

NOAA's Atlantic Salmon Conservation Grants



Background

Atlantic salmon populations were once historically abundant throughout New England's major rivers. As a result of dam construction, pollution, over-harvest, and other impacts through the last two centuries, Atlantic salmon populations have declined precipitously. Aggressive efforts to recover the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment and restore populations in Southern New England are necessary to prevent the extinction of the species in the United States. To address these needs, NOAA is soliciting proposals through a new Atlantic salmon conservation grants initiative.



Geographic Priority

Priority will be given to proposals within the geographic range of the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment of Atlantic Salmon (GOM DPS), from the Androscoggin River northward to the Dennys (described in the 2006 Status Review for Anadromous Atlantic salmon at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/statusreviews/atlanticsalmon.pdf>). NOAA will also consider projects which seek to restore or protect potential Atlantic salmon habitat in Maine outside of the range of the GOM DPS or in three other river systems in New England (Connecticut, Wood-Pawcatuck, and Merrimack Rivers), and activities in these locations which could improve habitat for other diadromous fish species populations that confer benefits to Atlantic salmon.

Project Types

Project types may include, but are not limited to:

- removal of fish passage barriers that limit access to upstream spawning grounds or downstream migration;
- riparian restoration;
- in-stream restoration to improve stream habitat complexity;
- restoration of ecosystem functions; and
- restoration of habitat for other diadromous fish communities which confer ecological benefits to Atlantic salmon.

Though the priority of the solicitation is to provide funding for implementation of on-the-ground projects, consideration will also be given to:

- assessment and monitoring activities within the geographic range of the GOM DPS, to address key information gaps and resolve uncertainties associated with project implementation or priorities;
- land acquisition and easement costs that are directly associated with on-the-ground habitat restoration projects which benefit Atlantic salmon populations; and
- a combination of activities, such as project design, engineering services, permitting, construction, oversight, monitoring, and education and outreach, which support an on-the-ground project.



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Projects within the watersheds of the rivers shown on the map above are eligible for funding through this competition. Priority will be given to those projects within the range of the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment (highlighted in green).

Full Competition Information

The information provided above is intended to supplement, not replace, the instructions provided in the Federal Funding Opportunity. To view the official funding announcement, see the Federal Register Notice published on July 11, 2008 or find the announcement on Grants.gov by clicking on "Find Grant Opportunities" then "Basic Search." Enter "Atlantic Salmon" in the keyword search and "11.463" as the CFDA number.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, other non-profits, industry and commercial organizations, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, international organizations, and state, local and Indian tribal governments. Applications from federal agencies or employees of federal agencies will not be considered.

Funding

Typical project award requests should range from \$50,000 to \$250,000; proposals requesting less than \$30,000 or more than \$500,000 will not be accepted under this solicitation. Funding of up to \$2,500,000 is expected to be available for the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Grants in FY 2009, contingent upon Congressional appropriations.

Match

Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate a 1:1 non-federal match for NOAA funds requested to conduct the proposed project, but applications with limited or no match will be considered.

Contacts

For general inquiries and questions on the application process, contact Cathy Bozek or Craig Woolcott (301-713-0174, cathy.bozek@noaa.gov, craig.woolcott@noaa.gov)

For questions on regional priorities and guidance on techniques and monitoring protocols, contact NOAA regional representatives:

Maine: Eric Hutchins (978-281-9313, eric.hutchins@noaa.gov) or Rory Saunders (207-866-4049, rory.saunders@noaa.gov)

Merrimack River watershed: Eric Hutchins (see above)

Wood-Pawcatuck River and Connecticut River watersheds: Lisa Cavallaro (401-782-3281, lisa.cavallaro@noaa.gov)