Nordic Council of Ministers' Fisheries Cooperation Spring Call 2027

In 2027, the fisheries cooperation invites project proposals within the following themes:

- Coexistence and spatial planning
- Ecosystem-based marine management and stock recovery

The Nordic Council of Ministers Fisheries Cooperation's objectives

The overarching objective of the Nordic Council of Ministers' fisheries cooperation is to contribute to a greener, more competitive, and more resilient fisheries and aquaculture sector in the Nordic region. The cooperation focuses particularly on projects situated at the intersection of research and management that can generate Nordic added value.

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 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. At the same time, there may be opportunities for co-use, for example, aquaculture within offshore wind farm areas and, under certain conditions, offshore wind installations might even generate local "reef effects". However, the knowledge base regarding long-term impacts remains limited.

Consequently, solutions for coexistence, holistic fisheries management, and in particular spatial planning are key focus areas for supporting the sustainable development of marine and coastal regions.

- We invite projects that focus on solutions, knowledge, and exchange capable of facilitating coexistence between offshore energy production,

other infrastructure and offshore activities (e.g., shipping, cables, and pipelines), fisheries, 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 considers climate change and other environmental impacts in the Nordic Sea areas and contributes to ecosystem resilience.

There is a need for more detailed knowledge regarding coastal stocks and non-quota species, as well as the potential for enhanced management cooperation concerning these stocks and species. Coastal areas are under particular pressure due to pollution and land-based runoff, construction and infrastructure within the coastal zone, ports, and maritime traffic, in addition to the impacts of climate change. Consequently, there is a specific need for management-relevant knowledge regarding nearshore fishery resources and the impact of climatic changes on the productivity of fish stocks.

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 invite projects that focus on the impact of climate change on the productivity of fish stocks, and the implications this should have for future fisheries management, particularly regarding coastal fish stocks.

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 2027 call for proposals is DKK 7.8 million.

DKK 3.9 million is available for the first round of the call in March 2027. The second round will be announced in April 2027, with a deadline in October 2027.

Larger projects: Projects may apply for funding of up to DKK 1.500.000.
Smaller projects: E.g., support for networks, workshops, and the like. Projects may apply for up to DKK 400.000.

Funds can cover:

- Fees for experts, etc., salaries for project staff
- Travel expenses
- Meeting expenses
- Conferences/seminars/workshops
- Dissemination
- Unforeseen expenses
- Overhead

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

Application procedure

Template for project description and budget can be found here.
Application deadline 11 February 2027 at 24:00 CET.

Processing of proposals

The Nordic Council of Ministers' Fisheries Cooperation's professional working group AG-Fisk will assess proposals and recommend for decision in the committee EK-FJLS (Fisheries and Aquaculture). Proposers will receive written notification immediately after committee meetings medio March 2027.

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