

Proactive Disclosure

The Environmental Studies Research Fund

For the period of April 1st 2025 to March 31, 2026

Background

The ESRF Management Board has committed to the proactive disclosure of funding agreements over \$25,000, in line with the broader government initiative to disclose this type of information. For FY 2025/26, there are five funding agreements over this threshold within the Environmental Studies Research Fund (ESRF). As always, the [ESRF Annual Report](#) provides status information on all funded projects.

ESRF Project Information

Proponent: Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Years of agreement: FY 2018/19 to FY2025/26

Total Value: \$6,171,500

Assessment of potential risks of seismic surveys to affect groundfish resources (ESRF Project 2018-01S)

The objective of this project is to examine potential risks of seismic air gun surveys to affect groundfish resources, including commercial catchability, and fish behaviour (movement).

Proponent: Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Years of agreement: FY 2020/21 to FY 2026/27

Total Value: \$11,789,453

Atlantic salmon in the Eastern Canadian offshore regions (ESRF Regions 8 to 15): timing, duration and the effects of environmental variability and climate change (ESRF Project 2019-01S)

The objective of this project is to determine when, where and for how long Atlantic salmon from three different life stages (juvenile post-smolt, post-spawned kelt and multi-sea winter adults) are in the Eastern Canadian offshore regions (ESRF Regions 8 to 15) to inform regulatory decision making in Canada's areas of offshore oil and gas activity.

Proponent: Wildlife Conservation Society Canada
Years of agreement: FY 2021/22 to FY 2025/26
Total Value: \$153,635

Using undersea autonomous glider technology to monitor marine mammals and ship noise in the eastern Beaufort Sea (ESRF Project 2021-01N)

The objective of this project is to track populations of bowhead whales in the Beaufort Sea using an autonomous glider to record sound continuously along acoustic transects in the Beaufort Sea and further offshore. The results will inform whether the bowhead migration route and timing has shifted further offshore and later in the season.

Proponent: Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat
Years of agreement: FY 2023/24 to FY 2026/27
Total Value: \$ 973,379

Exploring Diversity in Indigenous Knowledge Systems: Community Engagement by the Atlantic Region Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management (AAROM) Organizations (ESRF Project 2023-01S)

The purpose of this Project is to provide support and resources to Atlantic Region Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management (AAROM) organizations on Canada's East Coast to gather information and best practices, and to develop regional approaches to address the use of IKS in informed decision-making in the offshore.

Proponent: JASCO Applied Sciences Ltd.
Years of agreement: FY 2023/24 to FY 2025/26
Total Value: \$59,479

Underwater soundscapes of eastern Canada: natural baseline, anthropogenic influence, and the effects of oil and gas activities on the communication space of marine mammals (ESRF Project 2023-04S)

This project is part of ESRF's "Publication Fund" that supports the publication of research from previous ESRF-funded projects in the peer-reviewed literature. The purpose of this project is to publish over 44 TB of raw underwater soundscape data collected as part of a two-year acoustic monitoring study on marine mammals, as open-source data. Providing the data online will make it available to researchers globally interested in the soundscape of deep and shallow water in the North Atlantic.
