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**Gear Innovation Project Proposal**

There are substantial barriers to the uptake of innovation in the fisheries sector, particularly for ACE fishers and small companies with limited in-house innovation capabilities or capacity. There is interest from both industry and Government to develop the fishing industry in a way that minimises its impact on the environment and maximises the value of the industry. Seafood Innovations Limited (SIL) and Fisheries Inshore New Zealand (FINZ) are interested in funding up to $20,000 per project for new ideas that could transform the New Zealand Seafood Industry.

Gear Innovation Pathway projects will provide the necessary support, guidance and financial support to enable grass roots innovation around gear on board fishing boats. We are particularly interested in innovations that will reduce impacts, add value, and increase productivity in New Zealand fisheries that have benefits at regional or national level.

Gear Innovation Pathway projects will provide a means of capturing innovative ideas within the fishing industry and disseminate learnings so the wider industry can access and benefit from them. Projects will also contribute information on current use of gear in the industry to help better inform Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) information.

Applicants will not be required to provide any cash co-funding, as these projects will be 100% funded by SIL and FINZ. Note that these projects will not take commercialised outcomes to market. If these projects do develop commercially viable outcomes, applicants may then wish to approach SIL about applying for 50% funding for larger next stage projects.

**Scope:**

Projects will be funded that fall into the following four research themes:

1. Vessel and gear efficiencies
2. Selectivity
3. Benthic impacts
4. Non-fish protected species interactions

**Process for submission:**

1. Email completed applications to FINZ by **January 20th, 2020.**
2. Projects will be assessed by FINZ, and then final projects will be passed on to the SIL Research Advisory Committee (RAC).
3. Projects will be assessed by the SIL RAC by mid-February.
4. Applicants will be notified immediately after the RAC meeting with a decision on whether the application was successful and/or request for additional information or clarification.
5. Successful projects begin.

**Gear Innovation Project Application**

*Please answer the following questions. Please provide as much detail as possible. Feel free to include figures, photos, or tables, especially if they clarify any particular aspect of your project.*

**What is the title of your project?** *(E.g., ‘Innovative Pulley System for Saving Time and Reducing Injuries on Inshore Fishing Boats.’)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**What is the nature of the problem or opportunity that your project will address?**

*Tell us, as briefly as you can, what is great about your idea.* *(E.g., ‘Selectivity of fishing gear, particularly trawl gear, is a sustainability concern. Using live-feed cameras would help fishers be more selective in their fishing. In New Zealand, however, fishers are not able to use most of the live-feed cameras available on the market because they require a third wire, which is prohibited due to risk of warp-strike from seabirds. Here, we propose a design for a wireless live-feed trawl camera that would work within New Zealand’s regulatory framework.’)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**What fisheries management issue (as set out in the Draft FNZ Inshore Fisheries Plan 2020) is the project attempting to address?** *List the relevant Key Focus Areas as per section 6 and any relevant management objectives as per sections 7 through 11. (E.g. ‘The Key Focus Area that this project primarily addresses in the Draft Inshore Fisheries Plan is Improving Environmental Performance, and the Management Objective of addressing Endangered, Threatened, and Protected Species Interactions.)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Clearly state the goal of the project.** *(E.g., ‘This project will develop a concept device to enable fishing companies to avoid catching sea birds during longline fishing.’)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**What is your proposed solution?**

*What is the key new innovation that you expect will lead to the new way of doing things? Proposals will be reviewed based on how technically challenging the idea is and that a scientific or technical need has been clearly identified. (E.g., ‘This device is the first product to produce real-time data analysis of benthic samples. Until now, all sampling has been collected, taken back to laboratories and results generated weeks later. It is a challenging project because the device needs to be waterproof, contain chemicals for testing, be robust enough to rigorously handle testing conditions and subsequently record data.’)*

Click or tap here to enter text, figures, or pictures.

**Who will undertake the project?**

*Please list key project members, their organisations and contact details.*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**If you solve this problem, what is it likely to be worth?**

*Give us ballpark estimates of any likely benefits (social license, new revenues, new exports, increased harvest yields, reduced costs, etc…). (E.g., ‘If successful, it is estimated that this project outcome will save the fishing industry approximately $5m pa in fuel costs due to reduced time spent fishing in areas that have been fished previously. It will also reduce emissions from fishing boats, which has obvious environmental benefits and contributes to the sector’s enhanced reputation with the public. Labour costs will be reduced by approximately $3m pa because boats will be used more efficiently.’)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Have you engaged with relevant iwi and/or are there any benefits to Maori that will result from this project?** *(E.g., ‘We have held meetings with XXX iwi who are most likely to be affected by or interested in this project. These iwi have expressed interest in being involved and we have agreed to meet periodically to update them on progress and involve them when appropriate. As a result of this project, this iwi will be able to incorporate the technology in their traditional fishing methods and as such, will benefit from being more selective in their fishing techniques.’)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**How much will the project cost (maximum value $20,000)?**

*Please fill in the following table showing project costs. Add more items if necessary.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Estimated Cost** |
|  | **$** |
|  | **$** |
|  | **$** |
|  | **$** |
|  | **$** |
|  | **$** |
| **TOTAL** |  |

*Provide more details here if necessary.*

**What other stakeholders have you engaged with around this project (if any)?**

*(Environmental groups, Department of Conservation, Research Providers, etc.)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Are you aware of any timing issues?**

*Are there any matters of urgency in getting this project started? Estimate how long you think it is likely to take.*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**What is the proposed start date for the project?**

Click or tap here to enter text.