



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Expedition Fund – Rapid Response Horizon AUGUST 2025

A. Program Overview

[MEOPAR \(Marine Environmental Observation, Prediction and Response Network\)](#) is a Canadian not-for-profit organization that supports research, training, and communication related to the ocean through funding programs. MEOPAR is making it easier for Canadian ocean researchers to obtain funding for collecting observations at sea. With three different horizons (Rapid Response, Strategic Support, and Major Expeditions) the Expedition Fund addresses community needs on short to long timescales. Projects funded under the Rapid Response Horizon will typically have expedition durations on the order of several days. The purpose of this program is to respond quickly to an unexpected event (e.g. spill, unusual ice conditions, major storm, geologic phenomenon, etc.).

The planning horizon for this program will be on the order of weeks to a few months and the phenomenon being investigated should have a reasonable expectation of meaningful, but perishable, observations given this timeframe. Successful applicants will clearly demonstrate the urgency of collecting these perishable observations and how such observations will answer existing or novel relevant questions in the community. Investigations of such phenomena may serve as initial observations in new time series or unique observations in existing time series, but perishable observations should generally be thought of as providing a short-lived opportunity in the context of bigger questions. While such perishable observations are not a guarantee of subsequent funding, successful applicants are encouraged to use observations in future calls with longer planning horizons.

B. Alignment with MEOPAR objectives

MEOPAR has identified the following objectives for which targeted funding will be provided:

1. Strengthen the evidence base for decision making and adaptation through development of improved tools, techniques, and strategies for ocean and coastal observation, prediction, and information sharing.
2. Increase economic opportunity, coastal community resilience, and marine ecosystem protection in the face of climate and technological change through end-user-driven science and novel collaborative structures.
3. Improve access to and use of ocean research infrastructures.
4. Diversify, develop, and broaden deployment of Canada's ocean-related research and innovation talent.

Applicants are also encouraged to consult the [MEOPAR Science Strategy 2025–2030](#) for further context and to ensure alignment with MEOPAR’s long-term vision and core priorities.

C. Structure of the Call

Awards are expected to be on the order of \$50K-\$100K for *reimbursement* of eligible expenses. Funds will be available in each fiscal year, (beginning April 1), but will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis through a rolling application deadline. Funding durations will be no more than one year.

Please note, MEOPAR requires applicants secure matching funds from non-federal government sources that equal or exceed the amount requested from federal, including MEOPAR, funding sources. If MEOPAR is the sole funding source of the project, it will be ineligible.

D. Funding Eligibility

Eligible recipients of MEOPAR funds include post-secondary institutions, not-for-profit organizations, Indigenous organizations and governments, municipalities, research networks, public engagement networks, companies that deliver public engagement activities, or start-up companies (including those housed in Canadian post-secondary-linked incubators). Eligible recipients do not include federal departments, agencies, or Crown Corporations of the Government of Canada.

E. Requirements of Funding

The institution of the principal investigator will enter into an agreement with MEOPAR (called an Ultimate Recipient Agreement [URA]), that will enable the institution to pay for eligible research expenses. The URA identifies the funding schedule, reporting timeline, project milestones and key performance indicators.

F. Budget

Detailed budgets (i.e., project and partner contribution), with accompanying justification, are required. The budget must be submitted in the format of the attached template (**Appendix B**).

Eligible expenses are limited to the collection of perishable data. This includes the travel, shipping, equipment rental, vessel fees, and costs associated with the immediate analyses of perishable samples through professional fees. Costs associated with the generation of non-perishable data, analyses, knowledge mobilization, and researcher/technician/HQP salaries are not permitted.

MEOPAR can provide support for overhead (indirect costs) at a rate appropriate for the context of the project up to a maximum of 15%. The rate must be established considering the scale of the project (i.e., not simply using a general flat-rate percentage charge [such as 15%] that does not consider project context). Justification is required for use of this category in the form of a narrative description

that explains how the funds will be used under this category, how each expense is calculated, and why it is required. If these costs are not being requested, this should also be justified and clear, so MEOPAR understands your institution's administrative capacity. If you require administration but do not charge it to the project, it may also be described as an in-kind contribution to assist with the matched funding requirement.

For non-MEOPAR contributions, indicate in the attached template (**Appendix C**) whether partner contributions are cash or in-kind and if the contribution is expected or secured. Matching funds must be equal to or above the ratio of 1:1 from non-federal government partners for every dollar of MEOPAR funding requested. Please see the [explanation of matched and leveraged partner contributions](#) for clarification.

G. Submission Procedure

To express interest in applying for the Expedition Fund: Rapid Response Horizon, email the Program Manager - Expeditions, Jonathan Kellogg, at jonathan.kellogg@meopar.ca with a brief description of your proposed expedition.

If determined to be a good fit for this program, you will be asked to draft a short proposal (≤4 pages) describing:

- Why this research is novel or necessary?
- How does this research align with federal priorities?
- Why is a rapid response needed for this event?
- What makes these data perishable?
- How will these data contribute to a larger hypothesis, time series, or program?
- What is the research plan, including expected outcomes, and timeline for the research?
- How this project will address:
 - Equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility?
 - Truth and reconciliation objectives?
 - Knowledge mobilization?
- Has your institution pre-vetted the MEOPAR Ultimate Recipient Agreement?

H. Inquiries

For questions regarding this Call for Proposals contact Jonathan Kellogg, Program Manager – Expeditions, at jonathan.kellogg@meopar.ca.

I. Proposal Evaluation

MEOPAR will review and evaluate proposals based on the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria – Expedition Fund – Rapid Response Horizon

		OUTSTANDING	VERY STRONG	STRONG	MODERATE	INSUFFICIENT
Expedition goals and quality (25%)	12.5%	Project is very well described, highly original/innovative , and will contribute to nationally, and or internationally competitive research, innovations, and advancements in the field.	Project is well described , original/innovative , and is likely to contribute to internationally competitive research, innovations, and advancements in the field.	Project is satisfactorily described , moderately original, innovative , and may contribute to internationally competitive research, innovations, and/or advancements in the field.	Project is unsatisfactorily described , somewhat original/innovative , and is unlikely to contribute to internationally competitive research, innovations, and/or advancements in the field.	Project is poorly described , not original/innovative , and will not contribute to internationally competitive research, innovations, and/or advancements in the field.
	12.5%	Project alignment with federal objectives and strategies is explicit and the project will contribute to advance federal priorities.	Project alignment with federal objectives and strategies is clear and the project is likely to contribute to advance federal priorities.	Project alignment with federal objectives and strategies is evident and the project may advance federal priorities.	Project alignment with federal objectives and strategies is unclear and the project is unlikely to advance federal priorities.	Project alignment with federal objectives and strategies is undefined and the project will not advance federal priorities.
Rapid Response Justification (25%)	12.5%	The phenomenon is highly unusual or uncommon and advanced planning for the event was not possible . Clearly perishable data have a high likelihood of observation during the response.	The phenomenon is unusual or uncommon and advanced planning for the event was not possible . Perishable data may be observed during the response.	The phenomenon is somewhat unusual or uncommon , but advanced planning for the event may have been possible . It is unclear if perishable data will be sampled during the response.	The phenomenon is somewhat common and advanced planning was possible . Data may not be perishable or are unlikely to be sampled during the response.	The phenomenon is common and advanced planning for sampling is definitely possible . Data are stable and may wait for regular funding programs.
	12.5%	Perishable data will, or do, contribute to a larger hypothesis, time series, or program that will clearly benefit from these observations.	Perishable data will, or do, contribute to a larger hypothesis, time series, or program that will benefit from these observations.	Perishable data will, or do, contribute to a larger hypothesis, time series, or program that may benefit from these observations.	Perishable data may not contribute to a larger hypothesis, time series, or program.	Perishable data do not contribute to a larger hypothesis, time series, or program.
Plan, budget, matching contributions (25%)	12.5%	Expedition plan and budget elements are very clearly described , align with realistic and appropriate timelines , and strongly support outcomes	Expedition plan and budget elements are clearly described , align with realistic timelines , and support outcomes.	Expedition plan and budget elements are adequately described , are likely to support a realistic timeline , and may support outcomes.	Expedition plan and budget elements are partially described , and weakly connected to a timeline that may not be realistic . Outcomes are unlikely to be achieved.	Expedition plan and budget elements are unclear , and unconnected to timelines that are unrealistic or unable to support project outcomes.

	12.5%	Matching contributions are superior ($\geq 1.75 : 1$) from non-federal partners (cash or in kind), or higher.	Matching contributions are evident ($1.5 - 1.74 : 1$) from non-federal government partners (cash or in kind).	Matching contributions are present ($1.25 - 1.49 : 1$) from non-federal government partners (cash or in kind).	Matching contributions meet the minimum ($1 - 1.24 : 1$) from non-federal government partners (cash or in kind).	Matching contributions are insufficient ($< 1 : 1$) from non-federal government partners (cash or in kind).
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility & Knowledge Mobilization (25%)	12.5%	Expedition crewing embraces EDIA policy and project applies an EDIA lens to all its activities, including a well-balanced research team between established and emerging leaders. The project will advance Truth & Reconciliation objectives by including Indigenous partners and businesses (e.g. Indigenous owned vessels) as well as priorities/perspectives.	Expedition crewing is made with EDIA in mind and project will have representation of both established and emerging leaders. The project has strong potential to advance Truth & Reconciliation objectives through inclusion of Indigenous priorities/perspectives.	Expedition crewing references EDIA policy and research team may have representation of both established and emerging leaders. The project may advance Truth & Reconciliation objectives through aspects of its design and implementation.	Expedition crewing references EDIA policy, but it is unclear if research team will be balanced. The project is unlikely to advance Truth & Reconciliation Objectives.	No EDIA policy is referenced and/or the research team is unbalanced . The project will not advance Truth & Reconciliation objectives.
	12.5%	Knowledge mobilization strategy from the expedition and post-expedition has potential for mainstream media interest in addition to reaching diverse communities .	Knowledge mobilization strategy from the expedition and/or post-expedition will likely reach outside scientific community .	Knowledge mobilization strategy from the expedition and/or post-expedition is typical for scientific community .	Knowledge mobilization strategy from the expedition may reach select audiences . No plans for post-expedition .	No knowledge mobilization strategy is mentioned.