

Nordic Council of Ministers' Fisheries Cooperation Call 2026

In parallel with the Nordic Ocean Programme under the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Nordic Council of Ministers' Fisheries Cooperation is announcing a call with two themes that complement the Ocean Programme with efforts in the fisheries and aquaculture area.

The Fisheries Cooperation invites project proposals in 2026 within the themes of Coexistence and spatial planning, as well as Ecosystem-based marine management and stock recovery.

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.

Thematic framework

Coexistence and spatial planning

Future spatial planning must be able to accommodate both renewable energy, nature and food production. The development of renewable energy, which will largely be located at sea, stands as a central challenge (and/or opportunity) for fisheries and aquaculture.

Ocean-based energy installations can negatively affect aquaculture and fishing if there is no thorough planning and consultation in place in advance. Reduced fishing and aquaculture production will have significant (socio-) economic consequences, which can ultimately have a negative impact on the food supply. Conversely, offshore wind energy installations can also be used to promote biodiversity and aquaculture, which can support or strengthen the food supply. Solutions for coexistence and holistic fisheries management and spatial

planning in particular, are therefore important focus areas to support the sustainable development of the marine economy.

- We welcome projects that focus on solutions, knowledge and exchange that can facilitate coexistence between ocean-based energy production, fishing and aquaculture, with a particular focus on vulnerable ecosystems.

Ecosystem-based marine management and stock recovery

There is increasing focus on a holistic approach to fisheries management that takes into account climate change and other environmental impacts in the Nordic sea areas and contributes to ecosystem resilience.

There is a need for greater insight into how the cumulative pressures on the marine environment affect fisheries and aquaculture, and how fisheries management can contribute to the recovery of stocks and stressed marine ecosystems with a focus on nature-based solutions and ecosystem services.

There is a need for more detailed knowledge about coastal stocks and non-quota species, and the potential for increased management cooperation on these stocks and species. Coastal areas are under particular pressure due to emissions from, among others, agriculture, which may promote the integration of fisheries and aquaculture management with marine and coastal management.

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 impact and interactions between fisheries and aquaculture, as well as fisheries/aquaculture and the marine environment, and more knowledge about which fisheries management tools can be used to achieve both population, environmental, social and economic sustainability.

- We welcome projects that investigate and promote good management of the ocean and fish stocks, interactions between fisheries and aquaculture, interactions between the environment and aquaculture, and that focus on achieving sustainability.

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 Ocean Research or other relevant international processes
- Support is welcome for projects that primarily deal with research. In the case of research projects, the political and administrative relevance will always be assessed.

Financial framework

The total budget for the 2026 call is 5.747 million DKK.

There is 2.9 million DKK available for the first round of the call in March 2026. The second round will be published in April 2026 and has a deadline in October 2026.

Projects can apply for funds up to 900.000 DKK. The aim is to support between 6-8 projects in 2026.

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 funding

The following applies to funding.

Projects must:

- Be within the two described themes in terms of content
- Contribute to Nordic added value. A project contributes with Nordic added value when it entails 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](#).

Application deadline 9 February 2026 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 at the end of March 2026.

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

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