



# Queensland Commercial and Charter Fishing Grants guideline

FIS/2021/5684

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**Please note:** When implementing this policy you must consider whether any human rights are engaged under the *Human Rights Act 2019* and whether any limitations on human rights are reasonable and justifiable. If you engage a human right you should conduct a proportionality assessment under the Act. Additionally, this policy has been reviewed on 06 October 2023 to ensure actions and decisions under this policy can be made in a way that is compatible with human rights.

**Owner** Title: Management and Reform

**Endorsed by** Title: Fisheries Queensland

**Approved by** Title: Minister responsible for Fisheries

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**Revision history**

Version no.	Approval date	Comments
1.00	04/08/2021	Approved Guideline
1.01	02/06/2022	Removed dates on announcements as this can cause confusion and updated assessment criteria to include – submission of an application does not guarantee funding
1.02	18/08/2023	Updated key economic figures to the most recent data. Re-iterated eligibility requirements around not using grants for wages/entitlements and for personal benefit.

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# 1 About the grants program

## Purpose

The Queensland Commercial and Charter Fishing Grants Program aims to promote behaviour change in, and innovation and modernisation of, the commercial fishing and charter fishing industry in Queensland.

The purpose of this guideline is to outline how the annual grants program will operate and how funding will be allocated each year.

**Funding limit:** \$250 000 funding is available for 2023-24.

**Outcome announcement:** It is anticipated successful applicants will be announced by March 2024.

**Grant delivery:** Grant projects must be delivered and acquitted within a 12-month period following approval. This is a requirement of successful applicants.

## 2 Background

The commercial fishing industry contributed \$397.3M ingross regional product to Queensland during the 2020–21 financial year and provided almost 3500 full time equivalent, direct and flow-on jobs (based on data from *Summary economic and social indicators for Queensland's commercial fisheries in 2020/21*). It also provides Queenslanders with fresh, local and sustainable seafood. The charter fishing industry had an estimated 89 037 client days in 2020–21, and is estimated to have contributed \$30.9M in gross state product (based on data from *Economic and social indicators for the Queensland charter fishery in 2020/21*).

However, as with any activity that interacts with the marine environment, some risks remain. This grants program aims to support projects and programs that will work to mitigate ecological risks and promote sustainable fishing practices to support best management practice fishing in both sectors.

For 2023-24 the Queensland Government will provide up to \$250 000 worth of grant funding, through a competitive expression-of-interest process, to support projects and programs that encourage or promote behaviour change, industry modernisation, best practice and innovation.

## 3 Criteria and requirements

### Applicant eligibility

Licensed commercial fishers, charter fishers, industry groups, peak bodies, universities, councils, statutory bodies, government agencies, incorporated bodies and associations in Queensland are eligible to apply.

Funding applications must serve the purpose of researching or promoting behaviour change, industry modernisation, best management practice and/or innovation. The project or activity must deliver a demonstrable public benefit to commercial and/or charter fisheries in Queensland. Funding does not include wages and entitlements. Projects developed for an individual commercial or charter fishing business purpose that does not provide benefit more broadly to the commercial and/or charter fishing sectors will be ineligible for funding.

Before applying for a grant, applicants should consider whether their project:

- has the appropriate experience within the project team to complete the project.
- represents value for money by incorporating other funding or 'in-kind' contributions by the applicant and other project partners.
- is technically sound and utilises best practice.
- will provide public benefit to Queensland.
- has support from the commercial or charter fishing industry.

### Funding requirements

Applicants are required to co-invest in any project and, in order to be eligible, must match funding of at least 25% of the total project cost. Further contributions towards the project or activity will improve value for money. The application should specify any in-kind contributions (volunteer work, administration, donations) that will support delivery of the project or activity.

Organisations that are registered for GST must quote GST-exclusive prices in their project costings, as they are able to recoup the GST paid. Organisations that are not registered for GST will pay GST on goods and services without recouping this GST, and so should quote GST-inclusive prices in their costings.

## 4 Scope of funding

Applications must demonstrate that the proposed project or activity meets at least one of the following criteria.

Criterion	Project examples
Trialling alternative gears, innovation and industry modernisation	Trialling new bycatch reduction devices, developing and testing new fishing gear for improved efficiency, trialling cameras or e-monitoring, researching methods to reduce predation by sharks
Responsible and sustainable fishing practices and education	Promoting responsible fishing practices, developing and implementing codes of practice (CoP), developing and implementing best management practice, developing training programs or videos for industry
Promotion and industry-led campaigns	Promoting Queensland sustainable seafood, commercial fisher mental wellbeing

In addition to meeting the broad criteria outlined above, the Queensland Government is interested in applications that:

- compliment [Fisheries Queensland monitoring and research plan](#) and/or
- fill information gaps on priorities identified in [fishery harvest strategies](#) and/or
- will assist in meeting fishery [Wildlife Trade Operation conditions](#) and/or
- address high-risk or medium-risk components of [ecological risk assessments](#) and/or
- links to the [Charter fishing industry opportunities plan](#) or [Charter fishing action plan](#).

### Out-of-scope projects and activities

The grants program is **unable** to fund:

- research or monitoring that doesn't deliver tangible, practical benefits to the sustainability or profitability of the commercial or charter fishing industries.
- projects or programs that will not provide benefit to multiple fishers or across industry, or are without industry support.
- general operating or travel costs not directly associated with a project or program.
- ventures, materials or projects developed for a personal commercial or charter fishing business purpose that **does not provide benefit more broadly to the commercial and/or charter fishing sectors or fisheries.**
- projects or activities using grant money to fund **staff wages or salaries.**
- projects involving staff from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

## 5 Assessment criteria

An assessment panel, appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, will assess applications against the following criteria:

- the extent of benefit the project will provide to the commercial or charter fishing industry.
- the level of co-investment or co-contribution.
- the amount of industry support, demand or need for the project.
- links to key strategic commercial or charter fishing objectives or research priorities identified in harvest strategies, assists in delivery of Wildlife Trade Operation conditions, aims to mitigate ecological risk assessment risks or links to the *Charter fishing industry opportunities plan* or *Charter fishing action plan*.
- whether the project is technically sound and the expertise and capability of the applicant/s to deliver the project or activity.

Submission of an application does not guarantee funding.

Other factors that may increase your chance of success include:

- the geographical location of the grant project, to ensure benefit is delivered across the state.
- the total amount of funding requested, with projects requesting \$50 000 or less prioritised, to ensure benefit is maximised across the state.

## 6 Assessment process

Applications will be assessed by an assessment panel against these guidelines and assessment criteria to ensure that funding and benefit is delivered statewide.

The assessment panel will include members from the department and agreed partner government agencies. The assessment panel will declare any conflicts of interest. If a conflict of interest exists, the relevant member of the panel will abstain from participating in the assessment of the project application in question.

The assessment panel will make a recommendation to the Deputy Director-General, Fisheries and Forestry, for consideration and endorsement for funding. Following this, the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities will announce the successful applicants and the department will progress payments. The name and project of successful grant recipients will also be published on the departmental website.

## 7 Other requirements and considerations

The applicant/project should:

- address and meet the eligibility criteria.
- consider the assessment criteria and provide evidence of a clear benefit to the commercial fishing or charter fishing industry.
- ensure a co-contribution of at least 25% of the total project cost.

Successful applicants must:

- ensure the outcomes of the project are shared publicly.
- ensure that specifications of any gear or bycatch reduction device trialled are made publicly available, and any products developed using grant funding are not commercialised.

## 8 How to apply

An expression-of-interest process will be open for a six week period.

Applications will only be accepted through the online form available at [daf.smartygrants.com.au](http://daf.smartygrants.com.au).

Fisheries Queensland may, at its discretion, extend the application period on a case-by-case basis.

For assistance completing your application, email [fisheriesgrants@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:fisheriesgrants@daf.qld.gov.au) and an officer will contact you to discuss your application.

## 9 Successful applicants

Successful applicants will enter into an agreement to enable grant funds to be dispersed and projects to commence. All successful applicants will need to work with Fisheries Queensland to:

- enter into a formal Queensland Commercial and Charter Fishing Grant Agreement.
- submit written reports on completed milestones and submit invoices as a condition of receiving funding under the agreement.
- submit a final report on the project within 60 days of completing the project.
- acknowledge the Queensland Commercial and Charter Fishing Grant in project publications, signage and online marketing materials.

## 10 Annual report

Fisheries Queensland will prepare an annual report outlining how the Queensland Commercial and Charter Fishing Grants funding was spent.