Executive Summary:
The Oregon Sea Grant Program invites proposals from researchers who are affiliated with any Oregon institution of higher education for research projects that address cutting-edge resilience questions related to important marine and coastal issues. Oregon Sea Grant supports 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 begins July 1, 2015. Available funding is set by the NOAA Sea Grant Program based on congressional appropriations, and are subject to change and rescission.

A notification of your intent to apply is requested to facilitate the review process and to ensure that projects align with the priorities and goals set forth in the Oregon Sea Grant strategic plan. Full proposals undergo independent external peer reviews as well as combined technical and societal panel review for scientific excellence and societal relevance. Please carefully read all guidelines included in this Request for Proposals.
I. Introduction

Resilience is an increasingly important priority topic for Oregon Sea Grant. Over the past decade, Oregon Sea Grant has funded research projects and supported staff participation in work that brings together scientists and other state, regional, and national partners exploring resilience topics. Specific areas of focus have included resilience of fish populations and fishing communities, and resilience and adaptation in the face of climate change and other coastal hazards. Resilience thinking encompasses both scientific and social realms, and successful outcomes are likely best achieved when insights from research and community implementation align.

At a basic level, resilience implies responding successfully to adversity. But exact interpretations can vary. One important aspect of how we consider resilience is that it goes beyond mere persistence. Recent programmatic thinking on the topic (please see Oregon Sea Grant’s selection of resilience publications, including the 2010 report on Coastal Resilience focuses our working definition of resilience to mean the capacity of a system, ecological, socioeconomic, or (ideally) an interconnected social-ecological system, to survive and adapt to ecological and socioeconomic disturbances. The focus on “system” rather than on parts distinguishes the concept. Our goal is not only to identify resilience capacity and response, but also to propose actions that support coupled socioeconomic and biophysical systems’ ability to adapt to change.

This Request for Proposals is intended to expand Oregon Sea Grant research on resilience and adaptation capabilities both in geographic location and in scope through focused research projects. Projects should aim to increase knowledge of the complex interactions between socioeconomic and biophysical dynamics at different scales and to envision adaptive, community-based approaches. One framework for research projects is provided in the Resilience Alliance Assessing resilience in social-ecological systems: Workbook for practitioners (2010), available online at: http://www.resalliance.org/3871.php. Investigators are encouraged to pursue socioeconomic and / or biophysical approaches and describe how the strategy fits within the larger resilience process.

The goals of the RFP are to support new research on resilience and adaptation and to expand the network of existing professionals in the field, with direct connections to coastal community needs in Oregon. Oregon Sea Grant seeks to support individuals with projects that take the next step towards resilience as a practice.

Goals for the supported projects include:

- Strengthening or initiating partnerships with Oregon institutions and community organizations with ongoing resilience and adaptation research portfolios.
- Increasing the number of professionals on this priority topic at the state and national level.
- Working towards solutions for Oregon coastal communities facing issues related to socioeconomic and/or biophysical resilience and adaptation.
• Addressing this emerging topic of interest on a broad geographic scope and identifying possible challenges and barriers to success.
• Developing journal articles, theses, policy briefs and/or white papers addressing constraints to community resilience and recommendations for needed institutional changes.

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 visit http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/ to see more about Oregon Sea Grant and our current activities.

II. General Information about Proposal Submission

A. Draft Schedule of Dates for Proposal Submission and Review

| Notice of Intent to Apply: | Monday, January 19, 2015 |
| Full Proposals Due: | Monday, February 9, 2015, before 5:00 p.m. PST |
| **Tentative** Notice of Funding Decisions: | June 1, 2015 |
| Successful Projects Begin: | July 1, 2015 |

B. Eligibility Information

Proposals may be submitted by faculty of any public or private institution of higher education in Oregon; the project’s lead Principal Investigator (PI) must be a faculty member. While non-academic researchers may be included among the investigators, awards will be made only through colleges and universities. We encourage the involvement of collaborators and researchers who are not Oregon university faculty (collaborators may be with industry, state/regional agencies, NGOs, and/or other research institutions). **NOTE: Only one proposal per lead Principal Investigator may be submitted.** Direct salary support for individuals from state and federal agencies and for-profit and foreign organizations is not allowed, however, these 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-Principal Investigators, 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.
Notice of Intent to Apply

If you plan to submit a full proposal to the Oregon Sea Grant 2015 Special Call: Resilience Research, please contact Sarah Kolesar, Research and Scholars Program Leader, at 541-737-8695 or Sarah.Kolesar@oregonstate.edu. This notification is necessary for program planning purposes so that the peer reviewers and the technical panel are in place within the scheduled time period.

C. Project 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. The two primary criteria for evaluating proposals are 1) scientific excellence and 2) societal relevance, which includes relevance of the proposed work to coastal communities. 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. Research results 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.

All proposals must state how they match up with the Oregon Sea Grant 2014–17 Strategic Plan, addressing the strategic goals supporting Oregon Sea Grant’s four focus areas, and the potential for societal impact. The Oregon Sea Grant 2014-17 Strategic Plan is available on our website: http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/about/strategic-plan

Although we anticipate that proposals submitted to this call may closely align with Oregon Sea Grant’s focus area and the four associated strategic goals for Resilient Communities and Economies, alignment with multiple or other focus areas and goals is possible. Applicants are encouraged to describe how their proposed work aligns with one or more of the following focus areas and goals contained within our Strategic Plan:

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

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 meetings, workshops, and colloquia, at which students will present their work to other Sea Grant Scholars researchers, faculty, and staff.

Successful proposals are likely to:

- 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
• describe how the research may benefit stakeholders and explore potential long-term impacts to society

D. Duration of Grant
The expected duration of the grant is 12 months. Proposed work should begin July 1, 2015 and be completed by June 30, 2016. Requests for support exceeding one year will not be considered. Funded projects in good standing are customarily eligible for a one year no-cost extension. Proposals to continue work beyond the initial one year project period should be entered into a future competition.

E. Funding
Although proposals requesting larger amounts will be accepted, proposals that request $50,000 or less 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 $100,000 over one year, 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. All awards declaring third-party cost share require letters of commitment.

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 new 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

We will be using eSeaGrant, the California Sea Grant’s web-based tool for submitting, reviewing, updating, and tracking grant proposals, for this call. The lead Principal Investigator must register and submit the proposal via the on-line submission “portal” at https://eSeagrant.ucsd.edu/RFP/proposals/cpanel_login.php before 5:00 p.m. PST on Monday, February 9, 2015. Applicants will be submitting to the competition labeled “Oregon Sea Grant 2015 Resilience Research Special Call.” Instructions are provided as you log on.

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

1. Notification of your intent to apply is submitted to Sarah Kolesar by phone (541-737-8695) or email (sarah.kolesar@oregonstate.edu) before 5:00 p.m. PST on Monday, January 19, 2015.
2. Full proposals are to be submitted through eSeaGrant to Oregon Sea Grant before 5:00 p.m. PST, Monday, February 9, 2015.
3. Full proposals are rigorously reviewed by at least three out-of-state peer reviewers. Applicants are required to suggest at least three potential reviewers from outside of Oregon; please include potential conflicts of interest.
4. A review panel comprised of out-of-state technical experts, a representative from the National Sea Grant Office, members of the Oregon Sea Grant Citizen Advisory Council, and Oregon Sea Grant Leadership will convene virtually to evaluate the proposals, taking into consideration peer reviews. The primary objectives are to evaluate scientific merit and societal relevance.
5. 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.
6. Final decisions for Oregon Sea Grant-funded proposals are approved by the program manager from the National Sea Grant Office.
7. Applicants will be informed of final decisions in June, 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.

IV. Proposal 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 peer reviewers from outside of Oregon, a panel of scientists, members of the Oregon Sea Grant Citizen Advisory Council, and Oregon Sea Grant Leadership. Final funding recommendations are at the discretion of the Oregon Sea Grant Director.

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 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-Investigator: 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)
- Preferred Peer Reviewer Information (must be from outside of Oregon), including: Names, Titles, Institutional Affiliation, and potential Conflicts of Interest
- Executive summary
- Proposal narrative (15-page limit, details provided below)
Proposal Narrative Instructions

There is a 15-page limit for the narrative. The page limit includes graphs and tables, but excludes references and letters of support or commitment. All pages must be single-spaced, 12-point font, 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. Data Management Plan

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 resilience issue or topic being addressed; and contributions the study will make toward addressing resilience 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? 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 are strongly encouraged to ensure these outreach and engagement efforts are appropriately funded.**

6. **Data Management Plan**: Proposals must include a brief description of how the Principal Investigator will address NOAA’s data sharing requirement and explain how the data and metadata will be stored and made accessible when requested. Funds may be budgeted in the project proposal for this task. NOAA’s Directive on Data Management is available at [https://www.nosc.noaa.gov/EDMC/PD.DMP.php](https://www.nosc.noaa.gov/EDMC/PD.DMP.php). This directive states:

   Environmental data will be visible, accessible and independently understandable to users, except where limited by law, regulation, policy (such as those applicable to personally identifiable information or protected critical infrastructure information or proprietary trade information) or by security requirements.

Accordingly, data and information collected and/or created under Sea Grant projects 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).

V. **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.

VI. **Additional Components**

A. **List of Preferred Peer Reviewers**

In an effort to ensure the timeliness of the proposal peer-review process, OSG requires PIs to submit a list of between three and five names for consideration as preferred peer reviewers. Preferred reviewers are from outside Oregon and have sufficient expertise and credentials to review the proposal in an effective and objective manner; PIs are requested to try to avoid Conflicts of Interest with project personnel. Oregon Sea Grant conducts an independent external search of all potential reviewers.

The list of preferred peer reviewers will include the following information: Name, Title, Institutional Affiliation, Contact Information, and potential Conflicts of Interest. PIs will email the list of their preferred peer reviewers separately to Sarah Kolesar at sarah.kolesar@oregonstate.edu by the proposal due date.
B. Optional Letters of Support
While optional, OSG encourages PIs to submit letters of support from stakeholders and proposed project partners. Letters of support must be submitted with the proposal by the deadline (Monday, February 9, 2015, before 5:00 p.m. PST). PIs will submit a single PDF of all letters of support on eSeaGrant as part of the proposal submittal process. Instructions are provided on eSeaGrant.

VII. Contacts
Researchers preparing proposals for possible Oregon Sea Grant funding should contact the program with their questions.
- To discuss your intent to apply, potential proposal topics, or the overall funding policy; or for questions on the application, review and approval process (including 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)