

FY2024-25 Aquaculture Supplemental Funding Details

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As in previous omnibus cycles, NSGO plans to support local aquaculture priorities through Aquaculture Supplemental Funding in the FY 2024-25 Omnibus cycle. Pending federal appropriations, approximately \$5 million has been budgeted to support this investment over the two years. Programs will be eligible for supplemental projects at a level up to 50% of their Omnibus commitment in aquaculture for the FY 2024-25 cycle. Supplemental applications will be capped such that any one program can receive no more than \$400,000 (~8% of pool) of the total pool of funds available. The new funding and capped amounts are based on previous supplemental funding award cycles, as well as feedback from programs, to ensure we can maximize our investment while maintaining equity across programs.

Aquaculture supplemental funding will be based on the approved letters of intent (LOI) from each program's 2024-25 omnibus RFP. Programs will work with their assigned NSGO Aquaculture Manager and Program Officer to identify research projects that have a strong focus on aquaculture. For most, these are expected to be projects fully-focused on aquaculture, although there may be some projects that, for example, have dual aquaculture, restoration, and wild-catch fishery elements. The calculation used to determine total funding will be based on the proportion of the selected projects budget dedicated to aquaculture.

Timeline and Process: All approved omnibus RFP LOIs received by the Omnibus deadline will be eligible for consideration for aquaculture supplemental funding. Using the approved LOIs, the NSGO will calculate the amount of supplemental aquaculture funding for which each program qualifies. The NSGO anticipates being able to inform each program of their allocation and provide proposal deadline(s) and submission guidance in mid-November 2023.

NSGO Priorities for Aquaculture Supplemental Funds: It is a priority for the NSGO that these funds be committed to continue aquaculture activities begun with previous aquaculture supplemental awards (FY20-21 or FY22-23) or to support new aquaculture activities that build aquaculture capacity within the applicant's program. These funds are not intended to replace other support for staff so that those funds might be used for non-aquaculture activities, nor to fund your program's selected omnibus RFP proposals.

Funds may be directed to a range of possible activities including, for example, one or more non-funded aquaculture proposals from the most recent RFP cycle that were highly rated; aquaculture extension, education, or communication activities; a joint regional aquaculture research competition; a joint regional (or topical) aquaculture extension position; competitive exploratory aquaculture Program Development funds; and to support existing staff to expand their aquaculture activities. Engagement with, and support of project activities through partnerships with HBCU, MSI, HSI, and Tribal entities is encouraged.