



Morro Bay Community Quota Fund (MBCQF) Research Fund:  
2022 Request for Proposals  
**DRAFT for public review and comment**

**Proposal Due Date: February 28, 2023, by 11:59 PM PST**

## **Overview**

The Morro Bay Community Quota Fund (MBCQF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation with a mission to develop and enhance an economically and environmentally sustainable Central Coast fishery built upon local stewardship and management of marine resources and secured fishing rights anchored in the community. Each year, MBCQF leases groundfish quotas and permits to fishermen, offering prioritized leasing to fishermen who land in Morro Bay and Port San Luis. The MBCQF allocates a portion of its annual lease revenues to a Research Fund aimed at improving the environmental and economic performance of fisheries and supporting area-based management on the Central Coast. This solicitation is for proposals for the MBCQF Research Fund. The Research Fund has a current balance of approximately \$140,000. This has accumulated over several years. We anticipate considering awards every two years of up to \$90,000 per cycle depending upon the merits of the proposals received.

For more information about MBCQ, visit: <https://www.morrobaycommunityquotafund.org/>

## **Research Priorities**

Proposals submitted to the MBCQF Research Fund must be aligned with the MBCQF mission, must address needs relevant to the fishing communities of Morro Bay and Port San Luis, and must be aligned with one or more of the following program priorities:

- Opportunities to increase fishing activity on the Central Coast from Morro Bay and/or Port San Luis harbors, consistent with responsible marine stewardship
- Strategies to increase markets for seafood landed in Morro Bay and/or Port San Luis.
- Other timely projects that impact the environmental and economic performance of Central Coast fisheries

For some illustrations of potential priority research topic areas, see MBCQF bylaw section 1.02.C.3 quoted at the end of the RFP.

Research projects will be more competitive if they have the following attributes:

- High potential for positive impacts on the fishing communities of Morro Bay and Port San Luis.

- Involvement of members of the fishing community and/or “citizen scientists” in a collaborative role with the researchers.

## **Geographic Focus**

While research activities may occur throughout California or the United States, MBCQF will only consider proposals that are relevant and applicable to the fishing communities of Morro Bay and Port San Luis.

## **Eligibility**

Eligible applicants include nonprofit 501(c) organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Indian tribes, educational institutions, fishermen, and businesses. Individuals not part of an organization need to partner with an incorporated organization.

**Exclusions** - Grant funds cannot be used for the following types of activities:

- Fundraising campaigns or fundraising events.
- Payment of debt or legal settlements.
- Political or partisan purposes.
- Activities that are non-secular or promote a religious doctrine.
- Expenses incurred prior to the grant award date.

## **Duration of Grant**

MBCQF will award grants for a maximum period of 24-months, but shorter-term projects are welcomed. Application of the grant funds will be for expenditures no earlier than April 15, 2023, and no later than April 15, 2024 (unless the proposal extends over more than one year).

## **Proposal Format**

A written proposal should include the following sections:

1. A Project Narrative (5-page limit) with the following details:
  - Name of organization, title of project, and principal Investigator(s) with contact information.
  - The problem(s) being addressed by the research.
  - The relevance of the research to the MBCQF Research Fund priorities and the Morro Bay and Port San Luis fishing communities.
  - Clear statement of objectives.
  - Description of methodology.
  - Anticipated results and outcomes.
  - Plan for disseminating results.

- Any assumptions made or risks anticipated.
2. A budget with costs for personnel, equipment, travel, and other expenditures clearly articulated. Indirect costs of up to 15% are allowed. Be sure to identify the source and amount of any matching contributions. (1-page maximum).
  3. A timeline of activities, milestones, and deliverables (1-page maximum).
  4. Resumes or CVs of key staff and any other supporting materials that demonstrate the ability of the proposer(s) to develop and execute successful projects.

## **Final Deliverables**

For final deliverables, grant recipients agree to the following within 60 days of completing the project:

- Final narrative report summarizing activities completed, outcomes or findings, analysis of data or other deliverables, and implications for the fishing communities of Morro Bay or Port San Luis.
- 1-page financial report describing how grant funds were spent based upon the budget submitted.
- Informational presentation with the MBCQF board, fishermen, managers, and scientists summarizing the results of the research and implications for the fishing communities of Morro Bay and Port San Luis.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

All proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria.

1. Alignment with one or more of the MBCQF Research Fund priorities.
2. Relevancy of the research to the fishing communities of Morro Bay and Port San Luis.
3. Technical Merit (proposal is technically sound and feasible with a clear, logical, and achievable work plan and timeline, and technical experts engaged as appropriate in project planning, design, and implementation).
4. Degree to which the project engages the fishing community and/or “citizen scientists” in design and implementation.
5. Realistic project budget.

## **Other**

Publicity and Acknowledgement of Support - Award recipients will be required to grant MBCQF the right and authority to publicize the project and MBCQF's financial support for the grant in press releases, publications, and other public communications. MBCQF may also ask recipients to provide high-resolution (minimum 300 dpi) photographs depicting the project.

## Receiving Award Funds

MBCQF will send a check to the Recipient Organization within four weeks of approving the grant.

## Timeline

Dates of activities are subject to change.

- RFP released January 31, 2023
- Proposals Due February 28, 2023
- Review Period March 1-31, 2023
- Awards Announced April 7, 2023

## How to Apply

All application materials must be sent electronically by email to the MBCQF at [MBCQFResearchFund@gmail.com](mailto:MBCQFResearchFund@gmail.com).

For more information or questions about this RFP, please contact:

Dwayne Oberhoff, Executive Director  
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Section 1.02.C.3 of MBCQF bylaws defining funding priorities:

“Funding priorities should support Area-based management and improved environmental and economic performance of Central Coast fisheries. Priority research topic areas could include, but are not limited to, improving stock status understanding, bycatch avoidance, habitat impacts, barotrauma, gear innovation, market rewards or certifications, market/product development, and evaluation of effectiveness of management measures (e.g., closures, gear temporal or habitat restrictions etc.). While Central Coast groundfish and communities are a priority, The Science Advisory Committee should retain flexibility to consider funding emerging research issues or research in other geographic areas that affect sustainability of west coast fisheries.”