



Shark Conservation Fund

The Shark Conservation Fund (SCF) is a collaboration of philanthropists dedicated to restoring ocean health through sweeping shark and ray conservation. Our goal is to help maintain the vibrancy of the world's oceans by halting the overexploitation of sharks and rays and to prevent extinctions through strategic, collaborative, and catalytic grantmaking. SCF is a sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc., a registered 501(c)3 public charity. Our priority areas of focus are:

- Fisheries or environmental management reforms for sharks and rays.
- Protection of coastal or ocean habitats for sharks and rays.
- Protections for imperiled and/or endemic shark and ray species.

The Small Grant Fund supports these objectives by providing grants of up to \$25,000, with a duration of 18 months. SCF allocates \$250,000 annually for Small Grants, funding up to 10 projects each year. Please note that submitting an application does not guarantee funding.

Eligible Project Types

1. Opportunities to advance shark and ray conservation and management.
2. Small scientific studies, reports, or evaluations that have a direct connection to ongoing opportunities to improve fisheries or environmental management measures for sharks and rays.
 - While valuable, projects such as tagging studies, presence/absence surveys, mark-recapture work, or eDNA investigations do not meet SCF's criteria unless they are tied to a specific regulation or management action. For applicants solely undertaking research activities, there must be a clearly defined partner organization or agency that will utilize the data to improve shark regulation or management.
3. Scoping activities for larger shark and ray conservation and management projects.

Funding Priorities

1. Projects that help implement SCF's priority areas of focus.
2. Projects that are directly linked to efforts to strengthen shark and ray conservation policy and management.
3. NGOs in developing countries.



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Applicant Eligibility

1. Individuals or groups of individuals associated with a not-for-profit organization, a fiscal sponsor, or an academic institution are eligible to receive funding.
2. Undergraduate and graduate students must be presently enrolled/matriculated.
3. Former SCF grantees may apply.
4. Organizations may submit only one application. The sole exception is academic institutions, which may submit multiple applications provided that the departments or faculty involved — and the proposal topics — are fully distinct.
5. **NOT ELIGIBLE:**
 - a. Government entities (except for government-affiliated academic institutions like colleges or universities).
 - b. Individuals without a not-for-profit organization or a fiscal sponsor.
 - c. SCF grantees with a current active grant at the time of submission.
 - d. Concept Note or Proposal applications submitted after the deadline.

Application Timeline

1. **Concept Note Application:**
 - Start Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2026
 - Deadline: Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 5:00 pm EDT
2. **Proposal Application (by invitation only):**
 - Invitation Notification: Monday, April 27, 2026
 - Deadline: Monday, May 18, 2026, at 5:00 pm EDT
3. **Award Notifications:**
 - Expected by mid-August 2026

How to Apply

1. Please read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#). To view the Small Grant projects that were awarded last year, click [here](#).
2. Click [here](#) to access the Concept Note via Monday.com. You do not need an account to access the web form. You will be allowed to save the form and complete it at a later time. Please submit the Concept Note by 5:00pm EDT on March 31, 2026.
3. For further questions, please contact SCF at info@sharksandrays.org.