



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.

Criteria:

We encourage applications from small owner-operators that have encountered past barriers in getting their ideas off the ground and would appreciate support and guidance in the funding process.

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 Brianna King, FINZ Fishery Manager, at brianna@inshore.co.nz by **October 20th, 2019**.
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-November.
4. Applicants will be notified immediately after the RAC meetings 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

In a separate document, please answer all of the following questions. Please provide as much detail as possible. Feel free to include figures, photos, or tables, especially if they clarify aspects of your project.

What is the title of your project?

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.

What fisheries management issue (as set out in the Inshore Fisheries Plan) is the project attempting to address?

Clearly state the goal of the project.

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.

Who will undertake the project?

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

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...).

Have you engaged with relevant iwi and/or are there any benefits to Māori that will result from this project?

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

Please provide a table showing project costs.

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

(Iwi, environmental groups, Department of Conservation, etc...)

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.

What is the proposed start date for the project?