

Oregon Sea Grant

Request for Preliminary Proposals

2022-2024 Biennial Research Competition

Preliminary Proposals Due:

Friday, February 26, 2021, before 5:00 p.m. PST

Request eSeaGrant access by February 5, 2021

Full Proposal Invitations: The week of April 5, 2021

Full Proposals Due: Friday, May 21, 2021, before 5:00 p.m. PST

Late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Office Hours Sessions (sign up required by January 29):

February 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, and 19, 2021

Individual Requests: Not to exceed \$115,000 per year

Anticipated Funding: Three to five projects

Project Duration: February 1, 2022 through January 31, 2024

Funding levels are set by the NOAA Sea Grant Program based on congressional appropriations and are subject to change and rescission.

Executive Summary:

The Oregon Sea Grant College Program invites preliminary proposals 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 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. In this competitive funding call we will continue to offer designated “office hours” opportunities to meet with OSG outreach and engagement professionals to help plan that component of the project. Projects will be selected through an open, competitive, peer-review process. Proposed work may begin on either February 1, 2022 or February 1, 2023. Available funding is set by the National Sea Grant College Program based on congressional appropriations.

Preliminary proposals are reviewed by external technical experts for scientific merit and innovation, by our citizen advisory council for societal relevance, and by OSG leadership for alignment with the goals and priorities set forth in our strategic plan and this Request for Proposals (RFP). Based on these evaluations, OSG will issue invitations for full proposals. Full proposals undergo independent external peer reviews as well as technical panel and citizen advisory panel

reviews for scientific excellence, societal relevance, and applicable outreach and engagement. Please carefully read all guidelines as items in the request for preliminary proposals have changed for the 2022-2024 biennium.

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I. Introduction

Oregon Sea Grant (OSG) directs resources to the most pressing problems of Oregon’s coastal communities, often identified by local stakeholders. This includes socioeconomic and biophysical research addressing issues such as resilience to acute and chronic coastal and marine hazards; cultural beliefs, learning, and valuation of coastal and marine issues; ecological, social, and economic aspects of coastal and marine conservation and industry; and human and natural dimensions of coastal and marine fisheries. The results of this research are developed and shared with stakeholders through various pathways, often via OSG’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 five decades, OSG has served as a catalyst that promotes discovery, understanding, and resilience for Oregon coastal communities and ecosystems. Careful identification of needs, reasoned risk-taking, leveraging of resources, and partnering with other organizations, businesses and individuals are among the tools that OSG uses to ensure 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.

The National Sea Grant College Program champions diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) by recruiting, retaining and preparing a diverse workforce, and proactively engaging and serving

the diverse populations of coastal communities. Oregon Sea Grant is committed to building inclusive research, Extension, communication and education programs that serve people with unique backgrounds, circumstances, needs, perspectives and ways of thinking.

On-going changes and challenges continue to confront communities, managers, and living resources on the coast of Oregon and throughout the Pacific Northwest 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 learn more about OSG and our current activities.

II. General Information about Proposal Submission

A. Schedule of Dates for Proposal Submission and Review

Outreach and Engagement Office Hours Sessions (by appointment only):	February 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19, 2021 (sign up no later than January 29, 2021)
Preliminary Proposals Due:	Friday, February 26, 2021, before 5:00 p.m. PST (request eSeaGrant access by February 5, 2021)
Invitations for Full Proposals:	Week of April 5, 2021
Full Proposals Due:	Friday, May 21, 2021, before 5:00 p.m. PST
Peer Review Period:	June 1, 2021 – August 6, 2021
Reviews to Investigators:	August 13, 2021
Investigator Responses to Reviews Due:	August 20, 2021
Tentative Notice of Funding Decisions:	Friday, October 1, 2021
Successful Projects Begin:	February 1, 2022 or February 1, 2023

Note: This timeline is subject to change; any updates will be posted to our website and disseminated through email.

B. Eligibility Information

Preliminary 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 deemed eligible by their institution to receive extramural funding. While non-academic researchers may be included among the co-principal investigators (co-PIs), 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/federal agencies, tribes, NGOs, and/or other research or academic institutions). *NOTE: Only one preliminary proposal per lead Principal Investigator may be submitted.* Direct salary support for individuals from state and federal agencies, tribal, 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 OSG may be part of a project team and serve as co-PIs, but they may not be project lead PIs. Project budgets for OSG employees may include support for

activities, but not salary or benefits (See below¹). Oregon Sea Grant encourages submissions from researchers new to OSG and those from diverse backgrounds. We encourage applicants of all ages, races, ethnicities, national origins, gender identities, sexual orientations, disabilities, cultures, religions, citizenship types, marital statuses, education levels, job classifications, veteran status types, income, and socioeconomic status types to apply for this competitive research opportunity.

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

An ideal OSG 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 pre-proposals must state how they support one or more of OSG's thematic areas **AND** associated research objectives.

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 OSG's four thematic areas, and the potential for societal impact. Funded projects will meet both of these criteria. Each proposal must also include an outreach or engagement component designed to inform and / or engage stakeholders and information users with the research.

The four thematic areas highlighted in our 2018-23 Strategic Plan are:

<http://seagrants.oregonstate.edu/about/strategic-plan>

- Resilience to acute and chronic coastal and marine hazards
- Cultural beliefs, learning, and valuation of coastal and marine issues
- Ecological, social, and economic aspects of coastal and marine conservation and industry
- Human and natural dimensions of coastal and marine fisheries

For this competition, OSG specifically requests proposals that address one or more research objectives aligned with these four thematic areas.

Research Objectives for 2022-24 Competitive Projects:

- Understand the impacts of **coastal and marine hazards and stressors** and their relevance to communities. Evaluate possible solutions or responses to these hazards and stressors, including tools for adaptation.
 - **Coastal hazards and stressors** may include, but are not limited to, acute hazards, such as earthquake or tsunami, or chronic stressors, such as ocean acidification or hypoxia.
- Determine how individuals and communities value **market and/or non-market aspects** of coastal and marine resources and use that information to make decisions.
 - **Market aspects** include the economic value stemming from activities such as property development, industry, or tourism revenue. Examples of **non-market aspects** are heritage, spiritual, and cultural values, clean air and water, and healthy fish and wildlife populations.

¹ Note: Guidelines for additional support for partially-core funded OSG employees involved with project outreach and engagement activities are outlined in our internal policy. This support requires prior approval by the supervisor and Director.

- Assess social, cultural, and / or political attitudes towards **critical coastal and marine issues**, understanding associated gaps, risks, needs, and goals.
 - **Critical coastal and marine issues** may include, but are not limited to, coastal and marine hazards and stressors, industry, conservation and restoration, fisheries and aquaculture, etc.
 - Preference given to projects focused on holistic resilience during upheaval or uncertainty.

- Evaluate the ecological and / or socioeconomic resilience and sustainability of **Pacific Northwest coastal and marine species or habitats** that are commercially, recreationally, or culturally important.
 - Preference given to projects focused on emerging fisheries, industries or techniques.

NOTE: Oregon Sea Grant encourages the submission of proposals that meet the criteria outlined above with a focus on aquaculture.

In addition, successful proposals are 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 \$115,000 per year or less, and provide convincing justification for the funds
- describe how the research may benefit stakeholders and explore potential long-term impacts to society

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, and encourages recruitment of students from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, and individuals from economically or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds that have inhibited their ability to pursue a career in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). All students supported by Sea Grant are considered OSG Scholars. The OSG 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 and engagement. The OSG Scholars supported on funded proposals are expected to participate in OSG activities, such as State of the Coast, the biennial Scholars Day, and other events at which students will present their work to other OSG 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. Oregon Sea Grant encourages researchers involved in such projects to contact the relevant Sea Grant programs as soon as possible to discuss options.

Outreach and Engagement: Guidance and Office Hours

In addition to supporting research projects that are scientifically excellent and societally relevant, OSG is committed to projects that inform and engage relevant communities. The results of this research are developed and shared with stakeholders through various pathways, often via OSG'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 informed by and shared with those who need it most and in ways that are timely, relevant and meaningful.

To assist potential researchers in developing strong outreach and engagement for their projects, OSG offers outreach and engagement guidelines (available [here](#)), and will offer a series of office hours to address the question: *how is the proposed research useable and accessible?* Prior to preproposal submission, potential PIs have the opportunity to meet individually with 3-4 members of OSG's integrated outreach and engagement program. During these short, personalized sessions, the team will consider a researcher's proposed project and offer best practices for designing a strong outreach and engagement plan using OSG or other resources. Anticipated outcomes from these meetings include a framework for developing, implementing, and assessing the outreach and engagement strategy, along with guidelines for working with potential partners to assist in developing outreach and engagement strategies as needed. These meetings are by appointment only and will be held February 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19, 2021. Meeting with OSG outreach and engagement personnel is recommended but not required and does not guarantee project support. The lead PI is responsible for all components of the proposal and funded project.

To schedule a session, send an email to: seagrant.admin@oregonstate.edu **no later than January 29, 2021** with "Office Hour Session Request" in the subject line. Plan to submit a brief, one page or less, summary of proposed work before the session. If none of the available dates work for you and your team, please contact us for accommodation.

D. Duration of Grant

The expected duration of the grant is 12 – 24 months. Proposed work should begin February 1, 2022 or February 1, 2023, and be completed by January 31, 2024. 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 OSG provide a non-federal cost share of at least 50% of federal funds received. Matching funds may come from a variety of state, local, international, or private funds or in-kind services. Research projects that do not provide at least 50% non-federal match may not qualify for funding. Researchers should take cost share into consideration as they develop budgets and projects, and contact OSG in advance to discuss any anticipated shortfall in matching funds.

G. NOAA Data Sharing Requirement

Environmental 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 (PIs are expected to execute the plan).

To meet this requirement, the PI must comply with the process described in eSeaGrant during submission of the full proposal, and explain how the data and metadata will be provided. Funds may be budgeted in the project proposal for this task. For detailed guidance, please refer to NOAA's Data Sharing Directive for Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and Contracts at the following permanent URL (Appendix B outlines requirements):

https://nosc.noaa.gov/EDMC/documents/Data_Sharing_Directive_v3.0.pdf.

III. Proposal Development and Evaluation Process

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

PREPROPOSALS

1. Oregon Sea Grant releases the 2022-2024 Biennial Research RFP and makes times available for researchers to meet with outreach and engagement experts. To schedule a session, send an email to: seagrant.admin@oregonstate.edu **no later than January 29, 2021** with "Office Hour Session Request" in the subject line. Office Hours sessions will be held February 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19, 2021.
2. The pre-proposal is submitted to OSG via [eSeaGrant](#) **before 5:00 p.m. PST on Friday, February 26, 2021**. No full proposals will be accepted without a pre-proposal. No incomplete or late submissions will be accepted. **NOTE:** All potential lead PIs will need to be added to the 2022–2024 Biennial Research competition in eSeaGrant, even if you already have an existing eSeaGrant account. Potential PIs should send an email to eSeaGrant@oregonstate.edu to request access to this opportunity by Friday, February 5, 2021.
3. Pre-proposals will be reviewed by peer reviewers (out-of-state U.S. and international experts in the proposed area of research) to look for fatal technical flaws, screen for originality, and pinpoint innovative ideas; the OSG Advisory Council assesses societal relevance; and OSG leadership determines if preproposals address thematic areas and associated research objectives in a balanced way. Specific review criteria are included below.

4. Invitations for full proposals will be sent no later than the week of April 5, 2021. Reviewer comments on the pre-proposal and additional instructions will be available via eSeaGrant.

FULL PROPOSALS

1. Full proposals are to be submitted through [eSeaGrant](#) to OSG **before 5:00 p.m. PST, Friday, May 21, 2021**. Full proposals may be submitted by invitation only. No full proposals will be accepted without a pre-proposal. Contact OSG with any questions. No full proposals will be accepted without a pre-proposal
2. 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***.
3. Principal Investigators will have one week in late August to respond to reviewer comments via eSeaGrant (currently scheduled for August 13 – 20, 2021, but subject to change). Please plan accordingly as these dates will not be shifted to accommodate individual requests.
4. A review panel comprised of out-of-state experienced generalists, the OSG Advisory Council, a program officer from the National Sea Grant Office (*ex officio*), and OSG program leads will convene to evaluate the proposals, taking into consideration peer reviews and PI responses. The experienced generalists consider external reviews, PI responses, and the overall effectiveness of the proposed project, which includes scientific approach, outreach and engagement integration into the research, and societal relevance. The Advisory Council also weighs in on societal relevance. The OSG director and program leads assess alignment with OSG thematic areas and associated research objectives.
5. The OSG Director will consider these evaluations and select a portfolio of 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 OSG.
6. Final decisions for OSG-funded proposals are approved by the program officer from the National Sea Grant Office. Recommended proposals are expected to complete the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire and submit assurance of all required permits or permit applications prior to undergoing NEPA review.
7. Applicants will be informed of final decisions by early October, 2021. 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. Preliminary Proposal Narrative Guidelines

A. Preliminary Proposal Development and Evaluation Process

For complete consideration for the OSG 2022-2024 Biennial Competition, you must submit a preliminary proposal (pre-proposal) narrative, a short two-page vitae of all senior personnel (PIs and co-PIs) and their current and pending support, and a budget estimate. Guidance for writing the pre-proposal follows.

We will use eSeaGrant, a web-based tool for submitting, reviewing, updating, and tracking grant proposals, for this call. To register for the eSeaGrant system, the lead PI must email a request to eseagrant@oregonstate.edu by Friday, February 5, 2021. Instructions are provided only to registered users, and submission of all pre-proposal related materials are due via eSeaGrant before **5:00 p.m. PST on Friday, February 26, 2021**. If you cannot submit using the eSeaGrant system, please contact the OSG program for accommodation. NOTE: All potential lead PIs will need to be added to the 2022-2024 Biennial Research competition in eSeaGrant, even if you already have an existing eSeaGrant account.

Information required for the pre-proposal in eSeaGrant includes:

1. Anticipated Title of Proposed Project.
2. Expected Project Duration.
3. Total Budget Request Estimate: all years combined, non-binding, in good-faith.
4. Lead Principal Investigator (note that only one preproposal may be submitted per lead PI): Name, Title, Institutional Affiliation, Contact Information, two-page Curriculum Vitae or Biosketch, and Current and Pending support (NOTE: CV and C&P formats are at your discretion; we can provide templates, if needed. These will be uploaded as PDFs in eSeaGrant).
5. Known and Anticipated Co-Investigator(s): Name, Title, Institutional Affiliation, Contact Information, two-page Curriculum Vitae or Biosketch, and Current and Pending support (NOTE: CV and C&P formats are at your discretion; we can provide templates, if needed. These will be uploaded as PDFs in eSeaGrant).
6. Suggestions for Potential Peer Reviewers (must be from outside of Oregon), including: Names, Titles, Institutional Affiliation, and potential Conflicts of Interest (COI) (description of COI available on eSeaGrant and [here](#)).
7. Keywords.
8. Preliminary Proposal Narrative: Preliminary proposal narratives cannot exceed four single-spaced pages with one-inch margins, using a 12-pt font, including references and figures.

NOTE: Preliminary Proposals (including the budget estimate) do not need departmental approval, nor do they need to be certified by project personnel.

If you have technical problems with completion and submission of your pre-proposal, please contact Stephanie Ichien, OSG Research and Scholars Program Coordinator, at (541) 737-0661 or Stephanie.Ichien@oregonstate.edu. Upon submission of the pre-proposal, you should receive an automated email from the eSeaGrant system. If you do not receive an email reply within 24 hours, please contact us via telephone ASAP.

B. 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 OSG support. Pre-proposals and

full proposals are rigorously reviewed by groups including peer reviewers from outside of Oregon, a panel of experienced generalists, the OSG Citizen Advisory Council, and OSG leadership. Oregon Sea Grant is committed to equitable review of proposals, and may engage in double-blinded peer review, where the identity of the research team is withheld from a subset of reviewers, who assess the project based solely on scientific and societal merits. As such, we will provide guidance to PIs on preparing proposals that are easily blinded by Oregon Sea Grant after submission (i.e. to facilitate removal of identifying information). This guidance will be provided in eSeaGrant. Final funding recommendations are at the discretion of the OSG Director.

Your pre-proposal narrative should address the following points:

Issue Identification: State the research problem and explain how results will benefit society. Include study objectives and rationale. Why is this topic relevant to the Oregon Coast? Who are the stakeholders / potential end-users?

Alignment: Address how the work relates to the mission and priorities identified by the 2018-2023 OSG [Strategic Plan](#), including links to at least one of the four thematic areas and its strategic goals and research objectives as stated in this RFP.

Proposed Research Summary: Briefly introduce the methodology to enable someone familiar with your field to assess the feasibility and innovation of your proposed work.

Outreach and Engagement: Researchers are strongly encouraged to interact with their target audience as they develop their proposal. Explain how the research will be extended to, and used by, those who can apply it.

So What?: Is the proposed research needed? What could happen if this proposal was funded? What are the expected outcomes and potential impacts to society and to the research field? What would happen if this proposal was not funded?

Considerations in pre-proposal and full 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. **Pre-proposal Focus**: External generalists screen for fatal technical flaws, originality, and innovative ideas, and provide feedback to PIs.
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? Does it align with OSG thematic areas and research objectives? **Pre-proposal Focus**: Using this [rubric](#), the OSG Advisory Council assesses the question: is the proposed research needed? OSG leadership addresses the question: does the work align with OSG thematic areas and research objectives?

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. Pre-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. **Pre-proposal Focus**: Based on the outreach and engagement criteria outlined [here](#), OSG leadership assesses whether planned activities are appropriate for the project, meet audience needs, and answer the question: how is the planned research useable and accessible?

V. Full Proposal Narrative Guidelines

Additional details on developing and submitting the full proposal will be shared with PIs following pre-proposal decisions.

VI. Contacts

Researchers preparing preliminary proposals for possible OSG funding should contact the program with their questions.

- For questions about proposal topics or the overall funding policy, contact OSG Director [Shelby Walker](#) (541-737-6200).
- For questions on the application, review and approval process, the OSG Scholars program or technical questions regarding eSeaGrant, contact OSG Research and Scholars Program Leader [Sarah Kolesar](#) (541-737-8695) or OSG Research and Scholars Program Coordinator [Stephanie Ichien](#) (541-737-0661).
- To schedule an office hour session, send an email to: seagrant.admin@oregonstate.edu **no later than January 29, 2021** with “Office Hours Session Request” in the subject line.
- For additional questions on OSG public engagement programs, projects and faculty, contact OSG Outreach and Engagement Program Leader [Dave Hansen](#) (541-737-2737).