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**2025 Proposal Form for Scientific Studies**

Thank you for your interest in Dolphin Quest’s Scientific Studies Program. Indicate below the fund to which you are applying. Refer to [www.dolphinquest.com](http://www.dolphinquest.com) under ‘Scientific Studies’ for a description of each fund’s aims, along with examples of supported projects.

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| --- | --- |
|  | General Science and Conservation Fund |
|  |  |
|  | Conservation of Threatened or Endangered Small Cetaceans Fund |
|  |  |
|  | Proposal to study Dolphin Quest dolphins with no funding requested |

**Application Checklist**

The following documents must be completed and combined (in the order below) into a single PDF

1. Completed proposal form (this document).
2. Detailed budget (if Dolphin Quest would send funds directly to multiple organizations, include a separate budget for each organization).
3. *Curriculum vitae* for each listed investigator (2 pages max per investigator).

**\*Note for 2025:**

Proposals must be submitted via the form found at [dolphinquest.fillout.com/proposals](http://dolphinquest.fillout.com/proposals) and emailed to [research@dolphinquest.com](mailto:research@dolphinquest.com). Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

**APPLICATION DUE DATE**

**SEPTEMBER 15 (23:59 Hawaii Standard Time)**

**Review Process**

Proposals will be reviewed by the Dolphin Quest Research & Grants Committee, composed of Dolphin Quest co-founders and key personnel. In many cases, we ask our external Science Advisory Panel to review proposals. The panel includes three members of the IUCN Species Survival Commission’s Cetacean Specialist Group who are knowledgeable in the proposal topics.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

* **Significance:** For the **General Science and Conservation Fund**, we evaluate if the project seeks to answer fundamental marine mammal biology questions or addresses conservation challenges through applied approaches. For the **Conservation of Threatened or Endangered Small Cetaceans Fund**, we evaluate the relevance of the project in creating tangible conservation efforts to conserve the most threatened small cetaceans.
* **Approach:** The sustainability of the methods and techniques used.
* **Feasibility:** The probability of this project achieving its goals.
* **Qualification:** The proficiency of the investigators to carry out the project.

**Additional Information**

* Successful applicants may reapply provided they meet all conditions of the prior award.
* If the project is conducted in a country where the Principal Investigator is not an established resident, preference will be given to projects that include research partnerships, training, and community outreach within that country.
* Early-career researchers are encouraged to coordinate with an established researcher who would serve as a co-investigator.

**Grant Conditions**

**Reporting**

* Reports include annual and final reports (2 pages each).

**Outreach/Media**

* Content referencing awarded projects must acknowledge Dolphin Quest’s funding and must include Dolphin Quest’s logo, where applicable.
* We create project landing pages for awarded projects. See examples [here](https://dolphinquest.com/scientific-studies-overview/general-science-and-conservation-studies/).
* We are beginning to add blog post updates to our landing pages. We request 1-page annual blog posts from awarded projects.
* We create social media posts to highlight supported projects. All content is first approved by the principal investigator.

**Important Information**

* **Eligibility:** Dolphin Quest is only able to accept applicants that qualify as US tax-exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code, or have a tax-exempt fiscal sponsor – e.g., an international NGO, university, or community foundation with 501(c)(3) status, or are a US-based organization/individual who can produce IRS form W-9. **Verify** [here](https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/) **that the applicant/fiscal sponsor has 501(c)(3) status before applying.**
* Figures and tables may be included in the proposal.
* Each Principal Investigator may only submit one proposal per year as the Principal or Co-Principal Investigator, although they may be a co-investigator on multiple proposals.
* The Principal Investigator and collaborators may be called upon to provide support for critical marine mammal and/or ocean conservation initiatives in the form of advocacy letters, signed petitions, news media outreach, and/or legislative actions.

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| **Investigators** (include graduate degrees after names, although no degrees are required for any investigator) | | | | | | | | | |
| Date: |  | |  | | | | | | |
| **Principal Investigator** | | |  | | | | | | |
| Affiliation: | | |  | | | | | | |
| Email Address: | | |  | | | | Phone Number: | |  |
| **Co-Principal Investigator** (if applicable) | | | |  | | | | | |
| Affiliation: | | |  | | | | | | |
| Email Address: | | |  | | | | Phone Number: | |  |
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| **Co-Investigators** (if applicable) | | | | | | | | | |
| Investigator: | |  | | | Affiliation: |  | | | |
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| **Scientific Study Information** | | | | | | | | | |  | |

**Project Title**

**Project Summary (150-200 words)**

Provide a project summary for a general audience, using language understandable by non-scientists. Outline the focus, the objectives, the expected outcomes, and the conservation impact or significance of the project. Include species/subspecies.

**Eligibility**

List the organization(s) that would receive the funds if the proposal if selected, and list the organization’s nine-digit 501(c)(3) taxpayer identification number. See ‘Important Information’ above for details.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Organization |  | Identification Number |  |

**Introduction/Background (800 words max)**

Provide a project introduction including any relevant background information. If this project was previously funded by Dolphin Quest, describe progress made this year. If applying to the Conservation of Threatened or Endangered Small Cetaceans Fund, include the IUCN listed species/population status or justification of threatened status under IUCN’s criteria.

**Objectives (800 words max)**

Include the anticipated outcomes, including the conservation impact of your project.

**Methods (1,200 words max)**

Include the analytical approaches to be used.

**Estimated Start/End Dates and Timeline of Activities (400 words max)**

The project work should start next year and can extend into the following calendar year.

**Dolphin Quest Involvement (300 words max)**

*Leave this section blank if not applicable*. If seeking in-kind work with dolphins at Dolphin Quest or Crew Members, specify preferred Dolphin Quest location and estimated time involvement by Crew Members and dolphins.

**Permits & IACUC (400 words max)**

Are any permits required for this work? If so, are they in-progress or approved? Any permits will need to be obtained before the proposal is awarded. Does your affiliation/institution require Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval for this work? If so, is the IACUC in-progress/approved?

**Outreach/Capacity Building (500 words max)**

Include the proposed capacity building, outreach, education, communication, and/or public engagement activities.

**Budget Justification (400 words max)**

*Leave blank if no funding is requested.* Include a justification of the detailed budget. Include separate budgets if funding would go directly to multiple organizations. Describe any other funds available to support the project, and the proposed use of those funds. List each budget item separately and use US dollars. Items may include but are not limited to the following: airfare, lodging, vehicle rental, fuel, per diem, equipment, supplies, services (e.g., lab analyses), and personnel costs. List personnel benefits explicitly. Personnel Fringe Benefits may be included if required by your institution. Salary and Fringe Benefits must total < 50% of the total project budget. Note that Dolphin Quest will not pay Facilities & Administration (F&A)/Institutional overhead. Because we receive more qualified applications than we can support, in some cases we choose to partially fund projects. Include in the budget justification whether the project can be scaled (i.e., partially funded). If ‘Yes,’ list the highest priority parts of the project/budget. Answering ‘No,’ that the project cannot be scaled and needs to be funded in its entirety to be successful, is perfectly acceptable.

**References/Literature Cited**

**Is this a new or ongoing Dolphin Quest supported project?**

Projects must be listed under the same project title to meet the “ongoing criteria. Write “NEW” or “ONGOING” below. If ongoing, write the year the project was first supported by Dolphin Quest.