**2025**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECTS**

for

**THE FOUNDATION FOR CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC SALMON**

Fredericton, NB

September 2024

***Before you proceed:***

* Applications submitted under this specific RFP process must relate to the work of Dr. Jeffrey Hutchings and pertain directly to the topics listed in the Appendix (pg. 10).
* When salmon is mentioned, we are always referring to wild Atlantic salmon.
* When projects are mentioned, we are always referring to applied research projects.

The Foundation for Conservation of Atlantic Salmon (FCAS) is seeking a suitable organization, such as a community group, non-government organization (NGO), university or college, or indigenous organization, to carry out an applied research[[1]](#footnote-2) project that will help contribute to the attainment of healthy and sustainable salmon stocks in Quebec and Atlantic Canada. Applied research projects can be carried out in any province.

**Principles and Guidelines**: The principles and guidelines are intended to frame the nature of the applied research proposal that are being solicited by the FCAS. The greater number of principles and guidelines a proposal addresses, and the extent to which they are addressed, the higher your response to this RFP may be expected to score in a review:

* Clear and direct benefits to salmon conservation: The goal of FCAS applied research funding is to encourage and assist research initiatives that will be of direct benefit to the attainment of healthy and sustainable salmon stocks in Quebec and Atlantic Canada. Consideration will be given to projects that guide and support the "on the ground" conservation work of community groups, indigenous organizations, and other groups.
* Atlantic salmon focus: The principal objective of projects shall be conservation of salmon and salmon habitat.
* Partnership is encouraged: The FCAS is encouraging partnerships among research organizations to undertake valuable projects. The applicant/recipient organization shall be a Canadian organization with a proven track record of directing and managing scientific research projects. In consideration, however, of the fact that salmon applied research topics are frequently international in nature, eligible project proposals are encouraged to seek the active participation and contribution (cash and in-kind) of non-Canadian organizations, as partners in the project.
* Primary Publication requirement: Each applied research project that is selected shall result in publication of at least one peer-reviewed publication in the primary scientific literature within an agreed upon period of time.

**Proposal Information**:

A multi-year project submission is permitted, so the FCAS is prepared to support an applied research project spanning up to 3 years. Proponents should, therefore, specify the total project cost and the number of years to carry-out the project, with an estimated annual budget for each year. A minimum proponent contribution of 33 percent in cash or in-kind is required for each project submission. Submissions for individual projects should not be less than $5,000 per year nor exceed a maximum of $50,000 per year.

Proposals may be accepted with conditions of approval. The acceptability of proposals is at the discretion of the FCAS, and the FCAS reserves the right to accept/reject proposals for any reason and reserves the right to nullify this RFP at any time and for any reason. All applicants will be notified if their proposal is selected for implementation, or not.

The attached proposal submission form contains all the information to be included in an applied research proposal submission. To be considered, a proposal shall provide all the requested information as completely and succinctly as possible, as well as be cost-effective and deemed to be a suitable response to this RFP process by the FCAS.

The information submitted in this proposal form shall be the sole information on which a decision on the award of a grant to the proposed applied research project may be made. The estimated expenditures will also be used to assess the proposal, so for this reason estimated ascribed values should be as realistic as possible, based on the requested information. Please note that the information submitted in your proposal will serve as the basis of developing a funding agreement with your recipient organization, should it be successful.

In completing this proposal form, proponents are asked to respect the word limits specified in each section. In fairness to all proponents, the review of the proposal shall only consider those words up to the initial number of maximum words requested.

The **deadline for submission of proposals** is December 13th, 2024 by 5:00pm (EST).

Should you wish to schedule a meeting to discuss the projects prior to making your submission please contact the program coordinator, via email, at: kristen@salmonconservation.ca.

Sincerely,

 

Charline McCoy

Executive Director

**Applied Research Project Application Form**

**Introduction**:

There are many potential salmon applied research topics in need of funding, both in Canada and internationally. Various forums in Canada and abroad have identified research topics and established priorities for such research. Some of these research topics may be underway among governments, universities and conservation organizations, however, many valuable applied research undertakings beneficial to Canadian salmon populations remain to be initiated.

**NOTE**: In completing this proposal form, proponents are asked to respect the word limits specified in each section. In fairness to all proponents, proposal reviewers shall only consider those words up to the initial maximum words requested.

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|  | **For Office Use Only: ID#** |
| **Project Information** |
| **1. Organization Name:** |
| *(Please provide a copy of the letters patent or registration covering page if you have not applied before)* |
| **2. Project Title:**  |
| **3. Location of Project:**  |
| **4.** **Project Duration**: *(please check one)* [ ]  **One Year** [ ]  **Two years** [ ]  **Three Years (Max.)** |
| **Start Date:** | **End Date:** |  |
| **5. Total grant amount requested from FCAS:** *(Include total $ of all years whether one or multiyear)* | **$** |  |  |
| **Project Contact Information** |
| **6. Project Contact Name:**  |
| **7. Contact E-mail Address:** |
| **8. Postal Address:**  |
| **9. City:**  | **10. Province:**  |
| **11. Postal Code:** | **12.Telephone:**  |
| **Authorized Signatory Information** |
| **13. Authorized Signatory Name:** | **14. Position:**  |
| **15. Authorized Signatory E-Mail Address:** |

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| **IMPORTANT** |
| **Application length and Support materials**Applications should provide a clear and concise overview of the project. The total length of your written application **must not exceed 15 pages** including support materials and budget spreadsheet. Any letters of support must be included with your application package and will **not** be accepted after the deadline has passed. |
| **For more information** on 2025 application requirements (i.e. eligibility, provincial priorities, financial reporting, etc.), please see the **“2025 Eligibility Requirements and Procedures”** document available on the FCAS website at [www.salmonconservation.ca](http://www.salmonconservation.ca). |
| **16. Your Organization's Past Record:** (*Briefly outline the project experience of your organization, including past achievements in conservation action.)* |
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| **Section A Project Details**  |
| **17. Project Description:** *(Use this section to summarize the proposed project and be sure to respond to the following questions below that are relevant to your proposal. (Submit a map with the proposal if relevant.)* |
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| **Please answer all questions as they apply to your project. Please be specific.** |
| 1. Is the project part of a larger salmon conservation and restoration **strategy or plan**? If so, please **identify the specific priorities addressed by this project** and provide link to an online copy of the strategy or plan.
 |
| 1. Please elaborate on how the project will benefit and contribute to the conservation of salmon.
 |
| 1. How does your project meet the Foundation’s **principles and guidelines** identified in the introduction (see page 2 & 3)?
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| 1. Please describe how your project will be **implemented to guide policy and/or management** decisions. Projects should be developed with the intention of knowledge implementation towards practical action.
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| 1. Please describe what is **new, innovative, or cost effective** about your project proposal.
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| 1. Please describe how **grant recognition** will be achieved in your project. Please note that, if there is a failure to acknowledge the Foundation as a contributor to this project, any subsequent application from your organization may not be considered for financial support.
 |
| 1. Please describe how you anticipate your project would result in one or more publications in the primary, peer-reviewed scientific literature, and within what reasonable timeframe.
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| 1. Please describe your past research experience and publication record and explain how your past experience will contribute to addressing and answering the question(s) posed in the Applied Research Topic you intend to address.
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| **Section B Project Methods**  |
| **18. Project objective(s) and outcome(s) Performance measures:** *(Briefly identify each of the project objective(s) and the anticipated outcome(s) for each. State the individual measures by which attainment of each stated objective will be assessed. Please do not exceed* ***500*** *words in total. If you have a multiyear project please state the objectives for each year.) Please add rows as necessary.* |
| **Project Objective(s)** | **Outcome(s)** | **Performance Measures** |
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| **19**. **Project Schedule and Methods***:**(Identify 1, 2, 3, etc.) each individual step to be taken in completing the project, specify tangible deliverables and outputs; outline the time schedule. A chart would be useful for this and can be submitted with the proposal. If you checked multiyear, please show activities for each year.* *If your project is applied scientific research, please provide details of the methodologies that will be used.* |

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| **Section C Partnerships**  |
| **20**. **Partners and Other Funding Sources:***Proposals demonstrating partnership among the eligible groups are very important to the Foundation. In order to be considered a partnership, measurable cash or in-kind contributions are essential.**(Identify* ***all*** *partners involved in the project* ***not including*** *FCAS, being specific as to the respective roles of all partners and what each partner will contribute to the project. Letters of support can be submitted with the proposal). Please add rows as needed.* |
| Organization Name | Type of Group(Gov/Non-Gov) | Description or function of partner | Cash | Value ofIn-kind | Confirmed? |
| Yes | No |
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|  |  | Total | $ | $ |  |  |

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| **Section D Budget Details**  |

Please complete the project budget spreadsheet using the Excel form: *Budget\_2025\_E*. Be sure to identify the match or targeted groups.

1. Provide project budget details in the budget spreadsheet, Parts 1-5. Please ensure that cost estimates are **reasonable and realistic**.
2. If the project is multiyear provide the budget details for the overall budget. An estimated budget for each year must be provided in Part 5.
3. **Part 1: Human Resources and Contractors Costs**: Each line (i.e. category of job/ contractor) in this section should provide the number of people, the hourly rate, the time period and whether Mandatory Employment Related Costs (MERCS) are included. Rates of pay should be in line with accepted industry standards.

Further information is available in the **“2025 Eligibility Requirements and Procedures”** document, available on the FCAS website at [www.salmonconservation.ca](http://www.salmonconservation.ca).

**Appendix**

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About Dr. Jeffrey Hutchings’ Work

Dr. Jeff Hutchings was a highly esteemed fisheries research scientist and long-term member of the Scientific Advisory Committee who sadly passed away in 2022. Dr. Hutchings was an eminent researcher and a defender of science. He was a professor of biology at Dalhousie University and a mentor and inspiration to countless students, as well as an important friend to wild Atlantic salmon.  Many know Jeff for his brilliantly inquisitive mind and his myriad academic achievements: he was the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Chair in Fish, Fisheries, and Oceans at Dalhousie University, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, former Chair of the Committee on Endangered Species and Wildlife in Canada, Fellow of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, past President of the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution as well as winner of the Huntsman Medal for international research excellence and outstanding contributions to marine sciences.

In honour of his significant contributions, as exemplified in his recently published textbook, *"A Primer of Life Histories: Ecology, Evolution, and Application (2021),"* the FCAS is dedicating the 2025 RFP to recognize Dr. Hutchings' enduring legacy in the field of science. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how they build upon Dr. Hutchings' research legacy, which focused on fundamental questions related to Atlantic salmon ecology, evolution, life history, conservation, and management.

Please see the detailed list of key topics which should be referenced to guide proposals.

**Key Topics for Applied Scientific Research**

*Please note: Topics are not in order of priority. Bullets (*🌣*) under each of the key topics below are suggested examples only.*

* How do freshwater ecosystems influence wild Atlantic salmon populations?
	+ What are the causes and the consequences of variable parr and smolt size and/or abundance?
	+ Development of a framework, model, and/or plan of cumulative effects of land use practices (e.g. forestry, agriculture, urbanization, mining, energy development) and other stressors for the protection of Atlantic salmon habitat.
	+ Identify key habitats and risks and recommend specific multi-faceted land-use management practices that protect these features.
* What are the consequences of aquaculture on wild Atlantic salmon in eastern Canada?
* What is the influence of pathogens and parasites on the survival of wild Atlantic salmon?
* What are the consequences of interbreeding between farmed and wild salmon on wild salmon?
* What are the consequences of climate change on wild Atlantic salmon?
* What are the impacts of native, introduced, and invasive species on wild Atlantic salmon?
	+ Pink salmon, striped bass, smallmouth bass, chain pickerel?
* What are the contributions of different life history strategies to overall population viability?
	+ Kelt
	+ Multiple vs. maiden spawner
* What are the effects of freshwater mitigation measures on wild Atlantic salmon?
	+ Does stream restoration and/or barrier removal positively affect wild salmon?
	+ Do stocking and adult supplementation programs improve wild Atlantic salmon populations?
* Modelling wild Atlantic salmon populations.
* Are current management regulations and protocols effective in conserving, sustaining, and/or improving salmon populations?
* Linking research to management decisions and policies.
	+ How can the link between research and policies improve?
	+ How can research results be applied to influence policies?
1. **The FCAS defines** **Applied Research** as research that is practical – i.e. that can be applied to a well-defined problem.  It’s the opposite of pure or theoretical research for which no specific application has been identified. Applied research is systematic in collection and examination of facts involving the practical application of science. Applied research focuses on solving specific problems or answering specific questions.Applied research is field or laboratory study, or analysis of existing information that addresses a well-defined question or tests a specific hypothesis such that there is unique information produced, or confirmatory findings with a strong likelihood that the results could be published in primary scientific literature. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)