

A decorative graphic featuring several stylized fish swimming in a wavy pattern, rendered in a light blue color against a darker blue background.

# Guideline for Queensland's Commercial and Charter Fishing Grant Program

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**Queensland  
Government**

“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 04/08/21 to ensure actions and decisions under this policy can be made in a way that is compatible with human rights.”

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# 1 About Queensland's Commercial and Charter Fishing Grants Program

## Purpose

Queensland's Commercial and Charter Fishing Grants Program (the Program) aims to promote behaviour change and industry modernisation for the commercial fishing and charter fishing industries in Queensland, by supporting behaviour change and innovation.

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

## Funding limit

\$250,000 funding is available each year.

**Outcome announcement:** It is anticipated successful applicants will be announced before the end of the 2021 calendar year.

**Grant delivery:** Grant projects must be delivered and acquitted within a 12-month period following approval. Successful applicants must be able to meet this requirement.

## 2 Background

Each year 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.

The commercial fishing industry contributed \$413M<sup>1</sup> in Gross State Product to Queensland during the 2018/19 financial year and provided almost 4000 jobs<sup>1</sup> (full time equivalent jobs, direct and flow-on). It also provides Queenslanders with fresh, local and sustainable seafood. The charter fishing industry had an estimated 120,000 client days in 2018-19<sup>2</sup>, and is estimated to have contributed \$33M<sup>2</sup> in Gross State Product.

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

<sup>1</sup> *Summary Economic and Social Indicators for Queensland's Commercial Fisheries, 2017/18 and 2018/19*

<sup>2</sup> *Economic and Social Indicators for the Queensland Charter Fishery, 2017/18 and 2018/19*

## 3 Criteria and requirements

### Applicant Eligibility

The Program is open to licensed commercial fishers, charter fishers, industry groups, peak bodies, universities, councils, statutory bodies, government agencies, incorporated bodies and associations in Queensland.

Funding applications must serve the purpose of researching or promoting behaviour change, industry modernisation, BMP and/or innovation. The project or activity must deliver a demonstrable public benefit to commercial and/or charter fisheries in Queensland.

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 of the project or activity. 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. Organisation 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. Examples of projects are included below, but are not limited to these examples.

| Criterion   | Project examples   |
|---|--|
| Trialling alternative gear, innovation and industry modernisation | Trialling new bycatch reduction devices (BRDs), developing and testing new fishing gear for improved efficiency, trialling of 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 BMP, developing training programs or videos for industry                       |
| Promotion and industry-led campaigns                              | Promoting Queensland sustainable seafood, commercial fisher mental health and well-being   |

In addition to meeting the broad criteria outlined above, the Queensland Government may prioritise applications that:

- compliment [Queensland's monitoring and research priorities](#); and/or
- fill information gaps on priorities identified in [fishery harvest strategies](#); and/or
- will assist in meeting fishery [Wildlife Trade Operation \(WTO\) conditions](#); and/or
- address high or medium risk components of [Ecological Risk Assessments \(ERAs\)](#); and/or
- link to the [Charter Fishing Industry Opportunities Plan](#) or [Charter Fishing Action Plan](#).

## **Out of scope projects and activities**

The 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 (DAF).

## **5 Assessment criteria**

An assessment panel, appointed by DAF, 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
- The links to key strategic commercial or charter fishing objectives or research priorities identified in harvest strategies; assists in delivery of WTO conditions; aims to mitigate ERA 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.

### **Other factors that may increase your chance of success**

- The geographical location of the grant project to ensure benefit is delivered across the state. In making recommendations on projects to fund, the assessment panel will ensure funding is distributed state-wide to provide, as far as possible, opportunities for all communities in Queensland.
- The total amount of funding requested, with projects requesting \$50,000 or less prioritised, to ensure benefit is maximised across the state.

## **6 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 industries
- Ensure a co-contribution of at least 25% of total project cost

### **Responsibility of successful applicants:**

- Ensure that the outcomes of the project are shared publicly
- Ensure that specifications of any gear or BRD trialled are made publicly available and any products developed using grant funding are not commercialised.

## **7 Deciding how grant funds are spent**

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

The assessment panel will include members from DAF and agreed partner government agencies. The assessment panel will declare any conflicts of interest. Where 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 Queensland Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities will announce successful applicants and DAF will progress payments.

## **8 How to apply**

An expression of interest process will be for four weeks.

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

Late submissions will not be accepted.

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

## **9 Successful applicants**

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

1. Enter into a formal “Queensland’s Commercial and Charter Fishing Grant Agreement” (the Agreement)
2. Submit written reports on completed milestones and submit invoices as a condition of receiving funding under the Agreement
3. Submit a final report on the project within 60 days of completing the project; and
4. Acknowledge Queensland’s Commercial and Charter Fishing Grant in project publications, signage and any online marketing materials.

## **10 Annual report**

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