



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

LFIR # 1181

1. **Project Title** Mote Marine Critical Marine Habitat Restoration2. **Senate Sponsor** Debbie Mayfield3. **Date of Request** 10/30/20194. **Project/Program Description**

Restoring Florida's critical marine habitats to their natural & more change-resilient state rests on innovative restoration technology advancements; improved science-based conservation of species and genetic diversity, and enhanced levels of public ocean literacy through engaging STEM education/outreach. These goals will be advanced through expansion of the ongoing Coral Disease Response & Restoration initiative; along with a significant expansion of a remote inland-based & secure living coral gene bank in recirculating sea water; and the design/implementation of innovative & immersive STEM public education/outreach experiences (i.e., interactive coral laboratories for hands-on research experiences, coral gene banks, & living coral restoration displays) that will enhance the level of ocean literacy & awareness of both residents & visitors for the vital role healthy marine habitats serve in support of quality of life, resilient coastal environment, biodiversity & economy of Florida.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds** Fish and Wildlife Conservation CommissionState Agency contacted? ☒ Yes ☐ No6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	2,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	5,000,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	5000000	79.0 %
Matching Funds		
Federal	800,000	13 %
State (excluding the amount of this request)	00	0 %
Local	00	0 %
Other	500,000	8 %
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2020-2021	6,300,000	100 %

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2019-20	00	586,605	1899	No

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 5,000,000



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10. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Scientists, technicians, public education/outreach staff and research interns working to grow and plant new corals in the Keys, develop mechanisms to increase genetic diversity and resilience within restoration corals, quantify the effects of restoration on ecosystem services and functionality, as well as to increase the number of cached corals within the existing coral gene bank, and raise public understanding and awareness of the vital role coral reefs serve in support of quality of life, re	850,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Equipment, supplies, local travel and boat/dive operations	550,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Partnership engagement with other non-profit organizations, schools, businesses, etc., related to marine habitat restoration and biodiversity conservation, as well as professional design/consultations for enhancement and implementation of new public interaction experiences of residents and tourists in SW Florida and the Keys, web-based transfer of information and printed publications to raise public understanding and awareness of the vital role coral reefs and other marine ecosystems serve in su	1,100,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Expansion of a remote inland-based & secure living coral gene bank in recirculating sea water; and the design/implementation of innovative & immersive STEM education/outreach experiences (i.e., interactive coral laboratories for hands-on research experiences, coral gene banks, & living coral restoration displays) that will enhance the level of ocean literacy & awareness of both residents & visitors for the vital role healthy marine habitats serve in support of quality of life, resilient coastal	2,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		5,000,000



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11. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

Mote will utilize a multi-faceted science-based strategy of marine habitat restoration, biodiversity conservation and enhancing ocean literacy to further the adaptation of critical ocean ecosystems to changing conditions in Florida for the next 20 years & decades beyond; strengthen coastal resiliency & expand essential fisheries habitat for commercial & recreational sustainable use; recover threatened & endangered species; expand a remote inland-based & secure living coral gene bank in recirculating sea water; design/implement innovative & immersive STEM education/outreach experiences; and increase direct participation in conservation stewardship by local community groups, combat wounded veterans, & diverse populations through Mote's volunteer citizen scientist restoration & conservation programs.

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

Grow and plant new corals in the Keys reef tract; increase genetic diversity and resilience within restoration corals; expand frequency of monitoring of outplanted corals; quantify the ecological and economic benefit of restoration; continue the expansion of a hurricane-resistant, coral gene bank in recirculating seawater systems that will ultimately house and protect triplicate samples of every coral genotype we are able to culture, as well as increase the number of cached corals within the coral gene bank; and raise public understanding and awareness of the vital role coral reefs serve in support of quality of life, resilient coastal environment and the economy of Florida.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

Florida's coral reef system is the third largest living reef on the planet and the only barrier reef system in the continental U.S. The direct services of restored coral reef ecosystems are their numerous ecological, aesthetic, economic and cultural functions. Not only is the coral reef structure itself composed of and built by, a diversity of organisms, but the reef structure serves as the basis for one of the highest diversity ecosystems in the world. It underpins the state's marine ecosystems, provides habitat for over 6,000 marine species, attracts 16 million visitors per year, and in the Florida Keys alone supports over 70,000 local jobs, draws \$6.3 billion to Florida's economy. It also serves as the primary frontline of coastal resiliency defense from major storms.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

Target populations of Floridians positively impacted and served as a result of restored coral reefs will include those in over 70,000 local jobs (i.e., commercial and recreational fishing guides, diving and snorkeling tour boat operators, hoteliers, restaurants, construction workers and so many more occupations), millions of South Florida residents whose property will be better protected from storm surges by increased resiliency of coral reefs, millions of Florida residents and tens of thousands of K-12 students who will be able to directly engage each year with the new interactive coral reef research and restoration education/outreach displays, and countless future generations of Floridians who will be able to enjoy the sustainable use of these incredible ecosystems that are an integral part of the history and culture of Florida.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

Restoration of Florida's coral reefs (as measured by # of corals planted), which are essential habitat for both commercial and recreational fishing will strengthen and expand the state's economic engine while concurrently addressing critical environmental conservation issues. Additional scientific staff and technicians will be hired to assist with the implementation of the restoration project. 20,000 corals will be produced for planting and creating restored reefs. An economic and ecosystem impact study will be conducted upon completion to value the project for ecological functionality and economic activity in job creation and tourism.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?

Funding could be withheld on a proportional basis for deliverables not achieved in the following proportions: Producing/outplanting ~20,000 corals = 12%; Developing mechanisms to increase genetic diversity and resilience within restoration corals = 12%; Quantifying the effects of restoration on ecosystem services and functionality = 10%; and significant expansion of a remote inland-based & secure living coral gene bank in recirculating seawater systems, along with the design/implementation of innovative & immersive STEM education/outreach experiences (i.e., interactive coral laboratories for hands-on research experiences, coral gene banks, & living coral restoration displays) = 66%.



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12. **The owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.**

Mote Marine Laboratory is the requester and the recipient.

13. **Requestor Contact Information**

- a. First Name Last Name
- b. Organization
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.

14. **Recipient Contact Information**

- a. Organization
- b. Municipality and County
- c. Organization Type
- ☐ For-profit Entity
 - ☒ Non-Profit 501(c) (3)
 - ☐ Non-Profit 501(c) (4)
 - ☐ Local Entity
 - ☐ University or College
 - ☐ Other (please specify)
- d. First Name Last Name
- e. E-mail Address
- f. Phone Number

15. **Lobbyist Contact Information**

- a. Name
- b. Firm Name
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.