SFP Bycatch Solutions Hub Project Request

*Please contact SFP Bycatch Solutions Hub Coordinator for any questions/assistance developing a project request.

The Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Bycatch Solutions Hub (BSH) is seeking detailed proposals from fisheries organizations/associations, seafood suppliers, and NGOs that work directly with fishers to decrease fishery impacts on endangered, threatened, and protected taxa (marine mammals, sea turtles, seabirds, sharks/rays) within their fishery.

At BSH, we understand that there are many different ways to address bycatch such as increased observer/electronic monitoring, best practice training, gear modifications, gear changes, or even fishing method transitions. We do not prioritize projects to any one in particular, but accept proposals for each.

Directions

1. Begin by filling out the requested information on the project request form (next page).
2. Attach the project description.
3. Once received, the project will undergo a vetting process.
4. After accepted, SFP and the applicant organization will clarify organizational responsibilities which will be added to the work plan.
5. Project request and work plan are posted on the Bycatch Solutions Hub.

Project Requirements

1. Organized within a fisheries association or represented by an established organization (NGO, FIP, seafood supplier, etc.).
2. Identifies project lead.
3. Addresses bycatch risks using proven mitigation methods, includes new technologies that have been successfully trialed.
4. Demonstrates a strategy for long-term implementation.
5. Provides detailed work plan.
6. Potential Matching Funds.
7. Documents clear compliance tracking method.

Bycatch Solutions Hub Project Request Form

1. Applicant Organization Name (Fisheries Association, NGO, FIP, etc.):

2. Project Lead Name (Individual Applying for the Organization):

3. Country Registered:

4. Fishery Location (Ocean Basin, Country EEZ, et.):

5. Fishery Type (Longline, Purse Seine, Trawler, etc.):

6. Target Species:

7. Bycatch Taxa Impacted (Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, Seabirds, Sharks/Rays):

Project Description (see example below):

Background (maximum 150 words):

In a paragraph or two, provide a short description of the current bycatch interaction within the specific fishery and the mitigation method proposed to address that challenge. Be specific about the current level of fishing effort for the organization/fisheries group. How many boats, trips per boat, gear sets per trip were there in the last two years. Include details about the gear used: longline or net size, number of hooks per set or pots/traps per trawl. (For example, small cetacean entanglement in gillnets so proposed installation of acoustic pingers in nets.)

Project Plan (maximum 200 words):

Describe in detail the project plan. This should include specifics about the methods that will be used to reduce bycatch in the fishery (gear modifications, training for captain and crews, monitoring, etc.). Please provide detailed information about the plan and needs for implementation (for example, 10,000 hook shielding devices with one to be deployed on every other hook or 1000 acoustic pingers needed in order to attach one every 20 meters across a fleet of 5 vessels, etc.). Be detailed in this section.

Project Timeline (100 words):

Include a prospective timeline for the project.

- Estimated time needed to implement the bycatch risk reduction method?
- During the first season or 6-months, how many units/trainings will be added/conducted? How many during the first year?
- What is the total timeline until the mitigation methods have been fully implemented and work plan complete?

Budget:

Please provide a written budget for the equipment needed. Include installation and operational costs if any are expected. Please include if there are any matching funds or in-kind donations included in this project.

For assistance developing a detailed cost estimate contact the SFP Bycatch Solutions Hub Coordinator.

Project Description Example

The eastern Pacific pelagic longline fishery includes yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) and mahi mahi (*Coryphaena hippurus*) both in Costa Rica, Ecuador and Panama as well as swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) in Costa Rica. The fishery association is already implementing circle hooks, monofilament leaders, and different bait types to reduce bycatch, but they do not have electronic monitoring (EM) in place to collect data on the effectiveness of those mitigation practices. There is also a general lack of data collection in the region to clearly understand the types (species) and amounts of ETP bycatch interactions in the fishery.

The fishery association will implement EM on 5 vessels for 1 year. The EM will confirm that vessels are utilizing best practices to reduce bycatch of sharks and sea turtles, and will provide an opportunity to capture data on the frequency and locations of interactions, the result of the interactions (released alive, retained, mortality) as well as more specific data on the species of sharks and sea turtles. Instead of just focusing on the mahi season, this will be a year-round effort. These vessels fish for different species year-round, and having the EM onboard all year will give us a better sense of their bycatch challenges. (A 12-month contract with the EM manufacturers and data analyst also reduces costs.)

Installation and on-vessel training are estimated to be completed one month after delivery of the EM systems. After the first year, an additional two years of monitoring and analysis will be conducted with matching funds by the fishery association. The fishery association commits to continued use of electronic monitoring systems for an additional 3 years but with a minimum of EM review decreased to 50% of footage, paid by the fishery association.

Budget Example

Cost Specifics

Camera = $235/month/vessel (hardware and software included) total - $2,820

Data analysis = $2,450/vessel/year

We recommend 100% of footage is reviewed this first year. Data analysis is $35/set so this uses estimates of the number of trips/sets/year of 70 set/year)

Training = $5,000/vessel/year

Budget Summary

EM/camera - $2,820 ($235/vessel/month) x 5 = $14,100

On-Vessel Training - $2,500 x 5 = $12,500

Data analysis (year 1) - $2,450 x 5 = $12,250

Data analysis (year 2 matched) - $12,250/2 = $6,125

Data analysis (year 3 matched) - $12,250/2 = $6,125

Total Requested: $51,100
Match Committed: $12,250