

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

OYSTER DISEASE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION PROGRAM

Program Policy: *Supporting the oyster industry in times of great difficulty in partnership with industry and governments.*

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Oyster Disease Adaptation and Mitigation Program is designed to assist the oyster industry in exploring and undertaking adaptation and mitigation measures specific to addressing the threats of newly discovered oyster diseases (i.e., MSX and Dermo) in PEI. The Program is intended to be flexible, reactive to industry challenges, and responsive to industry needs. The Program aims to reduce financial risks in a time of crisis and in need of immediate action, improve understanding of oyster disease mitigation and adaptation measures, and improve viable oyster seed supplies.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

To participate in the Oyster Disease Adaptation and Mitigation Program, an applicant must be:

- A minimum of 18 years of age;
- One of the following:
 - Indigenous organization (group, association, or community);
 - Commercial enterprise (company or self-employed);
 - Not-for-profit organization; or
 - Academic or research institution.
- Currently active in, or support activities related to, the oyster industry in PEI.
- Able to demonstrate all necessary and valid permits, licenses, leases and/or certifications that apply.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The Oyster Disease Adaptation and Mitigation Program will support projects that specifically address the threats of newly discovered oyster diseases (i.e., MSX and Dermo), apply to PEI's oyster industry, and in one or more of the following pillars:

- Crisis and Disease Management
 - Initiatives supporting industry education, awareness and/or training.
 - Activities or technology adoptions to increase industry biosecurity measures.
 - Initiatives supporting the creation of innovative partnerships or networks that directly benefit the PEI oyster industry.
- Innovation, Research and Development
 - Research and development of new innovations.
 - Piloting and testing new innovations.
 - Science activities in support of addressing gaps in knowledge in relation to oyster diseases that directly benefit the PEI oyster industry.
- Hatchery and Nursery Support
 - Adapting/adopting new technologies, processes, systems or equipment to improve viable oyster seed supplies for PEI.
 - Initiatives supporting industry education, awareness and/or training.

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Major capital purchases (i.e., real estate, buildings, vehicles, etc.); and
- Salaries and wages.

FUNDING

Oyster Disease Adaptation and Mitigation Program eligible recipients can receive:

- Up to 50% of eligible costs, to a maximum of \$50,000;
 - If funding from other public sources is identified and confirmed (i.e., letter of support), the Program will be reduced such that the combination of all such public sources does not exceed 90% of total project costs.
- The applicant is responsible for covering all other project costs (more if a maximum of \$50,000 is reached and/or the Program is less than 50%);
- An applicant will normally be limited to one approved project for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Note: Applications will be processed subject to the availability of funds in order of submission.

APPLICATION PROCESS

A completed Project Proposal Application is to be submitted via regular mail or e-mail to the Department of Fisheries, Tourism, Sport and Culture (Department). Once the completed Project Proposal Application has been received, the Department will assess if the applicant meets the Program objectives and eligibility criteria. If the project is approved for funding by the Department, a funding agreement will be required, and only once the agreement is signed and returned to the Department will the Department allocate funding as described in the agreement.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The Project Proposal Application will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Applicant and activities eligibility;
- Technical and financial feasibility;
- Alignment and support for Departmental priorities (e.g., crisis and disease management, innovation, research and development, and hatchery and nursery support);
- Identification of specific benefits to PEI's oyster industry; and
- Clear details on how benefits will be measured.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND CLAIM PROCESS

- Department officials may consult with the applicant to obtain clarification on details of the project and/or for additional information, where deemed necessary for the assessment.
- The completed Project Proposal Application will be assessed on a first-come, first served basis.
- The information provided in the completed Project Proposal Application will be used to assess the project eligibility under provincial requirements, along with any additional information that may be requested by the Department.
- The applicant is solely responsible for identifying, purchasing and maintaining any insurance applicable to their operations, including their operations or liabilities related to any potential funding available through this program.
- In addition to the applicant requiring all necessary permits, licenses, leases, certifications and/or other authorizations that may be required depending upon the nature of the proposed project, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure all required, updated, approvals are submitted with the completed Project Proposal Application.
- Once the completed Project Proposal Application assessment is complete, the applicant will be sent a funding agreement or denial letter. If the project is approved by the Department for funding, the funding agreement

will specify the level of funding awarded and outline any other conditions that may apply (i.e., holdback portion of total funding, performance monitoring and reporting plan, etc.).

- Funding will expire on March 31, 2026, and all claims must be submitted by this date.
- The claim must include original invoices supported by verification of payment (such as copies of cheques). Cash payments in excess of \$500 will require verification of payment. A payment verification form will be provided by the Department and must be signed by both the vendor and the program applicant.
- Only incorporated non-profit organizations, charities and universities/colleges may be eligible to claim HST.
- The applicant must agree to allow access to the operation by the Minister or his representative for the purpose of monitoring the progress of the project.
- The applicant shall indemnify and hold harmless the Government of Prince Edward Island, its agents, representatives and employees from and against all claims, demands, losses, costs, damages, actions, suits or proceedings of every nature and kind whatsoever arising out of or resulting from the performance of the Work (herein called the "Claim"), provided that any such Claim is caused in whole or in part by any act, error or omission, including, but not limited to, those of negligence, of the applicant or anyone directly or indirectly employed by the applicant or anyone for whom the applicant may be liable arising out of this Program and the applicant's participation in it.

HOW TO APPLY

Completed Project Proposal Applications may be submitted to the attention of the Program Officer via regular mail or email.

E-Mail Project Proposal Applications:

Project Proposal Applications may be submitted via email at msx@gov.pe.ca
Please include the program name in the subject line.

Regular Mail Project Proposal Applications:

Project Proposal Applications may be submitted via regular mail at:
PEI Department of Fisheries, Tourism, Sport and Culture
5th Floor, Jones Building
11 Kent Street
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 1M7
Please include the program name on the package.

For information on the Oyster Disease Adaptation and Mitigation Program or for general assistance to complete the application, please contact the PEI Department of Fisheries, Tourism, Sport and Culture at msx@gov.pe.ca.