



The Consortium for Wildlife Bycatch Reduction, in collaboration with Ocean Associates, Inc., and with funding from Broadreach, is pleased to announce the availability of grants for reducing marine bycatch.

The kinds of projects eligible for support are ones that assess bycatch or evaluate potential strategies to reduce it, including field tests of modified fishing gear or operations. All projects should help build capacity in small-scale fisheries, particularly ones in developing countries. The rationale for focusing on these fisheries is that they often produce high bycatch of protected, endangered and threatened (PET) species but tend to have limited financial resources for supporting their management, while also lacking the political will to confront the problem. In contrast, fisheries in developed countries tend to provide more resources for better management and from more developed government infrastructure, such as sufficient regulations and management capacity. Under this funding opportunity, projects that occur in developed countries or large-scale fisheries are unlikely to receive support but might be awarded if they have potentially major application to small-scale fisheries.

Projects can focus on any or a mix of these taxa: Elasmobranchs, sea birds, marine mammals, sea turtles and other marine animals. Encouraged are lines of inquiry into the potential to enhance visual detection of fishing gear/operations, demonstrate the potential of electro-magnetic deterrents, evaluate alternative fishing gear (“gear switching”) that might produce less bycatch than gear standardly used in a fishery, or support tests of acoustic and other technologies. The due date for all application materials is **August 15, 2025**. Although projects that assess bycatch where none or only a few sporadic ones have occurred are important and eligible under the current competition, preference will be given to bycatch mitigation projects.

Over the long term, in addition to helping the recovery of PET species, the ultimate impact of these grants is to contribute to building local capacity for establishing sustainable bycatch programs.

\$50,000 will be awarded to one or at most three projects under this grant program. The criteria to be used in evaluating proposals will be similar to those used for the Fund for Marine Mammal Bycatch Solutions which considered the degree of threat to the PET species targeted by the proposed project, how well documented the type of fishing gear as a risk to the targeted by-caught species, whether or not the investigators plan to collaborate with and share their results with government authorities who have jurisdiction over fisheries management and marine mammal bycatch, if the researcher has the overall qualifications and experience in the proposed area and is capable of successfully completing the proposed research, if the project has the potential to positively impact other fisheries or nations in the region, if it uses acceptable scientific methods (e.g. experiment is of sufficient size to yield reliable scientific results), has the necessary controls, and whether or not the proposed work has a high probability of success. Applications that focus on fisheries that export product to the U.S. are also a priority. (See NOAA’s [List of Foreign Fisheries](#)).

Application form: Applicants must use this application form and provide the information requested:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1lAYRFGSIPGMncOEaKmEdcU28X4QIjFi8Y03RIEyHWNY/edit> . Applicants requiring assistance should contact the Bycatch Consortium at

bycatchdotorg@gmail.com.