

Special Projects Competition

Addressing COVID-19 Impacts to Seafood Resources

SPECIAL PROJECTS “E” ANNOUNCEMENT

Competition:

FY 2021 Addressing COVID-19 Impacts to Seafood Resources

Closing Date:

April 6, 2021 at 11:59PM Eastern Time

Eligible Sea Grant Programs:

This competition is open to all Sea Grant programs. All projects must take place within the United States or territories or their respective waterways.

Award Time Frame:

The proposed start date should be no earlier than August 1, 2021, with projects to be completed no later than two years after the project start date.

Funding Availability:

The National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) anticipates that up to **\$4,000,000** of Sea Grant federal funds will be available to support funding projects by Sea Grant programs addressing continued impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic on seafood resources. Pending fundable projects, the NSGO plans to fund projects at two levels (tiers) of funding:

Single state/Sea Grant program-based projects -

Projects that address impacts in a single state/Sea Grant program may request a total of up to \$200,000 in federal funding. A Sea Grant program can submit no more than one project in this category.

Multi-program projects -

Sea Grant programs can also partner to submit multi-program projects that can request up to \$600,000 total in federal funding to address national/regional/topical scale impacts in a team approach. Individual programs may participate in multiple projects within this category. Awards will be made to the lead Sea Grant program.

Applications require the standard 50% non-federal match for Sea Grant projects.

Project Description (program priorities):

This special projects funding opportunity will provide support to address ongoing and long term impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic on seafood resources, including aquaculture or the connection between aquaculture and wild-caught fisheries. Projects may also address strategies to increase the resilience of the seafood resources sector to respond to future disruptions. Projects may be new or may build upon projects initiated via FY2020 COVID-19 Rapid Response Funding. Potential focus areas may include (but are not limited to) use of aquaculture products for restoration of wild fisheries, marketing, food security, consumer awareness and acceptance of seafood products, workforce development, tourism, and human health resources including mental health. Partnerships with industry are strongly encouraged. Projects may focus on extension, communication, education, research, or a combination of these activities.

Application Requirements:

Consult the NOFO [NOAA-OAR-SG-2020-2006435](#), available at [Grants.gov](#), for eligible applicants, required elements of the application, how to submit, general programmatic priorities and selection factors, and other necessary information. Submit your application to **SPECIAL PROJECTS "E"** under this opportunity in Grants.gov.

Discrepancies between this special project announcement and the NOFO may exist. Specific application details and instructions outlined in this special project announcement take precedence over guidelines in the NOFO.

Proposals **must** include the following elements (1 - project narrative, 2 - budget forms and narrative, and 3 - additional required forms). Please note that incomplete application packages will be rejected.

1. **Project Narrative:** The Project Narrative must include the following documents:
 - a. Project Description. The total number of pages of the project description should not exceed fifteen (15). Excess pages will not be included in the review. References, CVs, and letters of support do not contribute to the page limit.
 - i. Cover page (1 page maximum).
 1. Project title; Lead Sea Grant program (applicant) point of contact name, email address, and phone number; principal and co-principal investigators - name, email address, and phone number; names and affiliations of others investigators and partners (as appropriate).
 2. Budget overview - Total cost and annual breakdown of requested funding by program/institution/partners.
 - ii. Project Abstract (1 page maximum).
 - iii. Introduction/background/justification.
 - iv. Project objectives.
 - v. General work plan, methods, and project timeline with milestones - *Please note that applicants submitting proposals that involve the use of human test subjects should state so clearly in their application. These proposed research activities require approval of the applicant's Institutional Review Board (IRB) before such research can proceed. Applicants are responsible for obtaining IRB approval from their institution and providing that documentation to NOAA once the approval is obtained and prior to any NOAA-funded human subject testing. Proposals intending to use human test subjects should specify clearly in the timeline approximately when IRB approval will be obtained and when the testing is expected to occur.*
 - vi. Description of how the proposed work directly applies to addressing Sea Grant's mission to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine and Great Lakes resources in order to create a sustainable economy and environment.
 - vii. Anticipated outcomes and deliverables.
 - viii. Outreach and education plan.
 - ix. Diversity statement - *NSGO recognizes it has a particular and unique opportunity to support NOAA's commitment to diversity and inclusion by taking an*

intentional step that encourages applicants to consider diversity and inclusion as part of their scientific projects. This action has the potential to make an impact on not only the diversity and inclusion in science at NOAA, but also beyond the agency. In this section, describe how the proposed activity broadens the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, geography, etc.) and how they benefit from its outcomes. Applicants are encouraged to review the resources and best practices compiled by NSGO related to diversity, equity and inclusion:

<https://seagrant.noaa.gov/insideseagrant/Implementation/Network-Visioning/DiversityInclusion>

- x. References (does not count towards page limit).
 - xi. Curriculum vitae (CV) for principal and co-principal investigators (does not count towards page limit). Each person's CV should not be longer than 2 pages. CVs of other investigators and partners are optional. Excess pages will not be included in the review.
 - xii. Letters of support (optional, does not count against page limit).
- b. Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire (OMB Control No. 0648-0538) (does not count towards page limit) - *Applicants must ensure that this questionnaire is completed in full and includes detailed information regarding project location, methodology, and permits. Copies of all permits required for project activities should be included with application materials. If a permit is pending or planned, please provide this information. The questionnaire can be found here:*
<https://seagrant.noaa.gov/insideseagrant/Implementation>. *Guidance on how to complete the questionnaire can be found here:*
<https://seagrant.noaa.gov/Portals/1/Forms/NEPA%20Questionnaire%20-%20Guidance.pdf>
- c. Data Management Plan (does not count towards page limit) - *All applications must include a Data Management Plan that is compliant with NOAA's Public Access to Research Results Plan (<https://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/parr.html>). The Data Management Plan should not exceed 2 pages. The Data Management Plan should include descriptions of the types of metadata and data expected to be created during the course of the project, plans for disseminating the metadata and data to the broader community, and plans for long-term archiving of the metadata and data.*
2. **Budget Narrative and Justification:** The Budget Narrative must include the following documents (Sea Grant 90-4 Forms and Budget Justification) in the following order and format. Additional budget narrative guidance can be found at:
https://www.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/gmd_budget_narrative_guidance_-_05-24-2017_final.pdf
- a. Sea Grant 90-4 Form (OMB Control No. 0648-0362) - *Sea Grant 90-4 Forms are required to provide budget breakdowns and budget justifications by year and object class for the proposal. A completed Sea Grant 90-4 Form should be completed for each project year, as well as a total budget for the entire project duration (i.e., Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, and Years 1-3). Guidance on filling out these forms is located in the Sea Grant General Application Guide.*

- b. Budget Justifications - *For each year of the project, a Budget Justification is required. Each Budget Justification should explain the budget items in sufficient detail to enable review of the appropriateness of the funding requested. Each Budget Justification should be attached as a PDF to each Sea Grant 90-4 Form, as appropriate. Guidance on completing the Budget Justifications is located in the Sea Grant General Application Guide.*
3. **Required Federal Forms and Assurances:** Standard Federal Forms and Assurances are required and can be found on Grants.gov or on the Sea Grant website (links found below). These include:
 - a. SF-424A Form (Grants.gov, OMB Control No. 4040-0006).
 - b. SF-424B Assurances (Grants.gov, OMB Control No. 4040-0007).
 - c. CD-511 (Grants.gov, US Department of Commerce).
 - d. SF-LLL (Grants.gov, OMB Control No. 0348-0046) if applicable.

Application Evaluation Criteria:

The following criteria will be used to evaluate proposals. Note that the weights of each criteria are different than the Evaluation Criteria laid out in the Special Projects Funding Opportunity announcement. Proposals submitted to this competition will be evaluated by at least three independent written reviews and a panel based on:

1. Importance/relevance and applicability of proposed projects to program priorities (25%)
This criterion ascertains whether the proposed work is relevant to the described program priorities described above.
2. Technical/scientific merit (25%)
This criterion assesses whether the proposal is technically sound, employs appropriate methods, and outlines clear objectives.
3. Overall qualifications of applicants (15%)
This criterion evaluates whether applicants possess the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project.
4. Project costs (10%)
This criterion analyzes the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time frame.
5. Outreach and Education (25%)
This criterion reviews whether the project provides a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nation's natural resources, Sea Grant's strategic focus areas, and the goals of the individual competition announcement to target audiences, including underserved and underrepresented audiences. For this competition, this includes the quality of the dissemination plan.

Please note that selected projects will be recommended for funding only if they have a complete application package and if funds are available.

Other Information:

Reporting:

Awards made in this competition will be stand-alone (i.e., non-omnibus) awards for which annual progress reporting will be required.

Agency Contacts:

Questions about this competition or the Special Projects Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) may be sent to oar.hq.sg.aquaculture@noaa.gov. Please specify that your question is related to the FY 2021 Addressing COVID-19 Impacts to Seafood Resources Special Competition in the subject line.

Fillable versions of required Sea Grant forms can be found here:

<https://seagrant.noaa.gov/insideseagrant/Implementation>

Guidance for completing these forms is located in the Sea Grant General Application Guidance Document: <https://seagrant.noaa.gov/Portals/1/Guidance/SeaGrantGeneralApplicationGuide.pdf>