Executive Summary:

The Oregon Sea Grant College Program invites full proposals based on preliminary proposal submissions from researchers who are affiliated with any Oregon institution of higher education for research projects that address cutting-edge socioeconomic and biophysical science related to important marine and coastal issues. Oregon Sea Grant (OSG) supports only the highest quality marine and coastal research characterized by strong societal relevance, so only the most creative and rigorously conceived proposals will receive consideration. Each research project must include an outreach and engagement component designed to integrate potential information users and stakeholders into the research process and ensure the research results will be useful and usable to these constituencies. Projects will be selected through an open, competitive, peer-review process. Proposed work may begin on either February 1, 2016, or February 1, 2017. Available funding is set by the NOAA Sea Grant Program based on congressional appropriations.

Full proposals are reviewed by external scientific experts, a citizen advisory council and Oregon Sea Grant leadership for scientific excellence and societal relevance, respectively. Please carefully read all guidelines as items in the request for full proposals have changed for the 2016-2018 biennium.

Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>Introduction</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>General Submission Information</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A. Revised Schedule of Dates</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B. Eligibility Information</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C. Project and Proposal Criteria</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D. Duration of Grant</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E. Funding</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F. Cost-Share Requirement</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>G. NOAA Data Sharing Requirement</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Proposal Development and Evaluation Process</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Proposal and Submission Guidelines</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Revision 5/6/2015
I. Introduction

Oregon Sea Grant directs resources to the pressing problems of Oregon’s coastal communities, often identified by local stakeholders. This includes socioeconomic and biophysical research addressing issues such as development and management of coastal communities; hazard resiliency; understanding human interactions with the marine environment; aquaculture; seafood safety; and fisheries management. The results of this research are shared with stakeholders through various pathways, often via Sea Grant’s integrated outreach and engagement program, which brings together the collective expertise of on-the-ground extension agents, educators and communications specialists. The goal is to ensure that vital research results are shared with those who need it most and in ways that are timely, relevant and meaningful.

About Us

Oregon Sea Grant is one of the nation’s four original Sea Grant Colleges; we achieved Sea Grant College status in 1971. For more than 4 decades, Oregon Sea Grant has made significant contributions to the rational management, use, and conservation of coastal and marine resources. These contributions are far greater than one might expect based on the modest size of the program. Careful identification of needs, reasoned risk-taking, leveraging of resources, partnering with other organizations, businesses and individuals are among the tools that Oregon Sea Grant uses to insure that its activities make a positive difference in the well-being of coastal resources and communities in the state and the nation. The program is integral to the fabric of Oregon State University and to the state of Oregon. We take great pride in its many research and outreach accomplishments.

On-going changes and challenges continue to confront communities, managers, and living resources on the coast of Oregon and throughout the region. Oregon Sea Grant plays an important role in addressing challenges and seizing opportunities by funding and communicating applied research, engaging and connecting stakeholders, and informing and engaging the public. Please go to http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/ to see more about Oregon Sea Grant and our current activities.

II. General Information about Proposal Submission

A. Revised Schedule of Dates for Proposal Submission and Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary Proposals Due:</td>
<td>Friday, February 13, 2015, before 5:00 p.m. PST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invitations for Full Proposals:</td>
<td>Friday, March 20, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Proposals Due:</td>
<td>Friday, May 22, 2015, before 5:00 p.m. PST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Review Period:</td>
<td>May 26, 2015 – August 7, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviews to Investigators:</td>
<td>August 14, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigator Responses to Reviews Due:</td>
<td>August 21, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tentative</strong> Notice of Funding Decisions:</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 30, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successful Projects Begin:</td>
<td>February 1, 2016 or February 1, 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. Eligibility Information (updated 5/6/2015)

Full proposals submissions are only accepted based on previously reviewed preliminary proposals, and the eligibility requirements below are updated from the 2016-18 Oregon Sea Grant Biennial Call for Preliminary Proposals http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/research/rfpcall. We encourage the involvement of collaborators and researchers who are not Oregon university faculty (collaborators may be with industry, state/regional/federal agencies, NGOs, and/or other research institutions). As in the preliminary proposal guidelines, direct salary support for individuals state and federal agencies and for-profit and foreign organizations is not allowed, however, non-federal contributions can be counted as matching or in-kind support for the project. Project participants who are employees of Sea Grant may be part of a project team and serve as co-PIs, but they may not be project lead Principal Investigators. Project budgets for Sea Grant employees may include support for activities, but not salary or benefits.

C. Project and Proposal Criteria (What we are looking for)

An ideal Sea Grant proposal would apply the best science and an innovative approach to a well-defined coastal or marine problem or opportunity that is important to Oregon, the Pacific Northwest Region, and the nation. All proposals must state how they match up with the Oregon Sea Grant 2014–17 Strategic Plan, available on our website: http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/about/strategic-plan. The two primary criteria for evaluating proposals are 1) scientific excellence and 2) societal relevance, which includes relevance of the proposed work to addressing the strategic goals supporting Oregon Sea Grant’s four focus areas, and the potential for societal impact. Funded projects will have both of these. Each proposal must also include an outreach or engagement component designed to extend the research findings to potential stakeholders and information users. The four focus areas highlighted in our 2014-17 Strategic Plan are:

- Healthy Coastal Ecosystems and Habitats
- Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Resilient Communities and Economies
- Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development

In addition, successful proposals are also likely to:
- show significant progress within two years
- focus on prediction and/or problem solving (rather than explanation)
- focus on outcomes and clearly show how and to whom the work would make a difference
- include meaningful collaboration with industry, agencies, communities, or other stakeholders
- be transdisciplinary in nature, for example, combine socioeconomic and biophysical approaches, such as an integrated sociology and engineering study
- have a clearly conceived and adequately resourced Outreach and Engagement plan
- have substantive evidence of co-funding or co-support from interested stakeholders and partners
- request less than $115,000 per year and provide convincing justification for the funds
- describe how the research may benefit stakeholders and explore potential long-term impacts to society

Revision 5/6/2015
Students
Oregon Sea Grant encourages proposals that include support (i.e., salary, benefits, tuition, travel) for graduate and undergraduate students to work on proposed research projects. All students supported by Sea Grant are considered Sea Grant Scholars. The Oregon Sea Grant’s Scholars Program helps create a community for supported students and provides them with professional development opportunities, giving them the ability to connect research to appropriate outreach. The Oregon Sea Grant Scholars supported on funded proposals are expected to participate in Oregon Sea Grant activities, such as orientation meetings, workshops, and colloquia, at which students will present their work to other Sea Grant Scholars researchers, faculty, and staff.

Multi-institutional Teams
We strongly encourage multi-institutional approaches to state and regional issues. As such, proposals that mobilize the best research talent to address complex issues may involve funding from more than one Sea Grant program.

D. Duration of Grant
The expected duration of the grant is 12–24 months. Proposed work should begin February 1, 2016 or February 1, 2017, and be completed by January 31, 2018. Requests for support exceeding two years will not be considered. Proposals to continue work beyond the initial one or two years should be entered into a future competition.

E. Funding
Although proposals requesting larger amounts will be accepted, proposals that request $115,000 or less per year will have a competitive advantage since we want to fund as many efforts as possible, all else being equal. Not all excellent proposals can be funded.

Grant funding comes from our NOAA appropriation and totals about $1.7 million over two years, assuming no changes in the federal Sea Grant appropriation. Funding levels are subject to change and rescission based on Congressional actions.

F. Cost-Share Requirement
Federal law requires that Oregon Sea Grant provide a non-federal cost share of at least 50% of federal funds received. Since our Omnibus Program Plan is a culmination of many projects with cost share from a variety of state, local, or private funds or in-kind services, we can be somewhat flexible on this requirement for individual proposals, but researchers are advised to take non-federal cost share into consideration as they develop their budgets and projects.

G. NOAA Data Sharing Requirement
Data and information collected and/or created under NOAA grants and cooperative agreements must be made visible, accessible, and independently understandable to general users, free of charge or at minimal cost, in a timely manner (typically no later than two years after the data are collected or created), except where limited by law, regulation, policy or by security requirements. The requirement has two basic parts: (1) environmental data generated by a grant project must be made available after a reasonable period of exclusive use, and (2) the grant application must describe the plan to make the data available (Principal Investigators are expected to execute the plan).
To comply with this requirement, the Principal Investigator must comply with the process described in eSeaGrant and explain how the data and metadata will be provided. Funds may be budgeted in the project proposal for this task.

III. Proposal Development and Evaluation Process

The development and review of Sea Grant proposals is a multi-step process:

1. Based on pre-proposal submissions, invitations for full proposals will be sent by Friday, March 20, 2015. Comments on the pre-proposal are provided in the invitation letter, and additional submission instructions will be available via eSeaGrant.

2. Full proposals are to be submitted through eSeaGrant to Oregon Sea Grant before 5:00 p.m. PST, Friday, May 22, 2015. Full proposals may be submitted by invitation only.

3. Full proposals are rigorously reviewed by at least three out-of-state peer reviewers. Applicants who have not already done so at the pre-proposal stage, or those who wish to suggest additional reviewers, are required to suggest at least three potential reviewers from outside of Oregon; please email names, institutional affiliation, and contact information of suggested reviewers with no known conflicts of interest to Sarah Kolesar (Sarah.Kolesar@oregonstate.edu).

4. PIs will have one week in late August to respond to reviewer comments via eSeaGrant (currently scheduled for August 14 - 21, 2015, but subject to change). Please plan accordingly as these dates will not be shifted to accommodate individual requests.

5. A review panel comprised of out-of-state technical experts, a representative from the National Sea Grant Office, and Oregon Sea Grant Leadership will convene to evaluate the proposals, taking into consideration peer reviews and PI responses. The primary objective is to evaluate scientific merit, although societal relevance may also be part of the discussion.

6. The Oregon Sea Grant Advisory Council will provide comments on projects’ expected societal relevance.

7. The Oregon Sea Grant Director and Leadership Team will consider these evaluations and the Director selects a portfolio of the proposals to recommend for funding to the National Sea Grant Office. Final project recommendations also take into account programmatic considerations, such as the overall balance of projects and disciplines in our research portfolio, and the diversity of institutions and investigators supported by Oregon Sea Grant.

8. Final decisions for Oregon Sea Grant-funded proposals are approved by the program manager from the National Sea Grant Office.

9. Applicants will be informed of final decisions in late September of 2015. Oregon Sea Grant reserves the right to negotiate and/or adjust the final grant amount and work plan prior to award, as appropriate and consistent with University policy and funds available. Awarded projects are expected to complete the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Compliance Questionnaire.

IV. Proposal and Submission Guidelines

Decision Criteria

We will fund the best science that is relevant to Oregon stakeholders. Research to gain knowledge solely for its own sake is considered inappropriate for Oregon Sea Grant support. Proposals are rigorously reviewed by at least three outside peer reviewers, a panel of scientists,
Considerations in proposal evaluations include:

1. **Scientific or Professional Merit:** The degree to which the activity will advance the state of the science or discipline through use and extension of state-of-the-art and innovative methods, while learning from previous findings. Innovativeness is defined as applying new approaches to solving problems and exploiting opportunities in resource management or development, or in public outreach on such issues; alternatively, it can be the degree to which the activity will focus on new types of important or potentially important resources and issues.

2. **Societal Relevance and Rationale:** The clarity with which the proposed activity addresses an important issue, problem, or opportunity in development, use, or management of marine or coastal resources. Some questions to consider—Does the proposed work appear to lead to real solutions to real problems? Is the proposed work likely to make a positive difference to society and stakeholders? Does the proposed work seem likely to influence resource/coastal/ocean management by businesses and agencies? Does the proposed work appear to be applicable beyond a specific local community? Can it raise public awareness/education about the problem/solutions addressed?

3. **Outreach/Education/Extension and User Relationship:** Investigators must present a clear rationale for the proposed project, expected outcomes from the research, and beneficiaries of the proposed work. Proposals are expected to briefly describe stakeholder engagement goals and how they will be achieved through outreach and/or education. Describe how the project will engage stakeholders (e.g., local coastal communities, public and private sectors) along the way.

4. **Qualifications and Past Record of Investigators:** The degree to which investigators are qualified by education, training, and/or experience to execute the proposed activity including data management. The record of achievement with previous Oregon Sea Grant funding, as well as responsiveness to reporting requirements and other OSG requests, also will be considered.

5. **Budget:** Is the budget sound and is there a strong rationale for all expenses? Is the budget sufficient for all aspects of the project or excessive for proposed objectives? Does the project leverage other resources or provide significant matching funds?

6. **Sea Grant Mission:** How closely is the project aligned with Oregon Sea Grant Strategic Goals?

**Submission Guidelines**

Submission is required using eSeaGrant. Full proposal submittal instructions and requirements will be available on eSeaGrant, and investigators are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the eSeaGrant system well in advance of final proposal submission.

Components required at the full-proposal stage include:

- Proposed Project Title
- Expected Project Duration
- Lead Principal Investigator: Name, Title, Institutional Affiliation, Contact Information
- Co-Investigators: Names, Titles Institutional Affiliations
Curriculum Vitae (2-page limit) and statements of current and pending work for all personnel
Information regarding institutional review board (IRB) documentation (if applicable)
Executive summary
Proposal narrative (15-page limit, details provided below)
Data Sharing Plan (2-page limit)
Budget and Budget Justification, including Cost Share (fillable forms and instructions provided on eSeaGrant)
Letters of Departmental Commitment from each PI and co-PI’s home institution or department (this letter can also include cost share commitment, which may be subject to change)
Letters of Support (optional, yet important and carefully considered)

Proposal Narrative Instructions

There is a 15-page limit for the narrative. The page limit includes graphs and tables, but excludes references, the data sharing plan, and letters of support or commitment. All pages must be single-spaced, 12-point font (Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri preferred), and printable on 8.5-inch x 11-inch paper, with 1-inch margins.

Your narrative should include the following sections:
1. Introduction/background/justification/project goals
2. Research Work Plans and Milestones
3. Societal Relevance and Community and Management Needs
4. Outreach and Engagement Plan and Milestones
5. How pre-proposal comments were addressed

Expanded narrative guidelines:
1. Introduction/background/justification/project goals: This section should include: current state of knowledge of problem or issue and scientific and societal justification for proposed work; scientific contributions that the study will make to the issue or topic being addressed; and contributions the study will make toward addressing issues framed by Oregon Sea Grant’s Strategic Plan. With which of the Strategic Plan focus areas and associated goals does the project align? Describe the specific objectives and rationale for why this research needs to be done.

2. Research Work Plans and Milestones: Include as appropriate: Objectives to be achieved, hypotheses to be tested, experimental design and statistical analyses, and role of all project personnel. It should also discuss how the success of the project (i.e., objectives, timelines, milestones) and outcomes of the project will be measured and reported. Proposals must include a brief description of how the project will be managed to achieve outcomes.

3. Societal Relevance and Community and Management Needs: Please describe why and how the results of this research will be of benefit to society in the short and/or long term. Here you might want to address the “So what?” questions: What could happen if this proposal were funded? What are the expected outcomes and potential impacts to society and to the research field? How does the proposal address pressing community or management...
needs? Who are the project partners? Is the project likely to make a meaningful contribution toward addressing a high priority issue? Indicate which stakeholders (e.g., local coastal communities, agencies, public and private sectors) were consulted and will provide support during the project. How will results be used? What prior experience do you have conducting and applying this type of research and results, and does it add to the value and usefulness of previously completed projects? How does the proposed project provide opportunity for meaningful involvement in an Oregon Sea Grant focus area? Please also include the project outcomes or benefits that will contribute to furthering the mission of Oregon Sea Grant.

4. **Outreach and Engagement Plan and Milestones:** Proposals must describe community outreach and engagement goals and how those goals will be achieved through communications, Extension, and/or education, and the role of all project personnel in these efforts. How will the research be extended to those who can apply it? Please describe the intended audience(s); their needs or interests and how these are or will be known; how the audience(s) have been or will be engaged; how the project benefits the audience(s); how the effectiveness of the outreach and engagement effort will be determined and other specific deliverables including publications, presentations, and public education. *Principal Investigators should ensure these outreach and engagement efforts are appropriately funded.*

5. **How pre-proposal comments were addressed:** In addition to incorporating feedback into the full proposal, please include a paragraph that explicitly highlights how comments from the pre-proposal (provided in your letter of encouragement) were addressed in the submission.

V. **Data Sharing Plan**

Proposals must include a *brief description* of how the PI will address NOAA’s data sharing requirements and explain how the data and metadata will be stored and provided. Funds may be budgeted in the project proposal for this task. NOAA’s Data Sharing Policy for Grants and Cooperative Agreements is available at [https://www.nosc.noaa.gov/EDMC/PD.DSP.php](https://www.nosc.noaa.gov/EDMC/PD.DSP.php). This policy states:

Environmental data and information collected and/or created under NOAA grants/ cooperative agreements must be made visible, accessible, and independently understandable to general users, free of charge or at minimal cost, in a timely manner (typically no later than two (2) years after the data are collected or created), except where limited by law, regulation, policy or security requirements.

1. Unless otherwise noted in the federal funding announcement, a Data/Information Sharing Plan of no more than two (2) pages shall be required as part of the Project Narrative. A typical plan should include descriptions of the types of environmental data and information created during the course of the project; the tentative date by which data will be shared; the standards to be used for data/metadata format and content; policies addressing data stewardship and preservation; procedures for providing access, sharing, and security; and prior experience in publishing such data.
2. The Data/Information Sharing Plan (and any subsequent revisions or updates) must be made publicly available at time of award and, thereafter, will be posted with the published data.
3. Failing to share environmental data and information in accordance with the submitted Data/Information Sharing Plan may lead to disallowed costs and be considered by NOAA when making future award decisions.

Please attach this section to the proposal narrative PDF when uploading to eSeaGrant; it does not count towards the 15-page limit.

VI. Budget

Budget worksheets and budget justifications are to be completed on eSeaGrant. Instructions are on eSeaGrant. You are required to provide complete justification for every dollar value entered on each worksheet, including cost share. A letter of commitment, including cost-share, is required from each cost share source. Please use the template provided.

VII. Letters of Commitment and Letters of Support

Letters of commitment from each PI and co-PI’s authorized representative are required (please use the provided template). Letters of support from project partners or stakeholders are strongly encouraged, but not required. All letters should be combined into one PDF document and uploaded in eSeaGrant in the provided location.

VIII. Contacts

Researchers preparing proposals for possible Oregon Sea Grant funding should feel free to contact the program with their questions.

- For questions about proposal topics or the overall funding policy, contact Oregon Sea Grant Director Shelby Walker. (541-737-6200)
- For questions on the application, review and approval process, the Scholars program or technical questions regarding eSeaGrant, contact Research and Scholars Program Leader Sarah Kolesar. (541-737-8695)
- For questions on Sea Grant public engagement programs, projects and faculty, contact Extension Program Leader Dave Hansen. (541-737-2737)

Most questions about Sea Grant Communications support and products are answered in: Things You'll Need to Know: Publishing Sea Grant Work [.pdf] [HTML]