



The Marine Stewardship Council's Ocean Stewardship Fund 2022 is now open for applications

This year the fund focuses on improving fishing practices to better protect ocean biodiversity.

Now in its third year, the Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) [Ocean Stewardship Fund](#) is open to applications for 2022, offering over £1 million in grants dedicated to support sustainable fishing worldwide. The MSC invites fisheries, scientists, NGOs, and postgraduate students to apply for grants of up to £50,000 each, available across four different strands of funding.

This year, the MSC particularly welcomes research proposals related to habitat impacts and interactions with endangered, threatened or protected (ETP) species. With only around 20% of the seabed currently mapped by scientists¹, it can be hard for fisheries to demonstrate that they are successful in protecting ecosystems. By funding innovative research in this area, the MSC seeks to drive fishery improvements that better protect ocean biodiversity.

To date, the MSC's Ocean Stewardship Fund has awarded 35 grants totalling £1.3 million and is currently supporting 24 active projects around the world. Previously funded projects have already helped fisheries improve their sustainability – from mapping the Greenland seabed to avoid vulnerable marine species, to driving improvements in the deep-sea shrimp fishery along the Keralan coastline of India.

Through this Fund, the MSC has committed 5% of royalties, earned from the sale of products carrying the MSC 'blue fish' label, to support fisheries at all stages on their pathway to sustainability. It is hoped that the impact of these projects will contribute to the delivery of the United Nation's (UN) Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water.

Dr Ranjit Suseelan, regional spokesperson at the Marine Stewardship Council said: *"Our oceans are facing enormous challenges meaning that supporting the efforts of fisheries, scientists and conservationists who are striving to make progress in sustainable fishing is more important than ever. Through the Ocean Stewardship Fund, we support credible projects and initiatives that deliver real improvements in the way our oceans are being fished and importantly, that help fisheries around the world to progress on their pathway to sustainability – our very own Keralan deep-sea shrimp fishery is an example hereof."*

Projects funded by the Ocean Stewardship Fund are helping to deliver the ambitious targets set by the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. The £1 million funds available will

encourage collaboration between fisheries and scientists, as they work to maintain and achieve the environmental and business benefits which come with MSC certification.

To find out more information about the grants available for 2022, and the deadlines for application visit: [msc.org/oceanstewardshipfund](https://www.msc.org/oceanstewardshipfund)

ENDS.

Notes to editors:

References:

[1] [Seabed 2030](#)

About the Marine Stewardship Council:

The MSC is an international non-profit organisation that sets a globally recognised, science-based standards for sustainable fishing and seafood traceability.

The blue MSC label on a seafood product means that: it comes from a wild-catch fishery which has been independently certified to the MSC's science-based standard for environmentally sustainable fishing; and is traceable to a sustainable source. It can be found on more than 100 species of seafood in 100 countries. [msc.org](https://www.msc.org)