

**North Carolina
Coastal Recreational Fishing License
Request for Proposals
Issued June, 2010**

The North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) are issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for consideration of funding from the Marine Resources Fund. The Marine Resources Fund is composed of proceeds from the sale of the Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL). The North Carolina General Assembly created the Fund to manage, protect, restore, develop, cultivate and enhance the marine resources of the state.

The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is the state agency that provides liaison between projects and the MFC and WRC. The purpose of this document is to announce Request for Proposals, to identify project areas and priorities eligible for funding by the Marine Resources Fund in accordance with the Strategic Plan for the Conservation and Improvement of North Carolina Marine Resources, and to assist you in preparing the proposal. Please read all of the enclosed information closely. Proposals are to be submitted to the Director of DMF by 5:00 p.m. **July 30, 2010.**

The overall goal for the use of CRFL funds is to manage and enhance the marine resources of North Carolina based on sound science and strategies. The Strategic Plan for the Conservation and Improvement of North Carolina Marine Resources sets forth a framework of objectives and strategies to meet this goal. The framework provides the basis upon which to evaluate and select proposals seeking CRFL funds. Example priority research needs have been compiled based on priority needs in Fishery Management Plans approved by the Marine Fisheries Commission, issues identified in the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP), and research needs identified cooperatively with other agencies. The objectives and strategies listed below are topics of particular interest at this time and do not represent an inclusive list of all priority needs in FMPs and the CHPP. Project activities that will be considered for this funding cycle include (no priority order is implied):

Management Goal - Fish

Objective 1: Estimate fishing effort, catch, harvest, and mortality of important coastal fish species.

Strategy F.1.1 Increase current recreational sampling levels to obtain estimates with greater precision.

Example Priority Research Need:

Projects investigating the feasibility of using new technologies to gather timely and accurate recreational catch and discard statistics, including the use of cellular and internet technologies.

Strategy F.1.2 Develop and expand statistically sound juvenile and adult fishery-independent sampling programs.

Example Priority Research Need:

Establish a juvenile abundance index to fill in gaps in the DMF biological database for all recreationally important species to evaluate and potentially expand all juvenile indices for use in coast wide assessments.

Tagging programs to verify estimates of natural and fishing mortality as well as mixing rates and migration patterns of recreationally important fish species.

Estimate population size and age structure of striped bass.

Strategy F.1.3 Identify and gather life history information needed for stock assessment models for recreationally important fish species.

Example Priority Research Need:

Mark-recapture (tagging) studies to estimate the fishing mortality rates, migration, and movement of managed species to develop stock identification techniques to improve understanding of stock definition.

Collect aging structures from recreational catches harvested by tournaments and for hire vessels.

Research projects designed to provide updated mortality studies of important fish species.

Update maturity schedules and fecundity estimates for important fish species.

Evaluation of otolith microchemistry or genetic marking to help determine unit stocks.

Identify spawning and nursery areas for important finfish.

Investigate climate factors in stock assessment modeling such as cold stun events.

Strategy F.1.5 Develop methodologies and initiate sampling of important night fisheries (e.g., flounder gigging, adult red drum). Increase focus on released species (discards) and direct more effort toward rare event species.

Example Priority Research Need:

Assess size distribution of recreational discards from night fisheries such as red drum and flounder.

Characterize the release of trophy fisheries for tarpon and red drum (tackle, geographic location, time of day, bait, water temperature, seasonality, hook types, etc.).

Strategy F.1.8 Survey CRFL holders to determine blue crab harvest and effort. Survey recreational crabbers during existing recreational creel surveys.

Example Priority Research Need:

Survey CRFL holders to determine blue crab harvest and effort.

Survey recreational crabbers during existing recreational creel surveys.

Strategy F.1.9 Set up a carcass collection pilot program for recreationally important fish to expand age, reproductive and other life history sampling and analysis.

Example Priority Research Need:

Plan, implement, and establish a comprehensive carcass collection program for recreational fisheries.

Objective 2: Characterize socio-economic attributes of coastal fisheries.

Strategy F.2.1 Initiate a socio-economic survey of recreational fishermen.

Example Priority Research Need:

Conduct socio-economic surveys of recreational anglers to assess trends over time.

Conduct comprehensive socio-economic surveys of the for-hire fishery to assess the impact of this sector on coastal economies and how economic conditions affect this fishery.

Economic analysis of specific recreational fisheries.

Strategy F.2.2 Identify and enumerate different users groups within the recreational sector.

Example Priority Research Need:

Assess distribution of freshwater versus marine anglers holding grandfathered lifetime licenses and unified hunting/fishing licenses.

Objective 3: Characterize catch and release mortality in coastal fisheries.

Strategy F.3.1 Initiate by-catch and discard mortality studies of recreationally important fish and fisheries.

Example Priority Research Need:

Research projects that model and predict how regulations impact discard mortality in recreationally important fish species with emphasis on determining effectiveness of newly implemented fishing restrictions (such as gill net attendance and circle hook usage).

Research projects that estimate and describe discard release mortality.

Strategy F.3.2 Develop gear and methodology for reducing release mortality from recreational fishing.

Example Priority Research Need:

Develop gear and methodology for reducing release mortality from recreational fishing.

Management Goal - Habitat

Objective 1: Improve effectiveness of existing programs.

Strategy H.1.1 In cooperation with other DENR agencies and university scientists, conduct coastal habitat status assessments using standard indicators of estuarine and near shore ocean conditions.

Example Priority Research Need:

Analyze and interpret existing data to use in coastal habitat assessments.

Strategy H.1.4 Enhance education of fishermen and the public concerning fish habitats, how they function, and what people can do to protect them.

Example Priority Research Need:

Develop educational programs for recreational anglers on habitat function, conservation and protection.

Develop educational displays at public boating access areas focusing on the ecological value of the surrounding fish habitats.

Strategy H.1.5 Expand and utilize the Oyster Shell Recycling Program and the Under Dock Oyster Culture Program to enhance public awareness and foster volunteer, government agency, and NGO partnerships.

Example Priority Research Need:

Expand the NC Oyster Shell Recycling Program through public outreach on the importance of protecting our estuary and restoration efforts through oyster recycling.

Pilot project to research standardized recycling containers that will meet sanitation standards and service of these containers for restaurants.

Objective 2: Identify, designate, and conserve fish habitat and Strategic Habitat Areas (SHAs).

Strategy H.2.1 Expand the mapping of important coastal fisheries habitat such as submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), shell bottom and other bottom types.

Example Priority Research Need:

Spawning area surveys (river herring, other anadromous fish, red drum, blue crab).

Strategy H.2.2 Identify and delineate candidate sites for designation as Strategic Habitat Areas.

Example priority research Need:

Conduct field research to evaluate and verify the habitat condition of identified Strategic Habitat Areas in the Albemarle Sound region.

Strategy H.2.3 Inventory and conduct research and monitoring to determine status of and trends in the six basic fish habitats (SAV, shell bottom, wetlands, water column, hard bottom, soft bottom).

Example Priority Research Need:

Monitoring of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitats throughout the coastal area, including distribution and health of SAV habitats and functions of the associated fish communities.

Conduct research to evaluate environmental conditions that provide suitable submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat.

Develop and conduct fish usage patterns of nearshore (within state waters) hard bottom.

Conduct a condition assessment of nearshore (within state waters) high-relief and low-relief hard bottom.

Acquire updated bathymetry of shallow soft bottom habitat to assist in determination of potential nursery and SAV habitat.

Strategy H.2.4 Conduct research to clarify the linkages between coastal fish habitat and fish production and identify the key aspects of habitat function and how these functions are affected by human activities.

Example Priority Research Need:

Research on effects of alternative energy projects on fish habitats and stocks.

Develop analytical modeling techniques to account for environmental variation (e.g. cold kills) in stock assessment models.

Develop techniques to assess spawning success of spotted seatrout.

Develop analytical modeling techniques to account for variation in habitat quality and variable spawning habitat types on spotted seatrout spawning success.

Strategy H.2.5 Coordinate mapping and monitoring of fish habitats to delineate causes of and effects of habitat disturbance and loss.

Example Priority Research Need:

Develop a mechanism and strategy that coordinates mapping and monitoring of fish habitats to delineate causes and effects of habitat disturbance and loss.

Objective 3: Enhance habitat and protect it from physical harm.

Strategy H.3.1 Identify degraded fish habitat and implement restoration measures.

Example Priority Research Need:

Develop a mechanism and strategy to identify degraded fish habitat and implement restoration measures.

Identify physical impediments to anadromous fish spawning migration routes.

Improve fish passage for anadromous fish spawning migrations through dam removal, fish passage structures, or culvert replacements with fish friendly culverts or bridges.

Develop tools to quantitatively assess the impact of cumulative effects of land-use changes on fish habitats.

Interpret cumulative impacts in the context of management of land-use activities on water quality and habitat impairment.

Strategy H.3.2 Initiate monitoring programs to evaluate success of restoration and enhancement Projects.

Example Priority Research Need:

Conduct fish and benthic monitoring at oyster restoration sites to quantify the effect.

Strategy H.3.3 Conduct research on restoration techniques in order to improve the quality and function of created or enhanced habitat.

Example Priority Research Need:

Develop a mechanism and strategy to conduct research on restoration techniques in order to improve the quality and function of created or enhanced habitat.

Strategy H.3.4 Refine materials and deployment techniques to maximize long-term ecological function and structural integrity of restoration efforts.

Example Priority Research Need:

Develop a mechanism and strategy to refine materials and deployment techniques to maximize long-term ecological function and structural integrity of restoration efforts.

Strategy H.3.7 Solicit collaborative research on larval transport and dispersal patterns and incorporate results into siting oyster habitat restoration projects and no-take oyster sanctuaries.

Example Priority Research Need:

Conduct research to identify larval transport of finfish or crustacean species that utilize oyster reef habitat and incorporate into a habitat enhancement siting plan.

Conduct research to identify sites for habitat enhancement based on larval transport and the proximity to key habitats such as SAV beds.

Management Goal – People

Objective 1: Provide fishermen increased access to fisheries resources and enhancement structures.

Strategy P.1.1 Collaborate with DOT, WRC, and DENR to site boat ramps and piers at highway bridges and State Parks and provide habitat enhancement such as artificial reefs or oyster cultch in conjunction with these facilities to provide increased access for both boat and pier fishermen.

Example Priority Research Need:

Improve and develop public fishing and boating access.

Develop a comprehensive siting management plan for public access mapping, current sites and prioritization of future sites in coastal fishing waters.

Strategy P.1.3 Utilize access structures and strategic land acquisitions for outreach, environmental education, and community based environmental enhancement activities.

Example Priority Research Need:

Coordinate with other agencies and local governments to identify, enhance, conserve, and develop recreational fishing access.

Strategy P.1.4 Coordinate the siting of artificial fishing reefs and oyster reefs with the locations of access structures to increase utilization by the recreational fishing community.

Example Priority Research Need:

Build or enhance artificial reefs in state waters.

Strategy P.1.7 Update, print, and distribute the N.C. Artificial Reef Guide.

Example Priority Research Need:

Design coastal reef fishing guide for offshore and inshore waters, including fishing access to oyster sanctuaries. Printed on water proof paper and then made available to DMF for inclusion on their website.

Objective 2. Provide better products and programs aimed at improving public information, education, and enrichment.

Strategy P.2.1 Development workshops, clinics and pamphlets on ethical fishing practices, conservation methods, and how-to seminars.

Example Priority Research Need:

Develop comprehensive public education program on recreational fishing practices, including information kiosks at fishing access points.

Develop information programs on catch and release, ethical angling, fishing techniques, reducing release mortality and by-catch.

Strategy P.2.2 Expand recognition programs such as the Governor's Cup series, citation catch, and state record programs.

Example Priority Research Need:

Conduct and improve promotion of recreational fisheries through the Governor's Cup Billfish Conservation Series, N. C. Saltwater Fishing Tournament (Citations) and state records program.

Strategy P.2.3 Expand the scope and content of the DMF website.

Example Priority Research Need:

Development of audiovisual educational materials such as an overview of the recreational fisheries statistics program that could be placed on the DMF website. Other ideas: de-hooking methods, safe handling of catch and ethical angling practices.

Eligibility

Only proposals from universities, local North Carolina governmental entities, DMF, or WRC are eligible to receive funding. Individuals/groups desiring funding must partner with one of these eligible agencies. A letter from the partnering agency must be attached to your proposal.

Proposal Guidelines

All proposals must be submitted to the DMF Director by 5 p.m. on July 30, 2010. Proposals will be evaluated and applicants notified of acceptance or rejection by March 31, 2011.

If your proposal is approved for funding, you will need to work with DMF by supplying information for the preparation of a state contract to facilitate receipt of funds. It is important for you to know that this program cannot reimburse you for work that has already begun or been completed. Even if your project is selected for funding, you cannot begin any work until there is a state contract in place or you will not be reimbursed. Should your proposal be selected for funding, a contract should be in place within 6 months following the date of your funding award letter. Disbursement of funds will be in agreement with your state contract and proposal budget.

If your project is selected for funding and a contract is in place, you will be required to provide semi-annual updates of progress. This report shall be formal and can be submitted via email. The information in each semi-annual update will only be work completed since the last semi-annual update. An annual, formal, written comprehensive final report will be required. You are required to submit your reports to Bonnie Jones, CRFL Project Coordinator, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries. She can be reached by mail at PO Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557-0769; by phone at 252-808-8113 or 800-682-2632 (in NC only); or via e-mail at Bonnie.B.Jones@ncdenr.gov. CRFL funding proposals, reports, and research data are subject to the N. C. Public Records Act (N.C.G.S. § 132-1 et seq).

Amendments to proposals are not normally accepted. One may request an amendment, but a project requesting an amendment to the budget or scope of work will be considered **only** if determined to be meritorious.

Proposal guidelines are:

1. Applicants must submit one original and ten hard copies of the proposal plus one electronic copy of the proposal in MS Word or Adobe PDF to the Project Coordinator.
2. All proposals are to include a completed copy of the Application for Funding from the North Carolina Marine Resources Fund application cover sheet (attached).
3. Proposals are not to exceed 17 pages including figures, tables, drawings, vitae, etc.

4. Indirect costs cannot exceed the indirect rate established for the DMF (this rate is established annually). Please contact Bonnie Jones, CRFL Project Coordinator by phone at 252-808-8113 or 800-682-2698 (in NC only); or via e-mail at Bonnie.B.Jones@ncdenr.gov for the current rate.
5. Proposals are to identify benefits expected from the proposed activities, including users served, economic benefit to local communities and the state, etc.
6. Proposals for public access must provide estimates on the usage of the facilities, including expected number of people who will use the access site.
7. Previously funded projects that were successful in requesting multi-year funding need not reapply unless the original project's funding request ends by June 30, 2011. Successful new multi-year projects will receive funding through a state contract that will obligate funds one year at a time. If selected for a first year of funding, the subsequent years funding of multi-year projects will be contingent upon the completion of satisfactory grant performance progress reports as required by grantor, approval by both the Marine Fisheries Commission and Wildlife Resources Commission for subsequent funding, and availability of funds.
8. Projects that are currently being funded can be viewed on the NC Division of Marine Fisheries web site at <http://www.ncdmf.net> under Recreational Fishing Reports/Projects Funded.
9. Each proposal is to include the following:

Applicant Name: Identify the name of the applicant and/or applicant's organization.

Project Title: A brief statement to identify the project.

Project Abstract. Applicants must submit a **separate** abstract of the proposed project to be included with the proposal in no more than 300 words.

CRFL Strategic Plan Management Goal, Strategy and Research Need Listed in RFP: Identify the CRFL Strategic Plan Management Goal, Strategy and Research Need listed in this RFP for which the proposal is being applied.

Project Period: The total period of the project proposed for funding. The award period may be for one or multiple years. **Contract commencement date will be July 1, 2011.** Please note this time period when developing project milestones.

Need: Demonstrate the need for assistance.

Objective: Address what is to be accomplished.

Approach: List all procedures necessary to attain each project objective.

Expected Results and Benefits: Identify and document the results or benefits expected from the proposed activities and how the project will help manage, protect, restore, develop, cultivate and enhance the marine resources of North Carolina.

Data Delivery Plan for Research Projects: Provide a written plan describing how all data, analyses, models, etc. generated from the project will be made available to the DMF. The plan must include the format in which data will be submitted and acknowledge the requirements contained in the CRFL Funding Data Delivery Specification document. The report and data will receive technical review from the contract technical monitor.

Geographic Location: The location where the project will be administered and where the project will be conducted.

Milestone Schedule: An activity schedule in table format for the duration of the project, starting with Month 1 and concluding at the end of the requested award period including a maximum three-month report writing period.

Cost Summary: Detail all costs to be incurred in the project, including, but not limited to (see budget template) personnel, equipment, information technology needs (computers, staff, etc.), travel expenses, etc. Details are to include start-up versus long-term operational costs. Prepare your budget carefully and make it as detailed as possible. Changes to the budget after submission are highly discouraged.

Principal Investigator: The principal investigator(s) is to be listed and vitae for each principal investigator must be attached. Limit each vita to two pages, as any additional information can be provided upon request. If this is not a research or monitoring project identify a key contact.

Other Funded Research: Identify all other funding sources currently being received and other funding sources where applications have been submitted and in which project personnel are involved. Include funding title, funding source, funding objective, amount of funding, length of funding, and principle investigator. Include % of salary funds by investigator by project.

Other Information: Applications for facilities/access projects must provide estimates of the usage of the proposed facility including number of people and number of current fishing license holders within the area, and any other relevant demographic data and estimates that support the need for the project. A facilities/access projects shall post signage giving appropriate credit to the CRFL fund. A CRFL logo has been developed for your use.

Environmental Considerations: The Division of Marine Fisheries encourages low impact development that protects vegetated shorelines, wetlands, water quality, submerged aquatic vegetation, designated Primary Nursery Areas, and designated Anadromous Fish Spawning Areas. Proposals should avoid adverse impacts to these sensitive habitats. In the event that impacts cannot be avoided or minimized through alteration of the project configuration or design, the project may not be considered for funding even though it meets an RFP funding priority.

Applicants shall maintain the stated or intended use of the proposed facility/access project for a minimum period of 20 years. Projects over \$100,000 must maintain the intended use for 30 years. Any abandonment of the project, conversion of the project to another use, or allowance of uses prohibited by the contract shall automatically trigger repayment to the fund of an amortized portion of the total grant reflecting the remaining life of the project. All projects shall specify dates and deliverables clearly in the proposal.

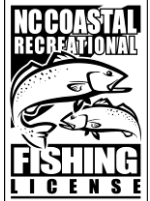
Incomplete applications and those that do not conform to the above format will not be considered.

Proposal Submission

The Division of Marine Fisheries Office in Morehead City must receive one original and ten hard copies of the proposal plus one electronic copy of the proposal in MS Word or Adobe PDF by 5:00 p.m. on July 30, 2010. E-mail proposal to be submitted to Bonnie.B.Jones@ncdenr.gov. Faxed proposals will not be considered. Mail or deliver hard copy applications to: **North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, Attention: CRFL Proposal, P.O. Box 769, 3441 Arendell Street, Morehead City, NC 28557.** By state law, late proposals cannot be considered.



APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA MARINE RESOURCES FUND



1. APPLICANT INFORMATION:		2. PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR INFORMATION:	
Applicant's Legal Name:		Name of Project Administrator:	
Street:		Street:	
Mail (PO Box):		Mail (PO Box):	
City, State and Zip Code:		City, State and Zip Code:	
EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN):		Project Administrator Phone number with area code:	
		Project Administrator FAX number with area code:	
3. TYPE OF APPLICANT: <input type="checkbox"/> State agency <input type="checkbox"/> County or Municipality <input type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)		Project Administrator Email Address:	
4. TYPE OF APPLICATION: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation of previously funded CRFL Project <input type="checkbox"/> Award Revision (<i>Explain</i>):		5. PROJECT TITLE:	
6. PROPOSED PROJECT: Start Date: Ending Date:		7. STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE, STRATEGY AND RESEARCH NEED: Management Goal (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Fish <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat <input type="checkbox"/> People Objective (list number): _____ Strategy (e.g., F.1.1): _____ Research Need (list project need):	
8. SOURCES OF FUNDING: a. CRFL Funds Requested : \$ _____ b. Applicant Match: \$ _____ d. Other Match: \$ _____ e. TOTAL: \$ _____		9. AREA AFFECTED BY PROJECT (City, Counties, etc.):	
11. LIST STATE AND FEDERAL PERMITS REQUIRED FOR THIS PROJECT: (Indicate completion date)			
12. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT. THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN FULLY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND WILL COMPLY WITH ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS IF THE ASSISTANCE IS AWARDED.			
Full Name of Authorized Representative:		Authorized Administrator Email Address:	
Signature:		Date Signed:	Phone Number (with area code):
Following Boxes are for CRFL Internal Office Use Only			
DATE RECEIVED BY NCDMF:		REVIEWERS:	Project Identifier:
DATE ACCEPTED FOR REVIEW:			From Marine Resources Fund: \$ _____

Budget template to be used as a guide to help applicants provide an itemized budget per project proposal. Additional needed items may be added and items not necessary are to be deleted.

Expense	Year 1		Subsequent Years	
	No. FTE	Cost (\$)	No. FTE	Cost (\$)
Personnel by position title (biologist, technician, computer programmer)				
Fringe (social security, retirement, health)				
Indirect (Rate = ___% of salaries and fringe only)				
Travel (mileage, meals, lodging)				
Postage				
Printing/photocopying				
Vessels				
Vehicles				
Telephone				
Computer Equipment (PC, printer, etc.)				
Software				
Office Furniture				
Office Space				
Gas				
Uniforms/Clothing				
Safety Items				
Office Supplies				
Scientific Equipment				
Training				
Office Equipment (photocopier, fax, etc.)				
Maintenance Contracts				
Others				
TOTAL COST				