



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3110

1. **Project Title** SW Florida Shellfish Association - A Billion Clams for Charlotte Harbor Phase 2

2. **Senate Sponsor** Ben Albritton

3. **Date of Request** 12/11/2023

4. Project/Program Description

Continuation of FWC contract 22067 to restore historically overharvested native clams (*mercenaria campachiensis*) in Charlotte Harbor. These MC clams were severely overharvested in the early and mid 1900's and have never recovered. The native clam is very heat tolerant, will process 4-6 gallons per day of seawater, and can live an average of 40 years making the return on investment excellent. Labor is performed by the members of the SW Florida Shellfish Association, Inc, a State not for profit corporation, whose membership is active commercial clam farmers and have an average of 20 years building and maintaining clam beds. Maintenance and protective netting removal will continue for 3 years. Farmers are small independent family operations who live in the Charlotte Harbor area. We are currently executing FWC contract 22067 satisfactorily. This is a capital outlay project that will result in non harvestable regeneration leases under State of Florida control.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds** Department of Environmental Protection

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,500,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,500,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	1,500,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	1,070,000		No

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?** Yes

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.** 1,500,000

b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**

None at this point



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10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12. List 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.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	clam seed, bags, protective netting, lead core rope, pins, site maintenance, labor to be performed by licensed and approved clam farmers with the Southwest Shellfish Association. Project to be overseen by FWC and meet all of their requirements. This project differs from others in that continual maintenance and husbandry will be performed for 3 years after initial planting to insure success.	1,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,500,000

14. Program Performance

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



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improve water quality, reduce algal blooms,

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

purchase materials and pay labor to build the regeneration native clam beds.

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

improved water quality

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

all citizens who live, work, and recreate around Charlotte Harbor and Lemon Bay

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

Qualified scientist from our University and private system will be engaged to measure Nitrogen removal and transformation, changes in phosphorus levels, spread of wild seed outside of beds, water clarity to enhance seagrass growth, and natural attraction of native flora and fauna to the resulting producing clam beds.

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 the contract?

FWC/SWFSA contract 22067

15. Requester Contact Information

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

16. 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) 501 (c) 5 non-profit

- d. First Name Last Name
- e. E-mail Address



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f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

Please complete the questions below for Water Projects only.

18. Have you applied for alternative state funding?

- Waste Water Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (please specify)
- N/A

19. What is the population economic status?

- Financially Disadvantaged Community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Financially Disadvantaged Municipality (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Rural Area of Economic Concern
- Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)
- N/A

20. What is the status of construction?

21. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

22. What is the estimated completion date of construction?