# Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) for Aquatic Species at Risk

# 2025-26 Expression of Interest

Prior to submitting a complete proposal to the HSP, applicants are strongly encouraged to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI). The EOI is not mandatory but will give you the opportunity to discuss your project and receive feedback to verify that it is aligned with national and regional priorities and program expected results.

The feedback you will receive will improve the quality of your proposal but does **NOT** guarantee that the project will receive funding.

The HSP for Aquatic Species at Risk has an approximate annual national budget of $4M. Funding is variable and dependent on project activities. Suggested minimum funding request to HSP is $25,000 (this amount may be spread over one or up to three years of a project). The Program does not have a maximum funding limit. However, typical HSP contributions can range from $25,000 to $100,000. Please contact your HSP Regional Coordinator if you have questions about funding amounts.

Your completed EOI form must be submitted by ***November 8, 2024 (11:59pm for your region)***, to the appropriate [HSP Regional Coordinator](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/sara-lep/hsp-pih/contact-contactez/index-eng.html). Early submissions are encouraged.

**Project title** *(max 15 words)*

**Project location** (Please specify the province(s) / terrtitory(ies) and local area in which the project will be undertaken.)

**Target species** (Please list all the species at risk that will be targeted by your project that are listed on [Schedule 1 of SARA](https://wildlife-species.canada.ca/species-risk-registry/sar/index/default_e.cfm) and/or unlisted species that have been assessed as species at risk by the [Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada](http://cosewic.ca/index.php/en-ca/) (COSEWIC)).

**Applicant information** (This is the organization or identity that would sign a Contribution Agreement with Fisheries and Oceans Canada)

**Organization:**

**Program Manager:**

**Address:**

**Phone number:**

**Secondary phone number:**

**Fax number:**

**Email address:**

**National Priorities (please see** [**Program Guide**](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/sara-lep/hsp-pih/proposal-proposition/program-guide-programme/index-eng.html)**)**

Does your project address national priority(ies)? \_\_\_YES \_\_\_NO

If yes to the question above, please indicate the national priority(ies) addressed by the project:

|  |
| --- |
| Priority activities described in federal recovery documents: \_\_\_YES \_\_\_NO  Multiple-species and/or multi-partner projects: \_\_\_YES \_\_\_NO  Activities that address threats described in federal SAR recovery documents or the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) assessment reports:  \_\_\_YES \_\_\_NO |

**Regional Priorities (please see** [**Program Guide**](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/sara-lep/hsp-pih/proposal-proposition/program-guide-programme/index-eng.html)**)**

Does your project address regional aquatic priority(ies)? \_\_\_YES \_\_\_NO

List which regional priority area(s), species and/or threat(s):

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Program Expected Results (please see** [**Program Guide**](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/sara-lep/hsp-pih/proposal-proposition/program-guide-programme/index-eng.html)**)**

Please indicate below, which program expected result(s) your project address(es):

|  |
| --- |
| Important habitat[[1]](#footnote-2) for aquatic species at risk is improved and/or managed to meet their recovery needs:  \_\_\_YES \_\_\_NO  Threats to aquatic species at risk and/or their habitat are stopped, removed, and/or mitigated:  \_\_\_YES \_\_\_NO  Collaboration and partnerships support the conservation and recovery of aquatic species at risk:  \_\_\_YES \_\_\_NO |

**Other communities/organizations involved in the Project** (Include both funding contributers and partners in the Project.)

**Overview of your Project:** Provide a brief overview of the project (max. 1 page). The content should clearly address each of the following items:

Type of Project: Identify the type of project (e.g., restoration, outreach, etc.)

Project Timing: What is the timeline for the project to be implemented (single-year, multi-year)?

Project Purpose: What are the project’s goal(s) and objective(s)?

Project Location: Identify the province, region, and main geographic area where the work would take place (watersheds, rivers, etc.). Include whether it is in a regional priority area (where applicable). If more than one location, please specify all areas.

Target Species: Name the target aquatic species at risk that would benefit from the initiative and their SARA-listed status or COSEWIC assessed designation; can include multiple species.

Threats: What threat(s) faced by the species will the project specifically address? Where have these threats been identified (SAR Recovery Document, Recovery Potential Assessment, and/or COSEWIC Assessment)?

Activities: List the activities proposed to be funded by HSP for Aquatic Species at Risk that address the recovery need/threat of the species.

Budget Estimates: General estimates, including HSP ask.

**Permitting:** It is your responsibility to acquire the necessary permits for the proposed project. Have you considered the permits that need to be acquired prior to initiation of project activities? Please list all permits below.

**\_\_\_YES \_\_\_NO**

1. The program defines “important habitat” as critical habitat that has been identified in federal recovery strategies or action plans, or that is considered as candidate for critical habitat but that is not yet identified in a final federal recovery strategy or action plan, or habitat that is important for the species survival (e.g., spawning, rearing areas, overwintering areas, migratory corridors) but that is not actually identified in a federal recovery strategy or action plan. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)