

PRESS

PARTNERSHIP FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD



RHODE ISLAND SEAFOOD

Seafood consumption in the U.S. has been on the rise, with demand expected to grow 60% by 2050. While the potential is great, this increase in seafood production is threatened by challenges imposed by disease, climate change, and environmental pollution, as well as weaknesses in processing and distribution chains. These challenges are further exacerbated by unexpected or unexplained events such as harmful algal blooms, disease, or area closures.

WHAT IS PRESS?

PRESS is an initiative at the University of Rhode Island (URI), in partnership with Rhode Island Sea Grant, that provides nimble and rapid funding to address ongoing issues and unexpected challenges facing our Rhode Island fisheries, aquaculture, and seafood sectors. PRESS was established through NOAA with funding (\$1M over 4 years) secured from an earmark by U.S. Senator Jack Reed and led by Marta Gomez-Chiarri, professor of fisheries and aquaculture at URI. More info is available at: <https://web.uri.edu/cels/>

Contact: PRESS@URI.EDU

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES?

PRESS funds will support **Feasibility** projects (1 year, up to \$30,000) and **Operational** projects (3 years, up to \$50,000 per year). Topics can include: Improving access & policy for the seafood system, 2) Improving sustainable growing & harvesting practices, 3) Enhancing seafood system resilience & product diversification, 4) Addressing environmental impacts to food systems, 5) Seafood processing, 6) Market development, and 7) Workforce development and training.



CAN I APPLY FOR FUNDS?

PRESS funds are available ongoing through 2026 via a rapid application process to selected teams of industry & researcher partnerships that have identified a pressing need in the Rhode Island seafood sector.

Decision-making is led by a Coordinating Committee composed of experts across the state. The PRESS team can assist potential applicants in developing a research idea and finding potential partners. Short pre-proposals are required.

APPLYING FOR PRESS



YOUR CHECK LIST

These steps will help walk you through submitting your idea for PRESS funds. Funds are available on an open, rolling basis, through March 2026 and applications will be considered by the Coordinating Committee approximately every 3 months during their scheduled meetings. Decisions will be made and awards given within the following 3 months. The aim is to provide rapid response to urgent issues facing our seafood sector, so a quick turn-around is the goal.



VET YOUR IDEA

- Identify a need or issue
- Read the Request for Proposals posted at:
<https://web.uri.edu/cels/press/>
- Reach out to the PRESS team to discuss your idea to ensure it would qualify for funds.



GET ACCESS

- Identify whether your idea is Operational (3 years) or Feasibility (1 year).
- Email Alan for portal access: aland@uri.edu
- Log in to test the system works.



PARTNER UP

- Identify a research, industry, or community partner
- If you are unsure, reach out to the PRESS team for help match-make.
- Develop your concept in sync with your partner(s).



WRITE A PREPROPOSAL

- Write a brief preproposal that includes what you want to do, total funding requested, and the project timeline.
- Be sure to clearly describe the impacts/benefits to the RI seafood system, as a whole.

WRITE A FULL PROPOSAL

Favorably reviewed preproposals can then be developed into full proposals through eSeaGrant. See the PRESS website for full details.