



CALL FOR PARTNERSHIPS

December 2025

A. Program Overview

MEOPAR is a Canadian not-for-profit organization that supports coordination, research, training, and communication related to the ocean. MEOPAR has supported a wide range of ocean research related activities since 2012 across multiple ocean research disciplines.

This call for partnerships is seeking **organization-to-organization** reciprocal collaborations to work together on key priorities including: 1) advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in Canada, 2) promoting equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility in the ocean sector, 3) expediting strategic areas of emerging ocean research, 4) responding to and aligning with important Government of Canada research priorities, and 5) getting Canadian researchers to sea in innovative ways.

B. Alignment with MEOPAR Objectives and Science Strategy

Partnerships with MEOPAR should:

- demonstrate a large reach in terms of people, communities, and sectors they can connect with
- propose mutual outcomes that are beneficial for both organizations
- have potential to develop into a long-term (multi-year) relationship with MEOPAR
- include a role for both organizations (MEOPAR and the partner) in developing the objectives, scope, implementation, and desired outcomes of the collaboration

MEOPAR has identified the following priority objectives where partnerships are sought:

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 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 and Scope of the Partnership

MEOPAR requires that applicants have [matching funds](#) from non-federal government sources that equal or exceed the amount available from MEOPAR (matching fund of a minimum of 1:1 is required). The anticipated scale of MEOPAR contributions is \$150,000 - \$1,000,000+. Partnerships may take different implementation formats, for example: joint calls for proposals, training/internship activities, international cooperation, knowledge mobilization, industry challenges or competitions, placement of personnel on research vessels/expeditions, planning/executing a research expedition, or other strategic research initiative, utilization

or development of ocean research infrastructure (e.g. [MORI](#)) or data access (e.g. [CIOOS](#)). MEOPAR is open to all innovative ideas and activities that co-benefit MEOPAR and the partner.

Activities that do not fit the criteria outlined in sections B & C (i.e. individual or short-term projects, activities that do not have a role for MEOPAR involvement, activities that are already advanced in their planning) should seek funding through MEOPAR's competitive calls for proposals.

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. Partners can be Canadian or International and must be willing to comply with MEOPAR research security, and other policies that might be appropriate for the context.

E. Requirements of Funding

Each partner will enter into an agreement with MEOPAR that identifies the funding schedule, reporting timeline, project milestones and key performance indicators. Partnership agreements could take the form of a memorandum of understanding, an ultimate recipients' agreement, a collaboration agreement, or other legal and non-legal mechanisms that are appropriate to the final negotiation and circumstances.

F. Procedure

Proponents with a partnership idea that meets the above requirements should contact the MEOPAR Executive Director (Jamie Snook: jamie.snook@meopar.ca) to discuss your idea. Be prepared to comment on:

1. How your proposed partnership aligns with MEOPAR science strategy, strategic plan, or another relevant guiding document,
2. What is the potential positive impact for Canadian society and coastal communities?
3. What will be your sources of matched or leveraged contributions?
4. How can MEOPAR support the development of the partnered activity beyond simply providing funding?
5. What are the strengths and qualities of your team that will allow you to work collaboratively with MEOPAR?
6. What will be the benefits of this partnership to: your organization, MEOPAR, and society?
7. How is your organization structured to reduce reputational risk to MEOPAR?

If your partnership is selected for further development, MEOPAR may ask you to submit a formal written proposal. A sample template is available on MEOPAR's website (Call for Partnerships page). Further instructions, including the submission process, will be communicated by a Program Manager assigned to your file. Your proposal will be reviewed by MEOPAR's Executive and Scientific Directors, who may seek input from external reviewers, and or Board of Directors. Selected partnerships will be recommended to MEOPAR's Board of Directors for approval.

G. Inquiries

Inquiries for this program should be directed to the MEOPAR Executive Director: jamie.snook@meopar.ca.