



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3139

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The Indian River Lagoon Restorative Aquaculture Station Enhancements project will enhance the restoration of critical habitats in the IRL and other Florida estuaries by supporting the propagation of seagrass, shellfish, and coral. The project includes expanding conservation aquaculture facilities while repairing the on-site seawalls, boat ramp, and access road to improve storm and flood protection. By protecting and expanding production of seagrass, shellfish, and coral, the project aims to accelerate restoration efforts, mitigate erosion, enhance biodiversity, and reduce pressure on existing facilities, ultimately fostering ecosystem health and delivering economic benefits.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted?

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	501,644
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,427,756
Total State Funds Requested	1,929,400

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,929,400	86%
Matching Funds		
Federal	317,746	14%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	2,247,146	100%

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

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

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

9. **Is future-year 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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Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. 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?

09/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

05/01/2027

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

General funds from HSWRI and IRLRAS habitat restoration partners.

11. 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.

Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute is the property owner leading this initiative, and will own the proposed aquaculture facility.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Administration, Contracting, and Public Outreach	501,644
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Design & engineering, coral nursery, seagrass & shellfish support, erosion control, living shoreline/seawall amendments, drainage and flood management, access road repairs.	1,427,756
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,929,400

13. Program Performance

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

The requested funds will restore critical infrastructure at the Indian River Lagoon Restorative Aquaculture Station, including repairing seawalls, boat ramps, and access roads to protect facilities from erosion and flooding. Funds will also expand seagrass, shellfish, and coral propagation nurseries, accelerating habitat restoration and biodiversity recovery across the IRL.



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

The project will provide engineering, design, permitting, and construction services to repair critical infrastructure, including the seawall, boat ramp, and access road. It will also expand seagrass, shellfish, and coral propagation nurseries through the construction of a climate-controlled facility, enabling large-scale habitat restoration, flood protection, and biodiversity enhancement in the Indian River Lagoon.

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

The restoration efforts made possible by this project will provide citizens with improved water quality, enhanced biodiversity, and strengthened ecosystem resilience in the Indian River Lagoon. It supports recreational opportunities such as fishing and boating, protects critical habitats for wildlife, and fosters economic benefits through increased restoration capacity and sustainable fisheries.

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

The target population includes residents and visitors of the Indian River Lagoon region, spanning five counties, as well as stakeholders reliant on the lagoon's ecosystem services, such as fishers, boaters, and businesses. The project is expected to benefit over 1.6 million people living in the region and countless visitors annually. Additionally, residents & visitors of Miami-Dade & Monroe County will benefit from the coral restoration.

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

This project will protect existing and planned restorative aquaculture facilities against erosion and expand regional coral, seagrass, and shellfish aquaculture industries. The restoration efforts made possible by this project will restore critical habitats, improve water quality, support biodiversity, and boost economic activity in the Indian River Lagoon & South Florida. Outcomes will be measured by water quality metrics, restored habitat acreage, species surveys, and economic impact on fishing and tourism.

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 in the contract?

If deliverables are not achieved, full monies allocated to the deliverable should be withheld.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? No

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:



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b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

Please complete questions 17 through 21 for Water Projects only.

17. Have you been awarded or applied for alternative state funding for this project?

- Water Quality Improvement Grant Program
- Resilient Florida Grant Program
- Wastewater Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (please specify, ex. Alternative Water Supply Grants) Reef Restoration & Recovery Initiative
- N/A

18. 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

19. What is the status of construction?

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?



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0%

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

22. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

23. 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 Ext.

24. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.