

2018-2021 SEA GRANT OMNIBUS FUNDING APPLICATION

NOAA-OAR-SG-2018-2005337

Summary:

The National Sea Grant College Program was enacted by U.S. Congress in 1966 (amended in 2008, Public Law 110-394) to support leveraged federal and state partnership that harness the intellectual capacity of the nation's universities and research institutions to solve problems and generate opportunities in coastal communities.

Subject to the availability of funding, the purpose of this document is to advise eligible applicants developing Omnibus Applications for Sea Grant Institutional programs. Pursuant to 33 USC 1123(d)(3)(B), the amount of federal funds requested by each Sea Grant Program is set by the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program. Non-federal matching funds must equal at least 50% of the federal request, as detailed in Section III.B.

This document sets out requirements for submitting an Omnibus Application. Additional guidance and tips on how best to prepare an Application are provided in the 2018 Companion Omnibus Guidance Document available at <http://seagrant.noaa.gov/NetworkResources/Resources.aspx>.

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Program Description

A. Program Objective

NOAA provides funding to Sea Grant institutions to increase the understanding, assessment, development, management, utilization, and conservation of the Nation's ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources by providing assistance to promote a strong educational base, responsive research and training activities, broad and prompt dissemination of knowledge and techniques, and multidisciplinary approaches to environmental problems, in accordance with 33 USC 1121(b).

B. Program Priorities

Proposals must relate to approved individual Sea Grant Program strategic plans.

C. Program Authority

Statutory authority for this program is provided under the National Sea Grant College and Program Act of 1966, as amended (33 USC 1121 et seq.).

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

Subject to the availability of funding, this announcement describes how eligible applicants should apply for institutional funding for 2018-2021. Pursuant to 33 USC 1123(d)(3)(B), the amount of federal funds requested by each Sea Grant Program is set by the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program. The federal funding amount to plan for will be communicated to eligible applicants in a separate document.

There is no guarantee that funds will be available to make awards, or that any Application will be selected for funding. If an applicant incurs any costs prior to receiving an award agreement signed by an authorized NOAA official, it does so at its own risk of not being selected or of these costs not being included in a subsequent award. NOAA and DOC will not be responsible for any incurred project costs if this program fails to receive full funding.

B. Project/Award Period

The anticipated start date is February 1, 2018, with projects to be completed by January 31, 2022.

C. Type of Funding Instrument

The funding instrument is a cooperative agreement to an eligible institution. A cooperative agreement is used when substantial involvement of the federal government during performance of the proposed work is anticipated. The nature of the substantial involvement includes that NOAA approval will be required before certain projects are initiated in the grant out-years.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

The following entities are eligible to submit Omnibus Applications: Sea Grant College Programs, Sea Grant Institutional Programs, Sea Grant Coherent Area Programs, the National Sea Grant Law Center, and the National Sea Grant Library. For the remainder of this document, these entities are collectively referred to as “Sea Grant Programs”.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

Non-federal matching funds equal to at least 50 percent of the federal funding request must be provided unless a waiver justified by statute is granted. The cumulative match at the end of each year of the grant must not fall below 50 percent of the cumulative federal request up to that point. In-kind contributions directly supporting this Application may count towards this matching requirement. See the Omnibus Guidance Document for more information.

C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility

None.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

Application packages are available online and can be downloaded from www.grants.gov under opportunity NOAA-OAR-SG-2018-2005337. If an eligible applicant does not have access to the internet, please contact the Agency Contacts listed in Section VII for submission instructions.

B. Content of the Application

The Sea Grant Omnibus Application is comprised of an integrated suite of individual research, extension, educations, communication and management projects that together address the strategic goals of the program, and a series of required grant management forms to support the proposal. This section provides an overview of these required proposal elements (and where to locate them).

The 2018 Companion Omnibus Guidance Document (available at <http://seagrants.noaa.gov/NetworkResources/Resources.aspx>) provides additional information and tips on filling out the required forms.

1. Project Narrative

Each individual project included in the Application must be assigned a project ID that identifies the type of project as noted below (see the Omnibus Guidance Document for more information):

- Management/Administration Projects - Support and activities for Sea Grant Program leadership and other administrative or management staff. Management and administration projects must be given a project ID number that begins with "M/".
- Program Development Projects - Program development (PD) is intended to fund rapid response projects that could not have been anticipated at the time the omnibus was written or to make investments in seed projects or other small projects. The Application may contain a single Program Development project whose budget in any year may not exceed 10% of the total proposal funding in that year. Since the PD project is a management/administrative resource for achieving the objectives of the omnibus, it must be given a project ID number that begins with "M/".
- Research Projects - Research projects are usually selected through open competition in accordance with guidance from NSGO. In accordance with current Sea Grant policy, programs should target at least 40% (and cannot exceed 60%) of federal core funding for research projects awarded by an open, peer-reviewed, competitive process. Research projects, whether selected competitively or without competition, should be given a project number beginning with "R/".
- Communication, Extension, and Education Projects - The Application must contain communication, extension, and education projects that have undergone external peer review (see Section IV. C. G

for more information). An omnibus may have one or more projects in each of these functional areas or have projects that combine work in more than one of these functional areas. For projects that integrate elements of multiple types of projects, applicants should choose the project ID that best describes the effort. Communication projects should be given a project number beginning with "C/". Extension projects should be given a project number beginning with "A/" (for advisory services). Education projects should be given a project number beginning with "E/".

- Future Competed Projects - This project ID is used for competitive projects not yet determined by a competition, such as future research competitions for Years 3 and 4 (for biennial competitions) or Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 (for annual competitions). Thus there should be one or more projects in the omnibus called "Future Competed Projects", i.e. Future Competed Projects for 2019, Future Competed Projects for 2020, etc. "Future Competed Projects" should be given a project ID number that begins with "P/" (for Placeholder). These are the only projects that should be given a "P/" project ID.

Each individual project included with in the Omnibus Application must include the following documents in the following format:

a) Project Proposal Narrative

(1) Introduction/background/justification:

(2) Project objectives

(3) General work plan and milestones

(4) Anticipated outcomes

(5) Coordination with other program elements

(6) References and literature citations (as relevant)

(7) Short CVs (no longer than 2 pages) for each principal and co-principal investigator (as relevant)

b) Sea Grant 90-2 Project Summary Long Form (OMB Control No. 0648-0362)

A required Excel file where each project within the Omnibus Application must be detailed on a separate 90-2 tab of the form, and the overall yearly budget must be provided on the "Table of Contents" tab. The Form can be found here:

<http://seagrants.noaa.gov/FundingFellowships/SeaGrantFormsandTemplates.aspx>. Guidance on how to complete the form is located in the Omnibus Guidance Document.

c) Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire (OMB Control No. 0648-0538)

A separate questionnaire must be filled out for each project in the Omnibus Application that

involves any of the below categories of activities. The Questionnaire can be found here: <http://seagrant.noaa.gov/FundingFellowships/SeaGrantFormsandTemplates.aspx>. Guidance on how to complete the questionnaire is located in the Omnibus Guidance Document.

Categories for which a Questionnaire must be completed:

- Research--all Research projects (those whose project ID starts with "R/") and all other projects that include a component of research (including social science research)
- Environmental permits, authorizations or waivers
- Biological take and/or release
- Environmental sampling
- Hazardous or toxic substances and waste
- Permanent or temporary environmental effects
- Endangered or threatened species and/or protected areas
- Known or unknown risks to human health or the environment
- Controversial environmental subject matter

Exceptions - Projects or actions that fall into the below categories do not need an abbreviated environmental compliance questionnaire:

- Program management (i.e., any projects be assigned the "M/" project ID)
- Placeholder projects (e.g., "Future Competed Projects"; these projects will have a Special Award Condition on the grant and undergo environmental compliance review at that time)
- Workshops or conferences that do not involve the above list of actions
- Communication activities that do not involve the above list of actions
- Fellowships where the Sea Grant Program does not have discretion over the fellow's externally funded research

d) Data Management Plan

NOAA requires Applications generating environmental data be covered by a Data Management Plan. A typical plan should include descriptions of the types of environmental data and information expected to be 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; methods for providing data access; approximate total volume of data to be collected; and prior experience in making such data accessible. Applicants can satisfy this requirement in one of two ways:

- Applicants may choose to provide an individual Data Management Plan for each project in the Omnibus Application that generates data, or
- Applicants may choose to submit an overall Data Management Plan of no more than two pages in length covering the entire Omnibus Application. If none of the projects in the Omnibus Application will generate environmental data, use this second approach and include the following sentence – “These projects will not generate any environmental data.”

All Data Management Plans must provide a point of contact for questions about the data covered by the plan.

e) Do not include the following for each project:

Applicants are *not* to include external peer reviews or Letter of Intent materials in their Omnibus Applications. These review documents are to be provided electronically to your Federal Program Officer. See Section IV. G. for information on the external peer reviews and Letter of Intent materials.

2. Budget Narrative

Each individual project included with in the Omnibus Application must also include the following budget documents (Sea Grant 90-4 Forms and Budget Justification Narratives) in the following format:

a) Sea Grant 90-4 Form (OMB Control No. 0648-0362)

A required form used to provide budget breakdowns and budget justifications by year and object class for the overall omnibus and each project in this Application. Guidance on filling out the form is located in the Omnibus Guidance Document. The following are required:

- Completed Sea Grant 90-4 Forms describing the yearly and total budgets of the omnibus overall (i.e., Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, and Years 1-4).
- A completed Sea Grant 90-4 Form covering the full duration of each project in the omnibus.
- A completed Sea Grant 90-4 Form covering each year of the each project in the omnibus.
- Completed Sea Grant 90-4 Forms for the yearly and total budget of any sub-awards associated with each project in the omnibus (i.e., Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, and Years 1-4).

b) Budget Justification Narrative

A budget justification narrative for each year of each project in the omnibus that explains budget items in sufficient detail to enable review of the appropriateness of the funding requested. This document should be attached as a PDF to each Sea Grant 90-4 Form, as appropriate. Guidance on

completing the justifications is located in the Omnibus Guidance Document.

3. Overall Omnibus Application

In addition to the forms required above, standard Federal Forms and Assurances are required for the overall omnibus and can be found with the Application package on Grants.gov or on the Sea Grant website (links found below). These include:

a) SF-424 Form (Grants.gov, OMB Control No. 4040-0004)

This form, titled “Application for Federal Assistance,” must identify the entire funding period (Feb 1, 2018- Jan 31, 2022), as well as the federal funding amount being requested by the applicant and the non-federal matching fund amount. The form must be completed with the institution’s accurate EIN and DUNS and Point of Contact, and signed by the institution’s authorized representative or designee.

b) SF-424A Form (Grants.gov, OMB Control No. 4040-0006)

This form, titled “Instructions for Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs,” must describe the entire four-year funding period in federal and non-federal dollars, for the entire Omnibus Application. Fill out Section B of this SF-424A form to show the overall budget breakdown by object class of the Federal request, for each year of the grant (the non-federal, matching dollars will be described in the Additional SF-424A Form, Extra Section B below).

c) Additional SF-424A Form, Extra Section B

(<http://seagrants.noaa.gov/FundingFellowships/SeaGrantFormsandTemplates.aspx>, OMB Control No. 4060-0006)

The SF-424A Form described above only includes space to report the applicant’s yearly federal funds. Complete the Additional SF-424A, Extra Section B to report the yearly non-Federal matching fund budget of the grant. Guidance on filling out the form is located in the Omnibus Guidance Document. *This form is an outlier and will be added to the “Budget Narrative Attachment” section on Grants.gov, as described in Section IV. C. 2.*

d) SF-424B Assurances (Grants.gov, OMB Control No. 4040-0007)

The form, titled “Assurances – Non-Construction Programs,” must be completed and signed by the institution's authorized representative or designee.

e) CD-511 (Grants.gov, US DOC)

The form, titled “Certification Regarding Lobbying,” must be completed and signed by the institution’s authorized representative or designee.

f) SF-LLL (Grants.gov, OMB Control No. 0348-0046)

The form, titled "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," must be completed and signed by the institution's authorized representative or designee.

C. Form of the Application

Once the individual components described above are finalized, complete Application packages will include:

1. Project Narrative

a) Project Proposal Narratives

Compilation of all the individual project narratives as outlined in Section IV.B.1., combined into a single PDF document. This single PDF document is attached to the "Project Narrative Attachments" section of the Grants.gov Application. If the Sea Grant Program provides individual data management plans for each project, they should be included in this PDF document.

b) Sea Grant 90-2 Project Summary Long Form

Submitted *in the original Excel spreadsheet format* as a single Sea Grant 90-2 Project Summary "Long Form," as outlined in Section IV.B.1. This Excel document is then attached to the "Project Narrative Attachments" section of the Grants.gov Application. This form MAY NOT be uploaded as a PDF document.

c) Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaires

Compilation of all the questionnaires, as outlined in Section IV.B.1., generated for each applicable individual project in the Omnibus Application, combined into a single PDF document. This single PDF document is attached to the "Project Narrative Attachments" section of the Grants.gov Application.

d) Data Management Plan (unless included in each project proposal narrative)

If the Sea Grant Program provides a single data management plan to cover the entire omnibus, this single PDF document, as outlined in Section IV.B.1., is attached to the "Project Narrative Attachments" section of the Grants.gov Application.

2. Budget Narrative

a) Sea Grant 90-4 Forms and Budget Justification Narratives

Compilation of all of the individual Sea Grant 90-4 Forms and budget justifications for each individual project, as outlined in Section IV.B.2., combined into a single PDF document. This single PDF document is attached to the "Budget Narrative Attachments" section of the Grants.gov Application.

b) SF-424A Form, Extra Section B

Attached as a PDF to the "Budget Narrative Attachments" section of the Grants.gov Application.

3. Overall Omnibus Application

- a) SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, CD-511, and SF-LLL

Completed according to the directions provided by Grants.gov and outlined in Section IV.B.3.

D. Submission Dates and Times

Applications must be submitted to Grants.gov by 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, November 1, 2017.

E. Intergovernmental Review

Applications under the National Sea Grant College Program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

F. Funding Restrictions

The Sea Grant Act at 33 USC 1124(d)(2) states:

"No payment under any grant or contract under this section may be applied to:

(A) the purchase or rental of any land; or

(B) the purchase, rental, construction, preservation, or repair of any building, dock, or vessel; except that payment under any such grant or contract may be applied to the short-term rental of buildings or facilities for meetings which are in direct support of any Sea Grant Program or project and may, if approved by the Secretary, be applied to the purchase, rental, construction, preservation, or repair of non-self-propelled habitats, buoys, platforms, and other similar devices or structures, or to the rental of any research vessel which is used in direct support of activities under any Sea Grant Program or project."

G. Other Submission Requirements

All full proposals for competitive projects (typically research) must be externally reviewed by peer professionals in appropriate fields and/or by appropriate representatives of the user communities, and be reviewed by a technical review panel with a Federal Program Officer participating. Federal Program Officers must be notified of the recommended projects via a Letter of Intent (LOI) and approve the inclusion of the selected projects in the Omnibus Application.

Communication, extension, and education projects and other non-competitive projects (see Section IV.B.1. for further description of each project type) require reviews by three or more external peer professionals in appropriate fields, and/or by appropriate representatives of the user communities. Once completed, any substantial comments should be incorporated into the final project proposal, and the peer-reviews and a short summary of how comments were incorporated into the final project proposal must be sent electronically to the Federal Program Officer by the Omnibus Application deadline. See the Omnibus

Guidance Document for more information.

H. Address for Submitting Proposals

Proposals must be submitted through Grants.gov. If an eligible applicant does not have access to the internet, please contact the Agency Contacts listed in Section VII for submission instructions.

V. Application Review Information

Federal Program Officers will review the complete 2018 Omnibus Application package, including all project proposals and external peer reviews, to ensure correctness of the Application using the following criteria.

A. Evaluation Criteria

(1) Does the proposed work fit within the program's approved strategic plan and forward the program's strategic goals?

(2) Are all projects described sufficiently to allow accountability? Projects should have clear objectives, and clear descriptions of what success will look like.

(3) Have all projects been adequately reviewed (both competitive and noncompetitive)? Are the competitive projects consistent with the Letter of Intent?

(4) Have the non-competitive extension, education and communication projects been subjected to peer review? Did the peer reviews of the projects describe each project as acceptable to be funded? If the peer reviews pointed out any serious problems with a proposal was the problem addressed or explained in either the final omnibus proposal or in communication about it between the Federal Program Officer and the Sea Grant program?

(4) Are all project budgets adequately justified, and reasonable for the work being proposed? Does the budget distribution among projects fall within guidelines that at least 40% of the amount of funding goes toward research and (research-focused) education projects selected by open competition, and that no more than 10% of each year's funding goes toward PD projects?

(5) Are all environmental data to be generated covered by a Data Management Plan?

(6) Has applicant provided sufficiently detailed information for all required Application elements?

B. Review and Selection Process

An initial administrative review is conducted to determine compliance with requirements and completeness of the Application.

All proposals will be reviewed against the above criteria by the Federal Program Officer in the National Sea Grant Office and the Grants Specialist in NOAA's Grants Monitoring Division. The peer reviews and Letter of Intent materials provided separately will aid the Federal Program Officer in review of your Application.

The proposals, supplemented with information from the Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire, will also be reviewed by the Federal Program Officer to assess the environmental compliance of the proposed actions. The Federal Program Officer, NEPA Staff Lead, or Grants Specialist may contact the program to discuss questions about the environmental effects, merit, or administrative correctness of the Omnibus Application, and may delay approval of the Application, or impose conditions

on the grant preventing funding or execution of certain activities, until all questions are satisfactorily answered.

C. Selection Factors

Subject to the availability of funds and the discretion of the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program, all Applications are expected to be funded as institutional cooperative agreement awards based on institutional status, compliance with requirements set forth in this announcement, and satisfactory resolution of any questions from the National Sea Grant Office and NOAA Grants Management Division.

D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Subject to the availability of funds, awards are expected to start February 1, 2018. The announcement of the awards will be coordinated by the National Sea Grant Office, only after all Sea Grant Programs have been awarded their omnibus grants.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

Successful applicants will receive notification when the Application has been recommended for funding to the NOAA Grants Management Division. This notification is not an authorization to begin performance of the project. Official notification of funding, signed by the NOAA Grants Officer, is the authorizing document that allows the project to begin. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified that their proposal was not selected.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

(1) Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements For Grants And Cooperative Agreements - The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the Federal Register notice of December 30, 2014 (79 FR 78390) are applicable to this solicitation and may be accessed online at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-30/pdf/2014-30297.pdf>.

(2) Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements - Through 2 C.F.R. § 1327.101, the Department of Commerce adopted Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, which apply to awards in this program. Refer to <http://go.usa.gov/SBYh> and <http://go.usa.gov/SBg4>.

(3) Department of Commerce Terms and Conditions - Successful applicants who accept a NOAA award under this solicitation will be bound by Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions. This document will be provided in the award package in NOAA's Grants Online system at <http://www.ago.noaa.gov> and at <http://go.usa.gov/hKbj>.

(4) Current Department of Commerce Standard Terms are here: http://www.osec.doc.gov/oam/grants_management/policy/documents/Department%20of%20Commerce%20Standard%20Terms%20&%20Conditions%2031%20March%202017.pdf

(5) Limitation of Liability - Funding for programs listed in this notice is contingent upon the availability of appropriations. Applicants are hereby given notice that funds may not have been appropriated yet for the programs listed in this notice. In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

(6) Unpaid or Delinquent Tax Liability - Certifications Regarding Federal Felony and Federal Criminal Tax Convictions, Unpaid Federal Tax Assessments and Delinquent Federal Tax Returns. In accordance with Federal appropriations law, an authorized representative of the selected applicant(s) may be required to provide certain pre-award certifications regarding federal felony and federal criminal tax convictions, unpaid federal tax assessments, and delinquent federal tax returns.

(7) As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, of Applications that request Federal funding. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA website: <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/>, including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA, http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216_6.pdf, and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/NEPA-40CFR1500_1508.pdf. Consequently, as part of an applicant's package, and under their description of their program activities, applicants are required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non-indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to coral reef systems). Program Applications should, to the best extent, provide what they know about their projects at the time they submit their grant Applications. Examples of the level of detail to be incorporated into proposals to assist in the environmental review can be found in <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/questionnaire.pdf>. In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting of an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required.

Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA identifying and implementing feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. The failure to do so shall be grounds for not selecting an Application. Funds will not be released until NOAA completes the requisite NEPA analysis and documentation. Funds may be withheld by the Grants Officer under a special award condition requiring the recipient to submit additional environmental compliance information sufficient to enable NOAA to make an assessment on any impacts that a project may have on the environment.

It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain all necessary federal, state, and local government permits and approval for the proposed work to be conducted. Applicants are expected to design their proposed activities to minimize the potential for adverse impacts to the environment. If applicable, documentation of requests for, or approval of required environmental permits should be included in the Application package. Applications will be reviewed to ensure that they contain sufficient information to allow NOAA staff to conduct a NEPA analysis so that appropriate NEPA documentation, required as part of the Application package, can be submitted to the NOAA Grants Management Division along with the recommendation for funding for selected Applications. Applicants whose proposed projects may have an environmental impact must furnish information requested to assist proposal reviewers in assessing the potential environmental consequences of supporting the project.

(8) Review of Risk - After Applications are proposed for funding by the Selecting Official, the Grants Office will perform administrative reviews, including an assessment of risk posed by the applicant under 2 C.F.R. 200.205. These may include assessments of the financial stability of an applicant and the quality of the applicant's management systems, history of performance, and the applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities. Special

conditions that address any risks determined to exist may be applied. Applicants may submit comments to the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS) about any information included in the system about their organization for consideration by the awarding agency.

(9) Data Sharing Plan - 1. Environmental data and information collected or created under NOAA grants or cooperative agreements must be made discoverable by and accessible to the general public, in a timely fashion (typically within two years), free of charge or at no more than the cost of reproduction, unless an exemption is granted by the NOAA Program. Data should be available in at least one machine-readable format, preferably a widely-used or open-standard format, and should also be accompanied by machine-readable documentation (metadata), preferably based on widely used or international standards. 2. Proposals submitted in response to this Announcement must include a Data Management Plan of up to two pages describing how these requirements will be satisfied. The Data Management Plan should be aligned with the Data Management Guidance provided by NOAA in the Announcement. The contents of the Data Management Plan (or absence thereof), and past performance regarding such plans, will be considered as part of proposal review. A typical plan should include descriptions of the types of environmental data and information expected to be 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; methods for providing data access; approximate total volume of data to be collected; and prior experience in making such data accessible. The costs of data preparation, accessibility, or archiving may be included in the proposal budget unless otherwise stated in the Guidance. Accepted submission of data to the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) is one way to satisfy data sharing requirements; however, NCEI is not obligated to accept all submissions and may charge a fee, particularly for large or unusual datasets. 3. NOAA may, at its own discretion, make publicly visible the Data Management Plan from funded proposals, or use information from the Data Management Plan to produce a formal metadata record and include that metadata in a Catalog to indicate the pending availability of new data. 4. Proposal submitters are hereby advised that the final pre-publication manuscripts of scholarly articles produced entirely or primarily with NOAA funding will be required to be submitted to NOAA Institutional Repository after acceptance, and no later than upon publication. Such manuscripts shall be made publicly available by NOAA one year after publication by the journal.

(10) Indirect Cost Rate - If an applicant has not previously established an indirect cost rate with a Federal agency they may choose to negotiate a rate with the Department of Commerce or use the de minimis indirect cost rate of 10% of Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) (as allowable under 2 C.F.R. §200.414). The negotiation and approval of a rate is subject to the procedures required by NOAA and the Department of Commerce Standard Terms and Conditions. Do not include participant support costs when determining the indirect cost base. The NOAA contact for indirect or facilities and administrative costs is: Lamar Revis, Grants Officer, NOAA Grants Management Division, 1325 East West Highway, 9th Floor, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or lamar.revis@noaa.gov.

(11) Minority Serving Institutions - The Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (DOC NOAA) is strongly committed to increasing the participation of Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), i.e., Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal

colleges and universities, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian institutions, and institutions that work in underserved communities.

(12) Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) - In the event that an Application contains information or data that you do not want disclosed prior to award for purposes other than the evaluation of the Application, mark each page containing such information or data with the words "Privileged, Confidential, Commercial, or Financial Information - Limited Use" at the top of the page to assist NOAA in making disclosure determinations. DOC regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C 552, are found at 15 C.F.R. Part 4, which sets forth rules for DOC to make requested materials, information, and records publicly available under FOIA. The contents of funded Applications may be subject to requests for release under the FOIA. Based on the information provided by the applicant, the confidentiality of the content of funded Applications will be maintained to the maximum extent permitted by law.

C. Reporting

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (31 U.S.C. 6101) includes a requirement for awardees of applicable Federal grants to report information about first-tier subawards and executive compensation under Federal assistance awards. All awardees of applicable grants and cooperative agreements are required to report to the Federal Sub-award Reporting System (FSRS) available at <https://www.fsrs.gov/> on all sub-awards over \$25,000. Refer to 2 CFR Parts 170.

VII. Agency Contacts

Requests for information regarding this request for proposals should be directed to the assigned Federal Program Officer for your program. Federal Program Officer assignments and contact information can be found here: <http://seagrant.noaa.gov/WhoWeAre/Leadership/NationalSeaGrantOffice.aspx>

The National Sea Grant Office mailing address is:

NOAA Sea Grant
1315 East-West Highway
SSMC3, R/SG
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-734-1066

VIII. Other Information

Programs are required to use the National Sea Grant Planning Implementation and Evaluation Reporting (PIER) project database to communicate with the National Sea Grant Office on activities relating to this award. This includes tracking progress and impacts, in addition to performance metrics.

The information provided in the Sea Grant 90-2 Form will be uploaded into the PIER project database. Once the project is approved and funded, that information will be publicly available and searchable on the National Sea Grant College Program public web site (<http://seagrant.noaa.gov>).

The grant Application and final report of all funded grants are public documents, except for privileged information or material that is personal, proprietary or otherwise exempt from disclosure under law. Appropriate labeling in the Omnibus Application will aid identification of what may be specifically exempt.