



## GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

RFR - DMF 26018

COMMBUYS Number: BD-26-1046-DMF-FW205-125701

Dated: Friday, February 20, 2026

# Marine Fisheries Saltwater Fishing Access Improvements, Small Grant Program

## 1. Grant Opportunity Summary

- A. PROPOSALS SOUGHT FOR:** The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MADMF) announces the availability of grant funds to support projects that will create, revitalize, or enhance recreational fin-fishing opportunities in marine waters in Massachusetts as defined in this Request for Responses (RFR). Selected projects will be eligible to receive technical assistance from Marine Fisheries staff, technical services, and/or direct funding. Please note: A priority designation attained through this RFR only establishes a project's eligibility for assistance; it does not guarantee that a project will receive technical services or direct funding. This RFR allows for awards of up to **\$25,000.00 per project**. The funds are available through a condition of the recreational saltwater fishing permit which requires that 1/3 of the dollars collected from permit revenue be used to ensure, enhance, or create public access into the fishery. Successful proposals result in improvement to existing access, creating new fishing access, and/or providing an educational service that enhances recreational saltwater fishing opportunity. Recipients will be expected to provide progress and post-construction monitoring reports.
- B. OVERVIEW AND GOALS:** Our administration and advisors agree that small projects are consistent with the above-mentioned goals. Projects may include any concept that improves recreational saltwater fishing access in Massachusetts. Projects should create a safe corridor, facility, or other aspect that will improve access. All successful projects must allow for equitable access to all persons engaged in legal recreational fishing at those locations. The intent of Marine Fisheries is to pursue public access projects that present the greatest benefit to the Commonwealth, taking into consideration the project's cost, size, practicality, feasibility, opportunity for public recreational fishing, available program resources, and partner support. To provide for a fair and open process, Marine Fisheries is offering this opportunity to municipalities that have waters requiring a Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing License.
- C. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:** The Marine Fisheries Saltwater Fishing Access Improvements, Small Grant Program is open to open to legally recognized entities, including state agencies, municipalities, regional planning agencies, conservation districts, tribal governments and entities, charitable conservation organizations or trusts, or other businesses, institutions, non-profits, or individuals that can enter into contracts with the Commonwealth. All applicants must

be in good standing with the state government.

**D. APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

- a. Bid Release Date 3/1/2026
- b. Deadline for question submission 4/16/2026
- c. Deadline for Quotes/Bid Responses 4/17/2026
- d. Notification to successful Bidders ASAP
- e. Est. Contract Start 7/1/2026

**E. FUNDING AVAILABILITY:** MADMF expects to award up to \$50,000.00 in total funding for projects in FY 2027 Applicants may request up to \$25,000.00 in funding for a project.

**F. MATCH REQUIREMENT:** There is no match requirement for the funding opportunity.

**G. ANTICIPATED DURATION OF CONTRACTS:** Contracts will end on 6/30/2028

**H. REGULATIONS, STATUTES, OR AUTHORIZATION GOVERNING THIS GRANT PROGRAM:** Applicants are responsible for compliance with all applicable state laws and regulations governing the funding source. Funds are authorized through the Division of Marine Fisheries, Sportfish Program’s Salt Water Fishing Permit

**I. CONTACT INFORMATION:** Ross K. Kessler, Public Access Coordinator, [ross.kessler@mass.gov](mailto:ross.kessler@mass.gov), 978-559-1701

## 2. Performance and Contract Specifications

**A. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:** This Grant opportunity and eligible projects are open to legally recognized entities, including state agencies, municipalities, regional planning agencies, conservation districts, tribal governments and entities, charitable conservation organizations or trusts, or other businesses, institutions, non-profits, or individuals that can enter a contract with the Commonwealth. All applicants must be in good standing with the state of Massachusetts government.

**B. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS:** Examples of eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- All projects that allow access to saltwater fishing for finfish in Massachusetts. Examples of prior approved projects include:

Lights at piers and boat ramps	Repairs to existing shore fishing location	Signage and brush clearing at existing legal ways to water
Landscape architecture at shore fishing location	Bait cutting stations at fishing access locations	Throwable life rings at fishing access location
Improvements to existing boat ramps	Installation of piers at vessel launch facilities	Internet accessible weather stations at launch locations

**C. FUNDING AVAILABILITY, BUDGETING GUIDELINES, AND ALLOWABLE EXPENDITURES:** MADMF expects to award, contingent upon availability of state funds, up to \$25,000 in total funding for projects. Applicants may request up to \$25,000 in funding for a project. Costs eligible for reimbursement include all approved project costs incurred on or after a selected applicant's contract execution date and on or before 6/30/2028.

**Equipment Purchases:** Equipment is defined as tangible personal property having a useful life of at least five years and a per-unit acquisition cost of \$5,000 or greater. The equipment must be purchased in full to qualify for reimbursement. The equipment title will reside with the grantee and must be used for the properly authorized use as stated in the project proposal. The grantee is required to use the equipment for its proposed and intended purpose for the useful life of the equipment.

**D. MATCH REQUIREMENT:** There is no match requirement for the funding opportunity. However, any match should be included in application verbiage. Examples of eligible match include, but are not limited to, in-kind, volunteer hours, cash, etc.

**E. PROJECT TERMS:** If awarded, all grantees will be required to abide by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts [Terms and Conditions](#). An [Interagency Service Agreement \(ISA\)](#) will be used as the grant agreement, if funds are awarded to a state agency. In addition, all final contracts are subject to successful negotiation of a Final Scope of Services. Please note that MADMF does not guarantee that any contracts may result from this grant opportunity or that any funding level will be awarded. It is anticipated that projects could commence immediately upon MADMF's decision. The awarded contracts will be reviewed during their course and, upon request by the grantee, may be amended at the sole discretion of MADMF. Any amendments granted may not necessarily change the monetary value of the contract.

In accordance with the Massachusetts Comptrollers Guidance on Grants Procurement and Contracts

The department, at its discretion, may negotiate a change in any element of contract performance or cost identified in the grant application, RFR or the grantee's response, which results in lower costs, or a more cost-effective or better value grant result than was presented in the grantee's original proposal. Changes can be negotiated which result in overall increased costs, provided the overall result is the best value or a "better value" than was originally proposed.

**F. TOTAL ANTICIPATED DURATION OF CONTRACT(S):** The contract period will begin on the date that the contract is executed by MADMF and end on 6/30/2028.

**G. REPORTING:** The Grantee shall submit Interim and Final Performance Reports upon request. Other deliverables are project specific and will be confirmed at the time of the contract award and project scoping.

**H. INVOICING:** Grantees must first pay grant-approved expenditures then submit for reimbursement along with required documentation. Project costs and match may not be incurred until after the Grantee has an executed contract from MADMF. Grantees must pay 100% of an expenditure before

submitting for reimbursement and only approved expenses (as written in the contract's scope/budget) incurred during the period of the contract are eligible for reimbursement. The Grantee may submit multiple reimbursement requests, monthly at most, during the contract period. The final reimbursement request must be submitted no later than 30 days after the contract end date. Ten percent of available funds will be withheld until all deliverables are met. Funds issued pursuant to this Opportunity must be expended and match documented on or before the contract end date of 6/30/2028. Any funds not used within the contract period will be released back to the state.

- I. OWNERSHIP AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** The Grantee shall acknowledge funding from MADMF on all products for public distribution and viewing including PowerPoint presentations, press releases, fact sheets, brochures, reports, web content and signs. It is also encouraged that the Grantee develop and distribute a press release upon the award of the grant and/or project completion, acknowledging the MADMF as a source of funds for the project.

### 3. Instructions for Application Submission

- A. APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete applications must be received by 4/17/2026. Any application received after the deadline will be rejected. Applications may be entered and submitted via email in PDF form to [ross.kessler@mass.gov](mailto:ross.kessler@mass.gov). All form instructions and required documents are available through the online application. Failure to enter information in any of the required fields or to submit required attachments may result in the disqualification of the application. See attachment for Small Grant Template.

Applications must not be longer than 35 pages and must include the following:

1. Name, address, and contact information of entity applying
2. Proposed project name
3. Requested start and end dates
4. Relevant background information on proposed project
5. Applicant experience, including partnerships involved in proposal
6. Description of proposed project and deliverables
7. Project timeline
8. Budget

- B. ADDITIONAL REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION:** If selected, the Respondent will be required to submit the following forms to complete a contract:

- Commonwealth Standard Contract Form, filled out and signed by the Respondent
- Commonwealth Terms and Conditions, reviewed by the Respondent
- Commonwealth W-9 tax information form, filled out and signed by the Respondent
- Contractor Authorized Signature Verification Form, filled out and signed by the Respondent
- Commonwealth Electronic Funds Transfer Form filled out and signed by the Respondent

Respondents are encouraged to review these forms prior to submission of a response to understand the requirements for receipt of funds. They are available as Attachments to this posting. These forms do not need to be filled out unless the Respondent is awarded a grant.

- C. EVALUATION CRITERIA:** The MADMF will evaluate all complete and responsive proposals on a

competitive basis and select projects that obtain the highest scores. MADMF reserves the right to request additional, clarifying information from the applicant during the evaluation period, and to reject any or all proposals that do not meet the goals and terms of this Grant Opportunity. Each proposal will be reviewed based on the criteria and point values. Applicants must agree to provide all required supporting documentation as part of the application. Please use the template on the following pages to submit grant application.

## 4. Deadlines and Procurement Calendar

**A. RELEASE OF GRANT OPPORTUNITY:** 3/1/2026

**B. INFORMATION SESSION:** 4/16/2026

**C. APPLICATION DUE DATE:** 4/17/2026

**D. ESTIMATED AWARD DATE:** The Commonwealth of Massachusetts' decisions are estimated to be announced as soon as the Small Grant awarding committee establishes awardees.

**E. ESTIMATED CONTRACT START DATE:** Notwithstanding any verbal representations by the parties, or an earlier start date listed in the Standard Contract Form, and only after an award is issued and a final scope of services has been negotiated, the effective start date of a contract shall be the latest of the following dates: the date the Standard Contract Form has been executed by an authorized signatory of the contractor and the procuring department; the date of secretariat or other approval(s) required by law or regulation; or a later date specified in the Standard Contract Form. The earliest starting date for contracts resulting from this Grant Opportunity is July 1, 2026.

## 5. Miscellaneous

**A. TYPE OF PROCUREMENT:** Grant

**B. USE OF THIS PROCUREMENT BY SINGLE OR MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS:** This Grant Opportunity is a single department procurement. All contracts awarded under this Grant will be utilized solely by the MADMF.

**C. REQUEST FOR SINGLE OR MULTIPLE RECIPIENTS:** This Grant Opportunity may result in multiple contracts.

**D. RFR DISTRIBUTION METHOD:** This Grant Opportunity has been distributed electronically via COMMBUYS. It is the responsibility of every Applicant to check COMMBUYS for any addenda or modifications to a Grant Opportunity to which they intend to respond. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and its subdivisions accept no liability and will provide no accommodations to Applicants who fail to check for amended Grant Opportunity and submit inadequate or incorrect responses. Potential Respondents are advised to check the "last change" field on the summary page of Grant Opportunity for which they intend to submit a response to ensure they have the most recent Grant Opportunity files.

Respondents may not alter grant language or any grant component files. Those submitting a proposal

must respond in accordance with the grant directions and complete only those sections that prompt a response. Modifications to the body of this grant, specifications, terms and conditions, or which change the intent of this grant are prohibited. Any unauthorized alterations will disqualify response.

All contracts shall be subject to available funding, whether through the appropriation and authorization of sufficient funds or the receipt of sufficient revenues. If available funding ceases for any reason, a contract shall be deemed under suspension and contract performance must halt. A contractor will not be entitled to compensation for any performance provided during the period of contract suspension. MADMF may lift the suspension if available funding is received. In the absence of foreseeable available funding, MADMF may terminate the contract.

**E. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Application Form Template, submitted as a PDF to [ross.kessler@mass.gov](mailto:ross.kessler@mass.gov)
2. Sample Standard Contract Form and Instructions
3. Sample Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing
4. Commonwealth Standard Terms and Conditions
5. Sample W-9 Form
6. Sample Authorization of Electronic Funds Payment form