



PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY TREATY BETWEEN CANADA
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
MARCH 18, 1985

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Northern Fund: Call for Proposals for the 2026 Project Year

The Northern Fund Committee (NFC) hereby issues its 2026 Call for Proposals for projects which are consistent with, and necessary for, the implementation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST).

Private, non-profit, and public sector applicants are eligible and encouraged to apply. Ongoing projects and individual proponents that have received support from the Northern Fund in previous years will receive priority consideration and must be in good standing to be eligible for further support¹.

The NFC emphasizes that priority will be placed on projects that concern stocks and/or fisheries that are located and operate within the Northern Fund's geographic area. This area is from Cape Suckling, Alaska in the north, to Cape Caution, British Columbia in the south (which encompasses southeast Alaska, northern and central British Columbia and the drainages of the Alsek, Taku, and Stikine Rivers). Funding will not be provided to projects that propose activities physically located outside this area or which concern stocks and/or fisheries outside this area.

Proponents are strongly advised to consider the relevance of their proposed project outcomes to the Northern Fund's goals and objectives. The NFC's review of project proposals will also be guided by the recommendations and objectives set out within the Pacific Salmon Commission's [Transboundary Panel Strategic Salmon Plan](#) and the [Northern Panel Strategic Salmon Plan](#)².

With this initial call comes a short Project Concept application. This must be completed by interested parties by **11:59PM (Pacific Daylight Time) on Thursday, August 28, 2025**, and submitted online via the grantee portal [submission form](#).

During this preliminary phase, the NFC is soliciting ideas and concepts only, not fully detailed formal project proposals.

¹ Stage 1 applications will not be considered if (a) the application is for an ongoing project and there are overdue reports associated with the project when the stage 1 application deadline passes, or (b) the lead proponent has previously received support for any project from the Northern Fund and there are outstanding reports associated with those projects when the stage 1 application deadline passes.

² <https://www.psc.org/download/43/transboundary-technical-committee/12854/tctr-19-4.pdf>
<https://www.psc.org/download/42/northern-boundary-technical-committee/14136/tcnb-21-01.pdf>

The NFC will meet in October 2025 to review eligible Project Concept submissions. Following this the NFC will initiate the second stage of this process by requesting Detailed Proposals for their chosen shortlist of projects. Proponents invited to move to the second stage will have approximately one month to submit final, detailed applications. These will be subject to a technical review and the NFC will make its final funding decisions in February 2026.

The following information is to assist proponents in preparing Project Concepts for the first stage review.

What proposals will be considered?

The NFC operates within the mandate established for it in the 1999 Agreement between Canada and the United States under the PST. The mandate states that the Northern Fund shall be employed as a long-term and stable monetary base that supports projects that assist stocks and fisheries covered under the PST.

As income from investments cannot be assured, the actual amount available for projects in 2026 will depend on Fund performance. Due to recent fluctuations in investments, the amount available for projects in 2026 may be lower than in previous years. In 2026 the proceeds from the Northern Fund shall be used to support the following types of activities:

- Development of improved information for resource management, including better stock assessment, data acquisition and improved scientific understanding of limiting factors affecting salmon production in the freshwater and marine environments;
- Rehabilitation and restoration of marine and freshwater fish habitat, and improvement of habitat to enhance productivity and protection of Pacific salmon; and
- Enhancement of wild stock production through low technology techniques rather than through large facilities with high operating costs.

The NFCs review of project proposals will also be guided by the recommendations and objectives set out within the Pacific Salmon Commission's Transboundary Panel Strategic Salmon Plan and the Northern Panel Strategic Plan.

Goals of the Northern Fund

Goal 1

Development of improved information for resource management, including better stock assessment, data acquisition and improved scientific understanding of limiting factors affecting salmon production in the freshwater and marine environments.

This goal recognizes the need to obtain accurate annual estimates of catches and escapements for stocks that are crucial to the agreed regimes. Such information is required to determine maximum sustained yield (MSY) escapement goals, forecast annual runs, and

manage the runs to fulfil the terms of the negotiated regimes. It also incorporates the need for better understanding of the factors that determine the annual abundance of the stocks and for development of reliable techniques that accurately assess annual abundance in-season. Acquisition of basic scientific information for salmon populations not directly referenced in the agreed regimes may be appropriate on a case-by-case basis.

*Under **Goal 1**, the NFC encourages potential projects that involve data collection, stock assessment, and research concerning fisheries and stocks in the Northern Fund's geographic area. In particular the NFC encourages projects involving:*

- a) Catch accounting including both stock identification and harvest enumeration, or*
- b) Escapement enumeration of stocks harvested in fisheries of both nations; data needed to estimate optimal escapement, or*
- c) Baseline data necessary to forecast returns and determine fishery stock composition for stocks originating in rivers in the geographic area and harvested in the fisheries of both nations, or*
- d) Development and/or implementation of techniques to improve stock identification and forecasting, or*
- e) Improvements to data systems that provide timely and consistent information on stock assessment and harvests, including bilateral data system integration, or*
- f) Projects that improve understanding of production potential, rearing and early ocean survival and limiting factors especially for stocks of interest, or*
- g) Integrated planning exercises that will assist in directing restoration and enhancement efforts for stocks of interest.*

Goal 2

Rehabilitation and restoration of marine and freshwater fish habitat, and improvement of habitat to enhance (*improve*) productivity and protection of Pacific salmon.

The primary objective of this goal is to focus on increasing the abundance of fish stocks by opening freshwater habitat to salmon spawning and rearing. In specific instances, it will be possible and appropriate to rehabilitate previously productive habitat that has been degraded as a result of human or natural activity. It is likely that acquisition of relevant scientific information will be required to guide decision-making and evaluation. The NFC believes that large-scale habitat rehabilitation, habitat monitoring, habitat protection and land acquisition are more appropriately addressed by other agencies and organizations.

*Under **Goal 2**, the NFC encourages potential projects that involve the rehabilitation and restoration of freshwater and/or marine salmon habitats and/or the improvement of existing natural salmon habitats in the Northern Fund's geographic area to enhance and protect Pacific salmon. In particular the NFC encourages projects that:*

- a) Have the potential to increase wild fish production,*

- b) Provide new habitat for salmon spawning and rearing,*
- c) Restore or rehabilitate historical or existing salmon habitat that has been degraded by human or natural cause,*
- d) Assess previous habitat restoration initiatives as to effectiveness over the long term,*
- e) Improve understanding and management of fish habitat,*
- f) Develop plans that will assist in directing restoration efforts for stocks of interest.*

Goal 3

Enhancement of wild stock production through low technology techniques rather than through construction of large facilities with high operating costs. This includes acceptable refinements to existing enhancement facilities that will increase the productivity of those facilities.

This goal recognizes the desire to enhance salmon populations where specific wild stocks are at levels well below their potential and where opportunities exist to generate returns that will contribute to fisheries without compromising wild stocks. The intention is to increase total salmon production in the region by developing strategic opportunities that are financially viable over the long term but that do not create long term operational obligations for the Fund.

Proposed enhancement projects must comply with applicable enhancement policies of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, and the Government of Yukon as appropriate.

*Under **Goal 3**, the NFC encourages potential projects that involve salmon enhancement in the Northern Fund's geographic area. In particular the NFC encourages projects involving:*

- a) Development and/or implementation of innovative approaches to low-technology enhancement of wild stock, including exploration of new methods for salmon mark and recapture or other techniques that would allow the census of salmon populations in remote areas, or*
- b) Enhancing habitat to supplement natural production, such as construction of spawning channels, or*
- c) Projects to operate and evaluate effectiveness of small-scale hatchery program, or*
- d) Creating access for sockeye and coho to, or planting sockeye or coho into, lakes, or*
- e) Assessment of marine and freshwater enhancement potential, or*
- f) Assess previous enhancement initiatives as to cost benefits, impacts on wild stocks and effectiveness over the long term.*

Review Criteria

All proposals will be subject to review by the NFC process. In general, successful proposals will be those determined by the NFC to be consistent with the uses for which the fund may be expended and offering the greatest benefit in relation to the associated costs.

Successful proposals will demonstrate:

- 1) A clear connection between the proposals' intended outcome and the purposes and objectives of the PST.
- 2) A description of how and when information or data analysis generated by the project will be made available to both Parties to the PST.
- 3) Evidence of a bilateral commitment to achieve project goals.
- 4) The technical merits of the proposal through:
 - Understanding of the problem.
 - Soundness of the technical approach.
 - Feasibility of the methods proposed.
 - Innovation and uniqueness of the proposal.
- 5) The proponent's capabilities, experience, and record of past performance, as well as the experience and qualifications of key personnel. Also, the extent to which outside partners and collaborators integral to the proposal's success are available to support the proposal.
- 6) A description of the benefits gained from successful completion of the project. Projects that offer long-term benefits will receive favourable consideration.
- 7) The cost effectiveness of the proposal including the balance between project costs associated with labour and site costs as opposed to administration and overhead costs, and the extent to which other sources of funds may be leveraged in support of the proposal.

Deadlines

Project Concepts must be submitted online through the grantee portal [submission form](#) and received **by 11:59PM (Pacific Daylight Time) on Thursday August 28, 2025.**

Contact Information

Questions should be directed to the Grant Program Manager, Sascha Bendt or the Program Assistant, Victor Keong, via email at funds@psc.org or via phone at (604) 684-8081.