



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3543

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The funding will be used for a pilot demonstration project using heavy lift drones to deploy juvenile scallops into existing seagrass meadows with more coverage and density than traditional methods previously used to jump start rejuvenation of depleted and damaged scalloping areas. The goal is to deploy over 15 million juvenile bay scallops.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted?**

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	1,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,500,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,500,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	1,500,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?**
- a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**
- b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**
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10. **Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?**

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.



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Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

October 2024

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

June 2025

12. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Construction oversight and deliverables management/project and phase planning	225,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Field staff for drone deployment locations	200,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Permitting, construction planning and oversight, monitoring, Drone lease and equipment maintenance, Juvenile Scallops, additional supplies, Internships, monitoring, permitting and data collection.	1,075,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,500,000

14. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

The funding will be used for a pilot demonstration project using heavy lift drones to deploy juvenile scallops into existing seagrass meadows with more coverage and density than traditional methods previously used to jump start rejuvenation of depleted and damaged scalloping areas. The goal is to deploy over 15 million juvenile bay scallops.

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?



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The project will employ local laborers, increase tourism and provide jobs through the project and beyond.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

Increased scalloping along with the ability to seed and grow several existing systems without the cost of increased mobilization and expensive equipment.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

General population.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

The goal of this project is to deploy over 15 million juvenile bay scallops into existing seagrass meadows to enhance scallop populations for water quality, aquaculture jobs and tourism. Monitoring of seeding areas will be done per permit requirements and data will be used to measure success.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?

Return of deliverables.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name **Last Name**

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number



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17. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. Name
- b. Firm Name
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number

Please complete the questions below for Water Projects only.

18. Have you applied for alternative state funding?

- Waste Water Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (please specify)
- N/A

19. What is the population economic status?

- Financially Disadvantaged Community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Financially Disadvantaged Municipality (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Rural Area of Economic Concern
- Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)
- N/A

20. What is the status of construction?

21. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

22. What is the estimated completion date of construction?