

Grant Category 1:

Education, Research & Policy for Marine Science and Conservation Grants

BACKGROUND

The need for financial support for education, research, and policy advancement in ocean science and conservation is of paramount importance today given the challenges our planet faces. We must ensure that as many youth and community members as possible are introduced to ocean sciences, educated on the importance of marine conservation, empowered to engage in scientific inquiry, and supported to contribute to evidence-based policy that protects marine ecosystems around the globe.

The Society for Conservation Biology's Marine Program has initiated the Education, Research & Policy in Science and Conservation Grants Program (ERPSCGP) to support innovative and outstanding projects. These include educational initiatives that promote early introduction and recruitment of students and community members into marine science; research projects that generate new knowledge, tools, or approaches to drive effective marine conservation; and policy-focused efforts that strengthen the translation of scientific evidence into management, governance, and community decision-making.

The objective of the ERPSCGP is to advance access to education, opportunities for research, and capacity for policy engagement in marine science and conservation among the communities served by the respective projects, in support of the Marine Program's mission and goals.

Grants range **\$1,000–\$1,500 USD**.

Eligibility:

Applicants must be members of the Society for Conservation Biology and may include educators, researchers, practitioners, Indigenous groups, and K–12 school groups (students must be accompanied or supervised by an adult). Eligible applicants may be affiliated with a K–12 school, a college/university, a community service organization, an Indigenous organization, or demonstrate a clear partnership with one of these institutions or groups.

Priority will be given to applicants who demonstrate the capacity to successfully complete the proposed work (e.g., through matching funds, in-kind support, or existing in-country capacity), as well as to first-time applicants.

Funds must be spent within 12 months of the award date. All funded projects must provide progress updates through a presentation to SCBMarine and its membership every six months, and submit a written final report at the end of the 12-month period.

Eligible activities:

Examples of eligible activities include but are not limited to the following:

For Education

- Providing materials to train students to reduce impacts of human activities on marine organisms, and their habitats;
- Developing educational materials for implementing conservation practices, such as teaching students the importance of learning about sustainable fishing and which fish they purchase are sustainably farmed.
- The installation of rain gardens to teach students the importance of helping clean runoff prior to entering the oceans.
- Installation of water bottle filling stations and associated education at various locations in the local community.
- Education of students through engagement in beach cleanups and associated events

For Research

- Studies on species distribution, habitat use, threats, or ecosystem health that fill key conservation knowledge gaps.
- Creation or testing of low-cost monitoring tools, survey protocols, citizen science methods, or data platforms for marine conservation.
- Small-scale studies led by early-career researchers or local communities to build scientific capacity and generate locally relevant data.
- Analysis of existing datasets, meta-analyses, or production of knowledge products (e.g., research briefs, maps, models) that guide conservation planning.

For policy

- Development of policy briefs, guidance documents, or evidence summaries to inform marine conservation governance at local or national levels.
- Organizing workshops, roundtables, or community consultations that bring scientists, policymakers, fishers, and communities together to discuss conservation issues.

- Capacity-building activities that teach students, local leaders, or practitioners how conservation laws, marine protected areas, fisheries regulations, or environmental policies function.
- Supporting community-driven or evidence-based planning processes (e.g., MPA management plans, species action plans, local by-laws) grounded in scientific data.

Non-eligible activities:

- Travel to conferences or other meetings;
- Professional membership fees;
- Tuition or course fees.

Application Period

The applications for 2025, run through **January 15th, 2026 11:59 P.M. Eastern Standard Time**. Applications are currently being accepted.

Successful grantees will be notified in 6-8 weeks in early 2026 and funds will be dispersed in early 2026.

If you have questions, please email the SCB Marine program at scbmarinecomms@gmail.com, include 'MarineGrants2025' in the subject line.

If you require the guidelines document or forms in large print, audio, Braille, or a colored background, please reach out to us and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

Grant Category 2

Eligibility – Indigenous Marine Conservation & Cultural Preservation Grants (up to \$5,000)

These grants are intended to support Indigenous groups, organizations, and communities engaged in activities that advance marine conservation, cultural preservation, or the intergenerational transfer of traditional ecological knowledge.

Eligible applicants include:

- Indigenous communities, tribes, nations, clans, or village councils
- Indigenous-led organizations or community groups
- Indigenous knowledge holders, elders, or youth groups (youth groups must be supervised by an adult)
- Partnerships between Indigenous groups and researchers, NGOs, or educational institutions, provided the project is Indigenous-led

Projects must be directly connected to marine or coastal conservation, cultural heritage, traditional ecological knowledge, community stewardship, or activities that strengthen cultural relationships with marine environments.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Are Indigenous-led and community-driven
- Demonstrate cultural relevance and long-term community benefit
- Promote stewardship, ecological resilience, or cultural continuity
- Show capacity for implementation (e.g., community labor, in-kind support)

Grant funds must be spent within 12-24 months of award. All funded projects must provide a brief progress update to SCBMarine at six months intervals and a final written report at the end of the funding period.

Non-eligible activities:

- Travel to conferences or other meetings;
- Professional membership fees;
- Tuition or course fees.

Application Period

The applications for 2025, run through **January 15th, 2026 11:59 P.M. Pacific Standard Time**. Applications are currently being accepted.

Successful grantees will be notified within 6-8 weeks of application and funds will be dispersed in early 2026.

If you have questions, please email the SCB Marine program at scbmarinecomms@gmail.com, include 'MarineGrants2025' in the subject line.

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