

Applicant: **Claydon, John**
Organisation: **FisherFolkFirst**
Funding Sought: **£49,890.00**

DPLR5\1071

Developing equitable non-extractive value for spawning aggregations of reef fishes

Spawning aggregations of reef fishes are critical ecological phenomena and hotspots of biodiversity. The project aims to enhance protection for spawning aggregations of reef fishes in the Turks and Caicos Islands by developing their non-extractive value through responsible eco-tourism and ensuring that small-scale fishing communities share in those benefits.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Dr
Name John
Surname Claydon
Organisation FisherFolkFirst
Website (Work) www.fisherfolkfirst.org
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]

CONTACT DETAILS

Title Ms
Name Marta
Surname Calosso
Organisation FisherFolkFirst
Website (Work) www.fisherfolkfirst.org
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]

DPLR5\1071

Developing equitable non-extractive value for spawning aggregations of reef fishes

Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

Q1. Project Title

Developing equitable non-extractive value for spawning aggregations of reef fishes

Q2. Please select whether you are applying as an organisation or as an individual (Guidance section 3 and Guidance Glossary)

☒ Organisation

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Dr
Name	John
Surname	Claydon
Organisation	FisherFolkFirst
Website (Work)	www.fisherfolkfirst.org
Tel (Work)	
Email (Work)	
Address	

CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Ms
Name	Marta
Surname	Calosso
Organisation	FisherFolkFirst
Website (Work)	www.fisherfolkfirst.org
Tel (Work)	
Email (Work)	
Address	

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	FisherFolkFirst
Phone (Work)	
Email (Work)	
Website (Work)	
Address	

Section 2 - Overseas Territory(ies)

Q3. Please state whether the same (or a similar) project proposal has previously been submitted (or you are planning to submit it) to the UK Government for funding. This includes through Darwin Plus Local, Defra's other Darwin Plus grant schemes or other UK Government funding mechanisms. Failure to share this information may result in the application being ineligible (see Guidance section 2.1.1).

☒ No

Q4. Overseas Territory (Guidance section 1.3):

Which UK Overseas Territory(ies) will your project be working in?

☒ Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI)

*** if you have indicated a territory group with an asterisk, please give detail on which territories you are working on here:**

No Response

In addition to the UKOT(s) you have indicated, will your project directly benefit any other UK OT(s) or country(ies)?

☒ No

Section 3 - Project Partners

Q5. Project partners (Guidance section 3.2)

In this section, please give details of all the partners involved (including the Lead Organisation) and provide a summary of their roles.

Project Leader name:
(Guidance section 3.1)

John Claydon

Lead Organisation name: (if applying as an organisation; Guidance section 3.1)	FisherFolkFirst
Lead Organisation Website (if applicable):	www.fisherfolkfirst.org
Is the Lead Organisation based in a UKOT where the project is working? (Guidance section 3.1)	☒ Yes
List other partners involved and where are they based:	Department of Environment and Coastal Resources – Turks and Caicos Islands Government Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources Management – Turks and Caicos Islands Government
Summary of roles and responsibilities of each partner in the project:	FisherFolkFirst – Lead all aspects of project delivery, administration, implementation, and financial management. Department of Environment and Coastal Resources – Guidance with developing: protocol for responsible eco-tourism of spawning aggregation sites; models whereby fishing communities benefit directly from spawning aggregation eco-tourism; and models for eco-tourism and fisherfolk to be engaged in research and monitoring. Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources Management – Guidance with developing: protocol for responsible eco-tourism of spawning aggregation sites; models whereby fishing communities benefit directly from spawning aggregation eco-tourism; and models for eco-tourism and fisherfolk to be engaged in research and monitoring.
I confirm that all listed partners are aware of this application and have indicated support:	Checked

Attach a Cover Letter for your application (Guidance section 4.2).

-  [FisherFolkFirst Cover Letter DPL spawning aggregations](#)
-  25/11/2024
-  14:56:20
-  pdf 309.71 KB

Section 4 - Project Summary & Description

Q6. Project Summary (Guidance section 3.8)

Please provide a brief summary of your project. This may be used in communication activities and/or published online, if your application is successful.

Spawning aggregations of reef fishes are critical ecological phenomena and hotspots of biodiversity. The project aims to enhance protection for spawning aggregations of reef fishes in the Turks and Caicos Islands by developing their non-extractive value through responsible eco-tourism and ensuring that small-scale fishing communities share in those benefits.

Q7a. Description (Guidance section 2.1 and 6)

Please provide a description of your project, including:

- the overall objective
- the current situation and the problem the project is trying to address
- what success will look like and how you will measure it

Please be as specific as possible when describing the project, using quantified data and evidence where available. You may wish to consider: what are the specific threats to the environment that the project will attempt to address, and what should we know about these threats? What does your successful project look like? And how will you demonstrate whether and how your project has been successful?

OVERALL OBJECTIVE:

To enhance protection for spawning aggregations of reef fishes in the Turks and Caicos Islands by developing their non-extractive value through responsible eco-tourism and to ensure that benefits are appreciated by small-scale fishing communities.

THE CURRENT SITUATION AND THE PROBLEM THE PROJECT IS TRYING TO ADDRESS:

Spawning aggregations of reef fishes are spectacular natural phenomena that can involve 10s of 1000s of fish gathering to reproduce at the same site, some of which migrate over 100km to spawn. Spawning aggregations sites are ecological and biodiversity hot spots: multiple different species reproduce at the same site; larger apex predators come to prey on spawning fish; and planktivorous fish feed on the clouds of eggs broadcast into the water column. This assemblage of spawners, predators, and planktivores includes many species of conservation concern: groupers, snappers, parrotfish, sharks (including tiger, lemon, and whale sharks), and rays (e.g. manta rays).

Throughout the Wider Caribbean Region, spawning aggregations of normally disperse fish have been heavily targeted by fishers. This has led to catastrophic collapses in local populations of certain species of groupers and snappers: as a direct result, Nassau grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*) is now listed as 'critically endangered', cubera snapper (*Lutjanus cyanopterus*) as 'vulnerable', and yellowfin grouper (*Mycteroperca venenosa*) and mutton snapper (*Lutjanus analis*) as 'near threatened' on the IUCN Red List.

In 2015, the Turks and Caicos Islands introduced a blanket ban on fishing spawning aggregations of all species except mutton snapper. Further protection for Nassau grouper aggregations was implemented through a closed season banning the capture, sale, and possession of this species during its peak spawning months (1 December – 28 February). Albeit a legislative success, the immediate impact on fishers was the loss of predictable, seasonally important sources of income. Consequently, illegal fishing of spawning aggregations persists, particularly to meet the local demand for Nassau grouper.

The value of protection of charismatic marine species is often promoted in terms of how much more an animal is worth alive versus dead (e.g., sharks, rays, bonefish, and turtles). However, this value is rarely appreciated by the fishers who forgo landings to the benefit of others who profit from taking tourists to see (or catch-and-release) the live animals, nor is the 'live' value appreciated by the traditional consumers of these resources who forfeit their food sovereignty. Therefore, to garner support for the protection of spawning aggregations, it is critically important to establish a tangible direct benefit to these communities of fisherfolk.

WHAT SUCCESS WILL LOOK LIKE AND HOW WE WILL MEASURE IT:

By working with fishers, eco-tourism operators, Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources Management, and Department of Environment and Coastal Resources, the project will develop the non-extractive value of spawning aggregations of reef fishes as a resource for eco-tourism, expanding upon successful models in Belize

(e.g., Gladden Spit) and elsewhere. Illegal aggregation fishing will be reduced by providing non-extractive benefits to fishing communities, through education and outreach, and by the deterrence of recreational SCUBA diving and snorkelling at spawning sites. The project will also create a pathway for monitoring and research that engages fisherfolk.

SPECIFIC MEASURES OF SUCCESS:

- Reduced illegal fishing of spawning aggregations.
- Protocol drafted for responsible eco-tourism of spawning aggregations of reef fishes.
- List of candidate species and sites for both SCUBA diving and snorkel tourism of spawning aggregations of reef fishes.
- Education and outreach materials for fisherfolk about spawning aggregations of reef fishes developed and presented.
- Candidate models drafted whereby fishing communities benefit directly from spawning aggregation eco-tourism.
- Candidate models drafted whereby eco-tourism and fisherfolk are engaged in research and monitoring of spawning aggregations.

Q7b. Long-term sustainability (Guidance section 2.1 and 6)

Please describe the long-term benefits of the project and the change it will bring about. How will the outcomes of the project be sustained after the funding is finished?

Developing the non-extractive value of spawning aggregations of reef fishes will enhance protection of these critical ecological phenomena and biological hotspots, and this protection will endure past the end of the funding: the co-designed protocol for responsible eco-tourism of spawning aggregations of reef fishes will guide delivery of tourist experiences; fishers will continue to be deterred from illegally fishing spawning aggregations by the tangible non-extractive economic benefits, by their enhanced appreciation for spawning aggregations from the education and outreach activities, by the presence of recreational SCUBA diving and snorkeling at spawning sites, and by being engaged in future research and monitoring activities. The project will pave the way for a sustainable, alternative financing model to fund research and monitoring. The project will also serve as a successful model that can be used elsewhere in the Wider Caribbean Region.

(Optional) Please upload any additional and supporting materials or files (such as maps of project sites, etc) below. Maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF:

No Response

Section 5 - Project Outcome(s)

Q8. Project Outcome(s) (Guidance section 1.2)

Successful Darwin Plus Local projects must demonstrate measurable outcomes in at least one of the themes of Darwin Plus with a clear focus on biodiversity and the natural environment, either by the end of the project or soon after through a credible plan.

Please note: Any proposals including research or monitoring are required to demonstrate a clear link to tangible outcomes for conservation of biodiversity and the natural environment. Please explain how any new research will be applied to drive environmental outcomes on the ground.

Please confirm that your project has a clear focus on biodiversity and the natural environment.

Checked **Biodiversity: improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;**

Please tick which additional theme(s) of Darwin Plus your project contributes to (if relevant):

Unchecked	Climate change: responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities;
Checked	Environmental quality: improving the condition and protection of the natural environment
Checked	Capability and capacity building: enhancing the capacity within OTs, including through community engagement and awareness, to support the environment in the short- and long-term.

Please justify your selection. Please use quantitative information where possible here.

- Biodiversity: Reduced fishing pressure on spawning aggregations protects populations of spawners, apex predators, and planktivores, many of which are species of conservation concern (under CITES, SPAW, CMS, and IUCN Red List; see Table 1 in Cover Letter).
- Environmental quality: Protecting spawning aggregations enhances the ecological roles they play (reproductive, trophic, and supplying nutrients). Aggregating species include important grazers (parrotfishes and surgeonfishes) that protect coral reefs.
- Capability and capacity building: The project will develop understanding, awareness, and support among fishers for the importance of spawning aggregations and increase their capacity to benefit from the non-extractive value of spawning aggregations.

Section 6 - Workplan

Q9. Workplan (Guidance section 2.2)

Please provide anticipated dates for the start and end of your planned project here. Please use the Darwin Plus Local Project Workplan (available at: <https://darwinplus.org.uk/how-to-apply/local-applications/>) to provide a list of the individual activities you have planned for this project, a brief description of what each activity entails, and the months in which the activities will be carried out. If the project involves only one activity (e.g. a purchase), please still provide project start and end dates (noting estimated times for procurement). Please note that your project must start after 1 April 2025 and be completed by 31 March 2026.

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 3 months):
01 April 2025	31 March 2026	12 months

Please upload the completed Darwin Plus Local Project Workplan with your proposed project activities here

Section 7 - Costs

Q10. Costs (Guidance section 2.2 and please read the Finance Guidance)

Please provide a breakdown of costs to be funded through Darwin Plus Local (in GBP).

Are you seeking any matched funding for this project? (Please note that this is optional and there is no requirement to seek matched funding for Darwin Plus Local projects).

☒ Yes

How much matched funding are you seeking and where from?

In-kind support: FisherFolkFirst staff time – 2 persons x 3 months @ GBP per person per month = GBP

Budget line	Explanation	Cost in GBP
Staff costs:	None	
Consultancy costs:	Translation - English to Spanish x 7 hours @ per hour = Translation - English to Haitian Creole x 7 hours @ per hour = Narration - Haitian Creole, Spanish, English - 3 x 1 hour @ per hour) = Graphic artist @	
Overhead costs:	None	
Travel & subsistence costs:	45 nights accommodation @ GBP per night = GBP 4 return trips Providenciales to South Caicos @ GBP = GBP 2 return trips Providenciales to Grand Turk @ GBP = GBP Per diem: 2x 60 days @ GBP x day = GBP	
Operating costs:	Commercial fisher boat charter: 15 days @ GBP per day = GBP Car rental: 60 days @ GBP per day = GBP Workshops: catering = GBP	

Capital equipment:	Handheld Marine GPS + waterproof case @	
	Drone + Accessories @	
	GoPro Hero 11 plus accessories @	
	Portable Projector @	
	Laptop: MacBookPro @	
	Speakers @	
Other Costs	Printing outreach and education materials: brochures, posters, pull-up banners	
Total:		

This section provides more information on the budget to help evaluators understand how you will use the funds you are requesting. You do not need to list all costs, but please list and detail costs of more than £1,000 per item below, under the appropriate budget line.

Details of staff costs over £1,000 (if relevant)

None

Details of overhead costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

None

Details of travel and subsistence costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

Accommodation is necessary in South Caicos, Grand Turk, and Providenciales. Costs will be saved by sharing accommodation.

Subsistence is necessary for 60 days while 2 x staff in the field.

Details of operating costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

Commercial Fisher boat charter is necessary to document spawning aggregations, in water filming, mapping of candidate sites and species, and engaging fishers in the process.

Car rental is necessary for 60 days when staff in the field.

Workshop catering – food is an expectation for workshops in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Details of capital equipment costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

Drone with high-resolution camera and good battery life is require for fine-scale mapping and for developing engaging outreach and education materials.

Laptop with fast processor and memory is essential for video editing and graphics (currently FisherFolkFirst does not have any computers)

Projector is required for delivering presentations to fishing communities in a range of settings.

Drone, Laptop, and Projector will be assets retained by FisherFolkFirst and will continue to be used following the end of the project for a range of initiatives including outreach and education.

Details of consultancy costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

None

Details of other costs over £1,000 (if relevant)

Printing of outreach and education materials is necessary in multiple formats – posters, brochures, and portable pull-up banners.

If your project budget was prepared in another currency and converted to GBP, please provide the exchange rate, its source, and the date it was accessed:

Other currency:	Exchange rate:	Source of this exchange rate:	Date exchange rate accessed:
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response

Darwin Plus Local has been created to build capacity and contribute to local economies in-territory (Guidance section 2.1.1 and section 1.8.4 of the Finance Guidance).

In-territory spend is defined in Darwin Plus Local as including funding spent on:

- Equipment purchased in-territory;
- Equipment that cannot be acquired in-territory and is therefore purchased abroad, but will remain and be used in-territory beyond the life of the proposed Darwin Plus Local project;
- Training or skills that cannot be acquired in-territory and are therefore purchased abroad, but will be used in-territory beyond the life of the proposed Darwin Plus Local project;
- Time for consultants or staff based in-territory.

In-territory spend does not include:

- Time for consultants or staff who are based abroad, even if they travel to the OT to undertake the work;
- Shipping and import costs for equipment purchased abroad;
- Travel and subsistence costs where they incur spend outside the OT.

What % of the total will be spent in-territory? 92

If less than 80% of the total project spend is to be spent in-territory, please explain why.

No Response

Section 8 - Local and National Priorities

Q11. Local and national priorities

Please explain how this project aligns with local and national priorities? You may wish to consider the project in the context of national environmental laws, objectives, strategies, territory specific agreements, action plans or policies.

The project aligns with:

- TCI Constitution: Section 18. (2) the Government should adopt reasonable ... measures to protect .. wildlife and ... sea biodiversity of the Islands that ... (b) promote conservation and biodiversity; and (c) secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources [abbreviated]
- Fisheries Protection Regulations:
 - 12. (2) The close season in relation to Nassau grouper shall be from the first day of December to the twenty-eighth day of February (inclusive) in each year ...
 - 23. (1) No person shall take any finfish from any spawning aggregation within the territorial waters except for the taking of mutton snapper.
- TCI Government's Vision 2040 priorities on food security and environmental management.
- TCI Government's current initiatives to develop sustainable livelihoods for fishers and fisherfolk.
- TCI's Blue Belt collaboration with UK Government.

-Research policies of DECR.

Species found at spawning aggregation sites include spawners, apex predators, and planktivores listed under:

-Appendix II of CITES

-Annexes II and III of the SPAW Protocol of the Cartagena Convention

-Appendix I of the Convention on the Conservation Migratory Species of Wild Animals

And includes species listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, and Near Threatened under the IUCN's Red List of Endangered Species.

Will the project...

Take place on Government owned land or water?

☒ Yes

Involve biocontrol, invasive alien species control or eradication?

☒ No

Require permit(s) from Government departments for completion of activities?

☒ No

If you have answered yes to any of the questions above, please attach evidence that you have Government support for this project i.e. a Letter of Support. Applications which indicate that they do not take place on Government land or water, but which propose work that appears to the reviewers would be difficult/impossible to carry out without working on government land or waters may be ineligible if no Letter of Support is provided.

 [DFMRM letter of support for FisherFolkFirst spawning aggregations project](#)

 25/11/2024

 16:55:08

 pdf 192.92 KB

 [DECOR letter of support for FisherFolkFirst Darwin PlusLocal application](#)

 24/11/2024

 11:48:28

 pdf 244.11 KB

Section 9 - Project Risks

Q12. Project Risks

Please demonstrate your consideration of any risks involved in this project and how you intend to manage them. Please note the importance of health and safety and environmental risk assessment in the design of your project. If there is any possibility that your project may have negative impacts on the environment or human health, it is important that you provide a comprehensive analysis of potential environmental and human health risks, and the prevention measures you will take to ensure the work does not cause harm.

Depending on your project, you may wish to consider:

- Biosecurity risks – particularly for projects involving external equipment.
- Safeguarding risks – particularly for projects involving vulnerable groups such as children, older people or people with disabilities.

For example, you should consider the ratio of vulnerable people or children to adults, ensuring there are appropriate background checks of all staff, and informing vulnerable groups and children of their right to safety and protection.

Risk	Mitigation
Hurricanes, tropical storms, and other inclement weather	NOAA's National Hurricane Centre advisory (https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/) will be monitored daily during the project and project personnel will follow all guidance provided by the TCI Dept. Disaster Management and Emergency
Sexual harassment	Project staff will hold meetings in open settings, avoiding private one-on-one interactions with stakeholders behind closed doors.
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Do you require more fields?

☒ No

Section 10 - Terms & Conditions

Q13. Terms and conditions (Guidance section 3.10)

By applying for Darwin Plus Local you are adhering in full to the grant Terms and Conditions in full (available at: <https://darwinplus.org.uk/how-to-apply/local-applications/> and as referenced in the Guidance at section 3.10). For information, the Terms and Conditions include requirements for all applicants to (amongst other requirements as per the full Terms and Conditions):

- Uphold a zero tolerance for inaction approach to tackling sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment.
- Where appropriate, make all reasonable and adequate efforts to address gender inequality and other power imbalances.
- Notify all cases of fraud and theft (whether proven or suspected) relating to the project to the Grant Administrator as soon as they identified.

Please indicate you have read, and understood, and will adhere to the Terms and Conditions.

Checked

Supporting documents list (please have these ready to attach with application)

- Cover Letter of no more than two A4 pages. (Guidance section: 4.2 has information on what this cover letter should include).
- If the project takes place on public land or water, is addressing invasive alien species or includes activities requiring a permit, a Letter of support from OT Government.
- Project Workplan in the template provided for Darwin Plus Local (available at: <https://darwinplus.org.uk/how-to-apply/local-applications/>).
- Map and additional information (optional) maximum five additional pages.

If your application is successful

-
If your project application is successful, the Fund Administrator (NIRAS) will ask you to provide some financial evidence for due diligence checks before you receive your project grant. (Please see section 3.3 of the Darwin Plus Local Finance Guidance). Please be ready to provide this evidence promptly.

- **Financial evidence for organisations:** Year-end financial statements, the latest management accounts or audited accounts (if you have these).

- **Financial evidence for individuals:** Proof of identity such as a passport, ID card or driving licence and solvency (such as bank statements) and a police check.

Section 11 - Certification

Certification

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the statements made in this application are true and the information provided is correct.

Checked

I have the authority to submit an application on behalf of my organisation.

Checked

Name:	John Claydon
Position in the organisation: (if applicable)	Director
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 John Claydon signature  24/11/2024  12:46:05  png 26.6 KB
Date:	24 November 2024

Section 12 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance documents, including the “Darwin Plus Local Guidance” and the “Darwin Plus Local Finance Guidance”.	Checked
If my proposed project takes place on public lands or water or is addressing alien invasive species, I have uploaded a Letter of Support from Government.	Checked
I have uploaded a cover letter that details the information requested in the guidance (Guidance section 4.2 has information on what this cover letter should include).	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund (found at: https://darwinplus.org.uk/apply/local-applications/) for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for my project that fit this Round.	Checked
I have provided my summary budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP in the application form.	Checked

I have uploaded my project workplan using the specific template provided (available at: https://darwinplus.org.uk/apply/local-applications/).	Checked
I have uploaded all supplementary documents if I have any.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Plus website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Plus website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under Darwin Plus. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share project news. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

This Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising Darwin Plus including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).