

## Nordic Council of Ministers Fisheries Cooperation Call 2025

The Nordic Council of Ministers Fisheries Cooperation invites project proposals in 2025 within the themes of preparedness and resilience, ecosystem-based marine management and stock recovery, and green transition.

### **The Nordic Council of Ministers Fisheries Cooperation's objectives**

The Nordic Council of Ministers Fisheries Cooperation's overall objective is to contribute to greener, more competitive and robust fisheries and aquaculture in the Nordic region. The fisheries cooperation focuses on management- and research-based projects and works for a sustainable fisheries and aquaculture sector in the Nordic region, economically, socially and environmentally.

### **Thematic framework**

#### ***Preparedness and resilience***

The risk landscape for the Nordic countries has changed with potential trade barriers, natural disasters, pandemics and conflicts in our immediate areas. Fisheries and aquaculture are both important economic sectors and important for food supply. Therefore, there is a need for efficient and robust logistics chains, information exchange and early intervention to address different types of crisis situations. Fuel, energy, raw material supply, feed, trade barriers, skills and labour, logistics, packaging and cooling options are all potential points of vulnerability for the value chains.

- We welcome projects that examine risks and challenges with a focus on preparedness and vulnerability analyses of the sector.

#### ***Ecosystem-based marine management and stock recovery***

There is a growing need for a holistic approach to fisheries management that considers climate change and environmental impacts in the Nordic seas and contributes to ecosystem resilience. Coastal areas are under particular pressure due to agricultural strains, which gives rise to the integration of fisheries management and marine and coastal management. There is a need for greater insight into the cumulative pressures on the marine environment, restoration of stocks and marine ecosystems, nature-based

solutions and ecosystem services, and how marine areas can be managed and exploited in a way that is both environmentally and economically sustainable. There is a need for more granular knowledge about coastal stocks and non-quota species, and the potential for increased management cooperation on these stocks and species. With the increasing demand for nature protection, e.g. under the auspices of the Global Biodiversity Framework, there is a need for more knowledge about the impacts and interactions between fisheries/aquaculture and the marine environment and more knowledge about which management tools can be used.

- We welcome projects that span interdisciplinary research, including management of the ocean and fish stocks, and focus on increased resilience to climate change.

### ***Green transition***

Phasing out fossil fuels is a key priority for both fisheries and aquaculture, as it is crucial for improving the economic viability, sustainability and resilience of the sectors. The green transition for fisheries raises a number of questions about which alternative fuels, or electrification, will be most realistic. These questions are also closely linked to fisheries management and the development of fisheries and aquaculture methods that are less energy-intensive and more environmentally friendly.

- We welcome projects that build cross-sectoral cooperation and focus on further developing maritime solutions and pooling current knowledge to form a target picture for the transition of fisheries and/or aquaculture

### **General priorities (but not requirements)**

- Projects that contribute to knowledge building, knowledge dissemination or networking
- Cross-sectoral cooperation
- Cooperation with neighbouring Nordic regions
- Contribution to the UN Decade of Marine Research or other relevant international processes
- Support is welcome for projects that primarily deal with research. For research projects, the political and administrative relevance will always be assessed.

### **Financial framework**

The total budget for the 2025 call is 3.83 million DKK.

Projects can apply for funds up to 1 million DKK. The aim is to support between 4-6 projects.

Funds can cover:

- Fees for experts, etc., salaries for project staff
- Travel expenses
- Meeting expenses
- Conferences/seminars/workshops
- Dissemination
- Unforeseen expenses (min. 6%, max. 10%)
- Overhead (max. 6%)

Projects can contribute with self-financing and can be co-financed from other sources. Projects can have a duration of up to 3 years.

### **Criteria for support**

The following applies to support. Projects must:

- Be within the three described themes in terms of content
- Contribute to Nordic added value. A project contributes with Nordic added value when it entails an added value that the effort is carried out in cooperation between the Nordic countries, and the result of the project benefits the Nordic countries.
- Have participation or involvement of at least three Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Åland) to achieve synergy effects and Nordic added value. Instead of one of the Nordic countries, at least one country outside the Nordic region may be included.
- Be anchored in the Nordic institution(s) participating in the project
- Have a clear and ambitious communication strategy. Projects must plan and budget for publication via the Nordic Council of Ministers Publication Service. If a project plans a scientific article, a shorter popular science publication must be produced via the Nordic Council of Ministers Publication Service.

### **Application procedure**

Template for project description and budget can be found here: [Nordic Fisheries Cooperation](#). Application deadline 3 October 2025 at 24:00 CET.

### **Processing of proposals**

The Nordic Council of Ministers' Fisheries Cooperation's professional working group AG-Fisk will assess applications and recommend for decision in the committee EK-FJLS

(Fisheries and Aquaculture). Applicants will receive written notification immediately after committee meetings in November 2025.

**Project management**

The Nordic Council of Ministers' Fisheries Cooperation enters a contract with the managing body for the project. The projects are monitored through status reporting and receive payment of funds in instalments.

A final report including accounts must be submitted to the Nordic Council of Ministers' Fisheries Cooperation at the end of the project.

**Questions**

Contact project coordinator Birgitte Jacobsen, [bija@nanoq.gl](mailto:bija@nanoq.gl)