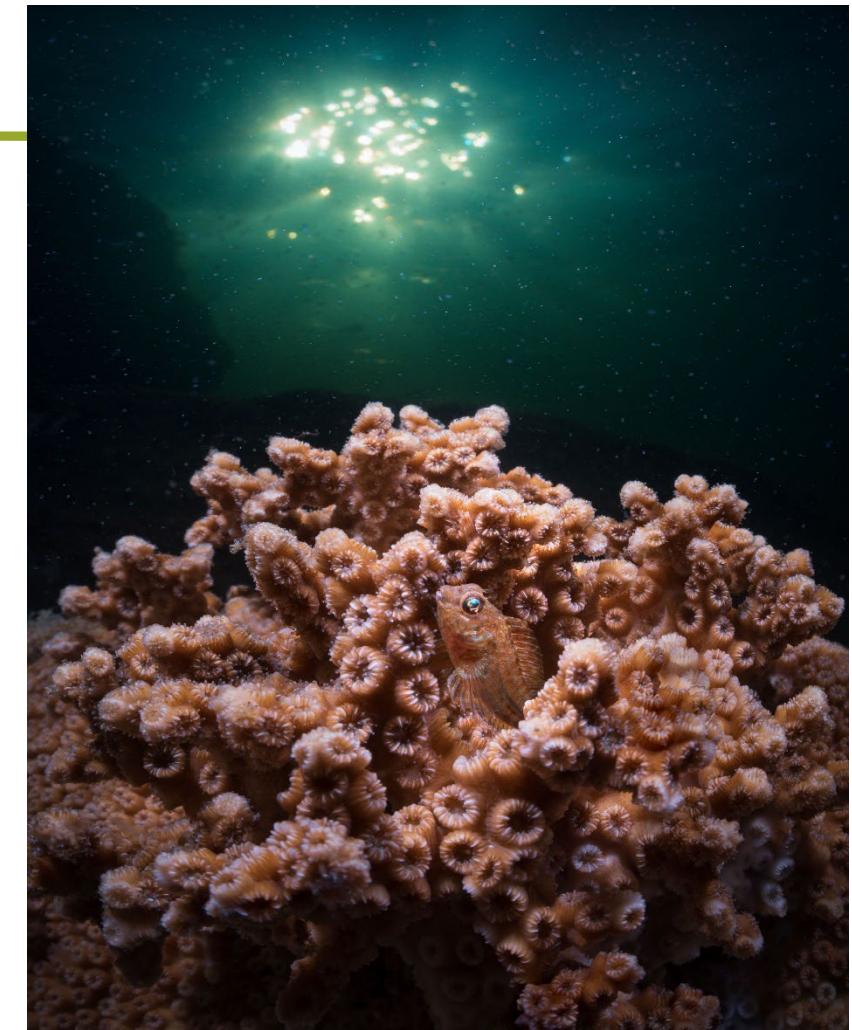
- Full Proposals due: April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026

*\* By invitation ONLY*

- Awards announced: September 2026

- Funding available: Variable

- Start Date
  - Complete Application (Uploads!)



# Thank you for coming! Questions?

## Contact Info:

Michelle Pico

*Sr. Director, Marine Conservation*

[Pico@nfwf.org](mailto:Pico@nfwf.org)

Annabel Chase

*Regional Coordinator*

[Annabel.Chase@nfwf.org](mailto:Annabel.Chase@nfwf.org)

## Easygrants Helpdesk:

*Email: [easygrants@nfwf.org](mailto:easygrants@nfwf.org)*

*Voice-mail: 202-595-2497*



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