



## Quahog Bay Conservancy Marine Science Award

### Introduction

Quahog Bay Conservancy is pleased to provide support for undergraduate students conducting senior level research projects in Maine. The Marine Science Award is divided among student capstone projects totaling \$10,000 each year. The ideal research project will align with the mission and programs of Quahog Bay Conservancy (QBC), and are within the fields of marine biology, marine conservation, aquaculture, and climate change.

*The mission of the Quahog Bay Conservancy is to revitalize the ecosystem of Quahog Bay to a robust and resilient state for all communities - both human and biological - that depend on it.*

### QBC's Programs

1. **Sustainable Oyster Aquaculture:** Oysters are ecosystem engineers that naturally filter seawater. We use aquaculture as a method to clean the bay, stimulate the local economy, and fund our other conservation initiatives.
2. **Water Quality Monitoring:** We conduct weekly testing for pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity, phytoplankton abundance, and fecal coliforms in the water column (specifically E. Coli).
3. **Pollution Remediation:** QBC provides a free on-call pump-out boat service that transports waste to a local licensed facility, thereby preventing what may have been thousands of gallons of sewage and wastewater from being discharged into the bay annually.
4. **Invasive Species Removal:** We research, remove, and monitor invasive Green Crab (*Carcinus maenas*) populations in Quahog Bay.
5. **Marine Debris Removal:** Our team does weekly island, shore, and underwater cleanups to remove marine debris and help support the health of the ecosystem.
6. **Education and Outreach:** QBC hosts a number of educational and outreach events to help further educate visitors and local community members.

## Eligibility

To apply for funding each applicant must be:

- An undergraduate student attending a university in Maine
- Pursuing or intend to pursue a senior-level research project in marine science

## Requirements

Upon project completion, award recipients must:

1. Write a thank you letter to Quahog Bay Conservancy's Board of Directors
2. Provide a photo of you and your field/lab work
3. Provide a copy of all receipts for purchased equipment, supplies, travel, etc. Funding will not be awarded for housing.
4. Send us a copy of your final report documents and/or presentations (emailed to [nicole@quahogbay.org](mailto:nicole@quahogbay.org))

*By accepting this award, you have granted Quahog Bay Conservancy permission to post your photos and final report documents to our website and social media outlets.*

**Deadline:** February 1<sup>st</sup> \*

\*We understand that every school has a unique approach to helping students conduct senior-level research projects. This often means the deadline for each school can be different. If you wish to apply past this deadline, please contact [nicole@quahogbay.org](mailto:nicole@quahogbay.org) with a new deadline rationale and your full application.

## Application Instructions

Please email Nicole Twohig, at [nicole@quahogbay.org](mailto:nicole@quahogbay.org) with the following documents:

1. **Statement of the Problem and Rationale** - One page that clearly summarizes the significance, objectives, and methodology of the proposed research project.
2. **Budget Justification** - Use the table below and provide a short, written description of each cost (average projects usually range from \$1000-\$2500).

Direct Cost	Total Amount	Amount Requested
Equipment		
Supplies		
Travel		
Other		
Project Total:		

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact:

Nicole Twohig  
Development & Conservation Director  
[nicole@quahogbay.org](mailto:nicole@quahogbay.org)  
207.522.1105  
Or visit our website at [www.quahogbay.org](http://www.quahogbay.org)