



**NOVA SCOTIA SEAFOOD
INNOVATION AND
TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION
PROGRAM
(NS-ITAP)**

Program Guidelines

PROGRAM OUTLINE

NOVA SCOTIA SEAFOOD INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION PROGRAM (NS-ITAP)

The purpose of the Nova Scotia Seafood Innovation and Technology Adoption Program (NS-ITAP) is to increase the productivity, competitiveness, quality and sustainability of the Nova Scotia fishing, aquaculture, marine plant harvesting and seafood buying/processing sectors through the provision of non-repayable contribution funding for eligible 'innovation' and 'infrastructure' related projects.

NS-ITAP strives to increase the value and volume of Nova Scotia fish and seafood products that are marketed as high quality, value-added and sustainably sourced.

Subject to funding availability, the Program is scheduled to run from May 1, 2024 to February 28, 2026.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

An eligible applicant is a commercial enterprise, including Indigenous, operating in the province of Nova Scotia and in compliance with all the necessary permits, leases, licenses, and regulations to operate. The enterprise must have its primary commercial activity in the Seafood Sector which include:

- Primary and/or secondary processing of seafood products that have been sustainably harvested in Atlantic Canada,
- Marine plant harvesting,
- Aquaculture (land-based or marine),
- Live lobster holding facility (land-based), and
- Harvesting of fish or crustacean approved for commercial fishery licenced by DFO.

A commercial enterprise includes:

- Incorporated entities,
- Co-operatives,
- Partnerships,
- Sole proprietorship, and
- Indigenous organizations with a fish or seafood related commercial activity.

Depending on the nature and scope of the project, Nova Scotia-based industry groups or associations can be an eligible applicant (non-commercial).

Eligible applicants must be in good standing with the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA), the Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board, the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (NSDNR), and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO); be registered with the Nova Scotia or federal business registries where applicable; have the relevant permits and licences in place; have the required authority to enter into an agreement with Perennia; and must not have any overdue amounts due to the Crown.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Innovation

- Research and development of new innovations to contribute to the sustainability and enhanced product quality, and
- Pilots and testing of new innovations, and
- Activities to introduce innovations to market

Infrastructure

- Adapting and/or adopting new technologies, processes, or equipment to improve the effectiveness, quality and sustainability of the Seafood Sector, and
- Training associated with the adaption and/or adoption of new technologies, processes or equipment

NON-ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Adoption of technologies and/or equipment that are required to comply with an existing Canadian regulation or considered part of regular business activities.
- Adoption of technologies and/or equipment that have not yet been successfully tested in a similar operational environment (minimum Technology Readiness Level of 8 or 9) or considered commercially available unless the project is considered to be an Innovation project. See Technology Readiness Level (TRL) Assessment Tool (canada.ca)
- Duplicate projects by the same applicant under the Program or funded previously (directly or indirectly) by the Atlantic Fisheries Fund (AFF).
- Acquisition of equipment that will not be installed within the confines of an existing building or would alter the approved activities and footprint of an aquaculture operation covered under its existing lease and licenses.
- Any activities not excluded from the Impact Assessment Act and Duty to Consult process.

LEVEL OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

NS-ITAP is offering up to \$99,900 in non-repayable assistance per project inclusive of all operations per fiscal year at a maximum assistance rate of 70 percent depending on the nature of the project.

Lower rates of assistance and funding provided for the following types of projects:

- Vessel based lobster quality projects – 50 percent to \$20,000 with canopies (wheelhouse extensions) at 20 percent assistance under a bundled project
- Trawl monitoring technology – 50 percent to \$60,000
- Seafloor mapping / sonar for groundfish trawlers – 50 percent to \$60,000
- Greenstick technology for large pelagics – 50 percent to \$15,000
- Shellfish grow-out gear – 70 percent to \$99,900 for the first project with subsequent projects supported at a 25 percent assistance rate to \$99,900

Companies can apply more than once for funding for separate projects so long as they meet program eligibility guidelines and all projects can be completed on or before February 28, 2026.

All applicants must contribute a minimum of 30% of their own funds and all outside funding sources must be disclosed. Quotes must be provided with the application where applicable /available.

Costs incurred prior to formal application to NS-ITAP will not be eligible for funding assistance.

For commercial applicants, the balance of financing must be in cash and this can be demonstrated through corporate or personal bank statements, externally prepared financial statements, credit facility agreements, or a proof of funds letter from a banking institution. For non-commercial applicants, the balance of financing can be a combination of cash and in-kind with each financing situation evaluated on a case by case basis for non-commercial projects.

NON-ELIGIBLE COSTS

Ineligible costs include but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- Costs incurred prior to application date
- In-kind contributions (for commercial applicants)*
- Costs related to marketing activities and business promotion
- Used or refurbished equipment
- Construction related costs, including building renovations
- Administration and internal project management costs
- Extended warranty costs
- Legal fees including licensing and permits
- Financing charges
- Goodwill
- Capital leases (long-term)
- Personal or recreational vehicles such as trucks, trailers, off-road vehicles
- General office supplies and furniture
- Real estate, land, and buildings
- Refundable portion of value added taxes or other costs for which a refund or rebate is or can be received
- Expenditures applied towards a non-eligible activity or considered non-reasonable or commensurate with the proposed project
- Equipment considered non-sustainable or being phased out
- Activities related to marketing and promotion

*In-kind costs for non-commercial applicants can be reviewed for funding consideration on a case-by-case basis.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Complete and submit the application form found at www.perennia.ca/nsitap

If you require assistance or have questions, please contact Sarah Lowe at seafoodprograms@perennia.ca

The application will be reviewed and presented to the NS-ITAP Program Review Committee. The Committee will make a recommendation to accept, deny or revise the application.

All recommendations for acceptance by the Committee under the Program will be subject to due diligence checks for good standing with the federal and provincial government with the Committee including ex officio representation from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

OTHER STIPULATIONS

As this initiative is being funded through the federal and provincial governments, applicants must be in good standing with both the federal and provincial departments of fisheries and the Nova Scotia Fisheries & Aquaculture Loan Board (if applicable). Good standing refers to payments, licensing, compliance & enforcement and depending on the nature and frequency of a violation or offence you may be denied funding support under the project.

Applicants must also disclose if they have any overdue amounts owed to the Crown.

Applicants must clearly indicate all sources of funding for their project and provide confirmation of all sources of funding (e.g. confirmation of bank loan or equity for the balance of project financing) via a letter from their bank.

Detailed invoices identifying and itemizing capital expenditure and contracted services must be provided. Taxes and other government fees (if applicable) must be clearly delineated.

Applicants are required to sign a Declaration and Consent form to use their personal information under the Project.

Applicants funded under NS-ITAP must retain control and possession of the project assets funded for a minimum of two (2) years following the project completion date. Failure to do so WILL result in full repayment.

All funded projects must be completed on or before February 28, 2026.