**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)**

**for an Applied Research Project**

**2025-26**

***Before you proceed:***

* Applications submitted under this specific RFP process must 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-1) 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 **November 14th, 2025** 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 Projects

**Application Form 2025-26**

**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.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Project ID** *For Office Use Only* |
|  |
| 1. **Project Information**
 |
| **1.1 Organization Name:** |  |
| **1.2 Organization Type:**  | Choose an item. |
| **1.3 Project Title:**  |  |
| **1.4 Research Topic** | Choose an item. |
| **1.5 Geographic Scope:**  | Choose an item. | **1.6 Location:** |  |
| **1.7** **Project Duration**: *(please check one)*  | [ ]  **One Year** [ ]  **Two years** [ ]  **Three Years (Max.)** |
| **Start Date:** | Click or tap to enter a date. | **End Date:** | Click or tap to enter a date. |
| **1.8 Total grant amount requested from FCAS:***(Include total $ of all years whether one or multiyear)* | **$** |  |
| 1. **Contact Information**
 |
| **2.1 Project Contact Name:**  |  | **2.2 Position:** |  |
| **2.3 E-mail Address:** |  |
| **2.4 Postal Address:** |  |
| **2.5 City:**  |  | **2.6 Province:**  |  |
| **2.7 Postal Code:** |  | **2.8 Telephone:**  |  |
| 1. **Authorized Signatory Information**
 |
| **3.1 Authorized Signatory Name:** |  | **3.2 Position:**  |  |
| **3.3 E-mail Address:** |  |
| **3.4 Postal Address:**  |  |
| **3.5 City:**  |  | **3.6 Province:** |  |
| **3.7 Postal Code:** |  | **3.8 Telephone:** |  |
| **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 2026 application requirements (i.e. eligibility, provincial priorities, financial reporting, etc.), please see the **“2026 Eligibility Requirements and Procedures”** document available on the FCAS website at [www.salmonconservation.ca](https://www.salmonconservation.ca/applications/). |
| **4. Project Details** |
| **4.1 Your Organization’s Past Record:** Briefly outline the project experience of your organization, including past achievements in conservation action. *(maximum* ***200*** *words)* |
|  |
| **4.2 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. *(maximum of* ***250*** *words)* |
|  |
| **4.3 Project Research Question:** Clearly state the central research question guiding your proposal. Make sure it's highly focused and concise to ensure a clear scope for your research. *(maximum of* ***50*** *words)* |
|  |
| * 1. **Project Objectives:** 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. If you have a multi-year project, please state the objectives for each year. Please add rows as necessary*.*
 |
| **Objective(s)** | **Outcome(s)** | **Performance Measure(s)** |
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| **4.5 Project Schedule and Methodology:** Please provide details of the methodologies that will be used. (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. *(maximum of* ***500*** *words)* |
|  |
| 1. **Additional Project Details.** *Please answer all questions as they apply to your project. Please be specific.*
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| **6.1** How does theproject contribute to 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. |
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| * 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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| **6.5** Please describe what is **new, innovative, or cost effective** about your project proposal. |
|  |
| * 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.
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| **6.7** 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. |
|  |
| **6.8** 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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| 1. **Partnerships**
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| * 1. **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. Please add rows as needed. *(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).*
 |
| **Organization** | **Gov/Non-Gov** | **Description of partnership** | **Cash** | **Value of In-Kind** | **Confirmed (Yes/No)** |
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| **Total** |  |  |  |
| * 1. **Indigenous Engagement:** Please identify which indigenous nations, organizations, and/or communities are collaborating or have been engaged on this project. Please add rows as needed.
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| **Organization** | **Description of Collaboration** | **Confirmed (Yes/No)** |
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|  |  |  |
| * 1. **Indigenous Collaboration:** Describe how the Indigenous collaborators have been and will be engaged before, during, and after the project is completed.*(maximum of* ***200*** *words)*
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|  |
| 1. **Budget Details**
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| Please complete the project budget spreadsheet using the Excel form: *Budget\_2026\_E*. Be sure to identify the match or targeted groups. Provide project budget details in the budget spreadsheet, Parts 1-5. Please ensure that cost estimates are **reasonable and realistic**. 1. 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.
2. **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 **“2026 Eligibility Requirements and Procedures”** document, available on the FCAS website at [www.salmonconservation.ca](http://www.salmonconservation.ca/applications). |

**Appendix**



*In memory of Peter Joseph Cronin*

A long-term member of the Scientific Advisory Committee, Peter worked for nearly 38 years with the Province of New Brunswick, most of it as a Fisheries Biologist. He enjoyed working on the rivers, lakes and streams of the province managing the resident fish species and their habitats including developing and enhancing cold-water and warm water recreational fisheries that they supported. He has been a voice for Atlantic Salmon for many years by contributing to NASCO, FCAS, NBSC and others.

The 2026 research priorities reflect the values and vision championed by Peter Cronin throughout his nearly four decades of work in New Brunswick and beyond. As a lifelong advocate for habitat stewardship, ecosystem-based management, and applied fisheries science, Peter believed in solutions grounded in field-based knowledge, collaboration, and long-term thinking. These priorities uphold his commitment to understanding cold- and warm-water ecosystems, protecting wild Atlantic salmon, and informing practical, place-based management rooted in science. They seek to carry forward his legacy by supporting research that is not only rigorous, but deeply connected to the rivers, species, and communities he cared for.

 **Key Topics for Applied Scientific Research**

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

1. **How do freshwater ecosystems influence wild Atlantic salmon populations?**
	1. What are the causes and the consequences of variable parr and smolt size and/or abundance?
	2. 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.
	3. Identify key habitats and risks and recommend specific multi-faceted land-use management practices that protect these features.
	4. Identify the impact of a rapid and severe reduction in egg deposition on short-term population dynamics.
	5. What are the effects of freshwater mitigation measures on wild Atlantic salmon?
2. **What are the consequences of aquaculture on wild Atlantic salmon in eastern Canada?**
3. What is the influence of pathogens and parasites on the survival of wild Atlantic salmon?
4. What are the consequences of interbreeding between farmed and wild salmon on wild salmon?
5. **What are the consequences of climate change on wild Atlantic salmon?**
6. **What are the impacts of native, introduced, and invasive species on wild Atlantic salmon?**
	1. Pink salmon, striped bass, smallmouth bass, chain pickerel?
	2. How do interactions with other species, both native and introduced, influence salmon growth and predation risk?
7. **What are the contributions of different life history strategies to overall population viability?**
	1. Kelt
	2. Multiple vs. maiden spawner
8. **What are the main mortality and limiting factors to Atlantic salmon populations?**
9. **Are current management regulations and protocols effective in conserving, sustaining, and/or improving salmon populations?**
	1. Are current management protocols and harvest regulations achieving their intended conservation goals?
	2. How can regulations be more responsive to Indigenous rights, cumulative effects, and climate change?
10. **Bridging Knowledge Systems: Indigenous Knowledge and Two-Eyed Seeing**
	1. How can Indigenous knowledge systems inform restoration priorities, monitoring design, and management decisions?
	2. What frameworks enable ethical, reciprocal, and community-led research partnerships?
	3. How can Two-Eyed Seeing approaches inform data governance, interpretation, and application?
11. **Linking research to management decisions and policies.**
12. How can the link between research and policies improve?
13. How can research results be applied to influence policies?
14. What strategies most effectively translate science into action at the community and watershed level?
15. How can research findings be mobilized to engage youth, decision-makers, landowners, and the public in salmon stewardship?
16. What tools (dashboards, data portals, storytelling) improve transparency and accountability?
17. **How can an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach be used to understand and improve the marine survival of Atlantic salmon?**
18. How can data from long-term tagging, telemetry, and genetic analysis be synthesized to identify and address bottlenecks in marine survival of Atlantic salmon?
19. What are the cumulative effects of various marine factors—such as oceanographic conditions, prey availability, and shifting predator-prey dynamics—on post-smolt survival?
20. How are key marine habitats, migration corridors, and ocean currents used by Canadian-origin salmon changing due to climate pressure, and what are the implications for survival?
21. What frameworks are needed to promote the sharing and standardization of diverse datasets across different research groups and jurisdictions?
22. How can comprehensive marine knowledge inform and enhance freshwater management strategies?

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-1)