



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3429

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Mote is seeking to launch the integration of a Technology, Innovation, Monitoring, & Education initiative built on decades of leadership by Mote fisheries/aquaculture research to grow and release 50,000+ snook under FWC guidance for recreational fishing.

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	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

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)	500,000	67%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	250,000	33%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	750,000	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.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. Status of Construction



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3429

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

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

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

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

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.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Scientists and technicians salaries and benefits to for aquaculture and fisheries staff.	200,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Aquaculture pumps, piping and filtration equipment, chemicals, and printed or digital educational materials, along with broodstock, larval and nursery tank systems and associated recirculating system equipment and life support items (i.e. oxygen etc). Fish tag, release, transport and monitoring supplies.	300,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

13. Program Performance

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

Recreational saltwater fishing is a multi-billion-dollar industry in FL and the common snook is recognized as one of the top targeted species. Environmental challenges and mass mortality events are impacting fishery and associated FL economic benefit. Mote is launching the integration of a Technology, Innovation, Monitoring, & Education initiative built on decades of leadership by Mote fisheries/aquaculture research to grow and release 50,000+ snook under FWC guidance for recreational fishing.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3429

Commercial-scale numbers of fish are being produced for stocking to keep the snook fishery sustainable. Maintaining the ability to cultivate snook is critical to respond to fish kills associated with red tide, cold stuns, etc. Stocking supports working waterfronts and coastal communities who are dependent on the economic output of recreational fisheries (3.9 billion in sales, > 30K jobs).

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

Stock enhancement of snook provides a sustainable solution to maintain healthy fisheries. Services include economic stability for working waterfronts and jobs (>30K) associated with angling tourism (2.4 billion in value-added impact) in regions impacted by fish kills and habitat degradation.

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

Stakeholder groups including the recreational saltwater fishing community and Florida schools. Thousands of Floridians in coastal communities will benefit.

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

Responsible Stock Enhancement efforts have proven contributions to local stocks and fisheries. Sustainable, land-based marine aquaculture production of fingerlings for release is relieving pressure on wild caught fishery resources. Federal and state annual recreational and commercial fishing industry reporting. Tagging, monitoring and fate tracking of released fish populations.

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?

Funding would be withheld via a grant agreement with FWC for deliverables not achieved, e.g. percent of project not completed.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

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#:

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3429

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):

17. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

18. 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.**

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address



The Florida Senate Local Funding Initiative Request Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3429

d. Phone Number

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