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Sea Grant Northeast Regional Lobster Extension Program

SPECIAL PROJECTS ANNOUNCEMENT

Competition: 2019 - 2022 Sea Grant Northeast Regional Lobster Extension Program

Closing date: February 5, 2019

The Sea Grant Northeast Regional Lobster Extension Program is part of a National Sea Grant American Lobster Initiative that also includes the separate National Sea Grant American Lobster Research Program.

The National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) anticipates that approximately \$600,000.00 will be available over the next four years to support a cooperative agreement to develop, staff, and implement a Sea Grant Northeast Regional Lobster Extension Program.

Eligible applicants: This competition is only open to the following programs in the northeast region - Maine Sea Grant, New Hampshire Sea Grant, MIT Sea Grant, Woods Hole Sea Grant, Connecticut Sea Grant, Rhode Island Sea Grant and New York Sea Grant.

Applications must be submitted by February 5, 2019. Applications should request no more than 50% of the overall budget in any one year over the project's 4-year duration and must include non-federal matching funds of at least 50% of the Federal request for each year.

Applications must describe how the proposed project would accomplish the "Funding Objectives" section below. Since it will be a regional program, applications should also address the financial arrangements for the Extension Program and other topics in the Administrative Organization section.

It is anticipated that the extension component of this initiative will be awarded as a cooperative agreement, due to the substantial involvement of NOAA in the execution of the project. The nature of the substantial NOAA involvement includes regional extension staff coordinating and communicating with the NSGO northeast regional lead regarding activities of the National Sea Grant American Lobster Initiative, working with the NSGO competition manager of the National Sea Grant American Lobster Research Program and working with funded PIs through that program to extend their research to stakeholders in the region. The National Sea Grant American Lobster Research Program is a targeted national effort by Sea Grant to better understand changes to American lobster populations in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank area.

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BACKGROUND

Over its 52-year history, the National Sea Grant College Program has served as an agent for scientific discovery, technology transfer, economic growth, and stakeholder engagement to help create and maintain a healthy coastal environment and economy. The Sea Grant network includes 33 programs based at top universities in every coastal and Great Lakes state, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Lake Champlain region. These programs carry out Sea Grant's mission through research, extension, and education strategically located in coastal communities.

Sea Grant's success has been built on a team approach by many dedicated and talented professionals throughout the network. Sea Grant extension professionals play a vital role, taking the best science-based solutions produced by Sea Grant-funded researchers and making them understandable and useful to coastal residents, businesses and communities.

The purpose of a Northeast Regional Lobster Extension Program is to ensure that industry and management stakeholders across the northeast region benefit from the research conducted to support American lobster (*Homarus americanus*) and its fishery. This includes research carried out through the National Sea Grant American Lobster Research Program, state Sea Grant projects and other pertinent research, as well as the lessons learned and best practices developed to benefit the sustainability of the fishery and its associated communities and economies. While the distribution of scientific expertise regarding American lobster may be broadly distributed geographically, the communities of stakeholders and end-users that can benefit from that research is highly concentrated in the northeast region. A regional extension program provides a framework for these needs to be met so that synergies and economies of scale are realized, experiences are shared, and resources are optimized across the northeast region.

FUNDING OBJECTIVES

Program Planning

Based on the Sea Grant model, proposals should develop a Sea Grant Northeast Regional Lobster Extension Program that will:

- Identify the program's target audiences and determine their needs with attention to regional synergies and opportunities.

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- Establish goals and objectives designed to meet audience needs including but not limited to facilitating communication and cooperation among the PIs funded by NSGO's National Sea Grant American Lobster Research Program with the northeast Sea Grant programs, NSGO, and stakeholders across the region.
- Create and implement an extension implementation plan to achieve the goals and objectives as noted above as well as work with NSGO and the Sea Grant programs in the northeast, as applicable. Implementation plans should provide for periodic evaluation to monitor program effectiveness and to anticipate changing audience needs.

Partnerships and Regional Coordination

The Sea Grant Northeast Regional Lobster Extension Program should look to support and coordinate with existing efforts while also seeking new partnerships to result in a framework that facilitates regional coordination among its stakeholders. The Sea Grant Northeast Regional Lobster Extension Program application should:

- Identify shared and complementary goals and strategies that will leverage resources and the program's reach across the region, as well as enable coordination among existing efforts. For example, the program should support relationships with related efforts such as the Maine Department of Marine Resources Collaborative Lobster Research projects, NMFS stock assessments, and similar efforts.
- Build partnerships within the region that provide for accessibility and inclusion across stakeholder and end-user communities impacted by the health of the American lobster fishery.

Connecting Research and End-Users

The NSGO will be funding research related to American lobster. The Sea Grant Northeast Regional Lobster Extension Program application should:

- At least twice per year, coordinate with the NSGO and the National Sea Grant American Lobster Research Program PIs to host a meeting with the northeast Sea Grant directors, their extension leads and other applicable staff to discuss research progress, emerging issues, and extension opportunities.
- Ensure research results are communicated to identified end-users (such as managers, commercial lobster industry, NGOs, universities, NOAA), the northeast Sea Grant programs, and others who may be impacted by the health

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of the American lobster fishery.

- Improve the relevance, visibility, use, and effectiveness of Sea Grant -funded lobster research and other American lobster research in the region.

Administrative Organization

The Northeast Regional Lobster Extension Program is intended to support the work of Sea Grant programs in the northeast region, therefore the application should:

- Include a plan for fiscal administration of the Northeast Sea Grant Regional Lobster Extension Program.
- Identify a proposed staffing plan that includes a plan for outreach across the region.
- Outline a cooperative approach for developing annual work-plans that proportionally reflect stakeholder and end-user needs in the northeast region relevant to American lobster.
- Include a plan to coordinate the submission of annual impacts and accomplishments with Sea Grant programs (as applicable) for inclusion in their annual reports and, if needed, coordinate with the NSGO to complete these tasks in accordance with existing Sea Grant program deadlines.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

An application must include a project description that addresses the funding objectives outlined above as well as Standard forms found in the application package located on grants.gov. These Standard Forms include 424A, 424B, and CD-511. In addition, applications must include the Sea Grant forms 90-2 (short form) and 90-4, available on the Implementation page of Inside Sea Grant (<https://seagrants.noaa.gov/insideseagrants/Implementation>). Include the phrase "Sea Grant Northeast Regional Lobster Extension Program" in the proposal title. Applicants need not fill the entire 15-page maximum for project description. Depending on the complexity of the proposed activities, a two-or three-page description may suffice.

If submitting a joint application from two or more programs, the application must include a letter of concurrence from the Director of the state Sea Grant Program that will be the fiscal host of the program.

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Applications may request up to \$150,000.00 per year for 4 years. 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 [Sea Grant General Application Guide](https://seagrant.noaa.gov/Portals/1/Guidance/SeaGrantGeneralApplicationGuide.pdf) (<https://seagrant.noaa.gov/Portals/1/Guidance/SeaGrantGeneralApplicationGuide.pdf>) for more information.

Applications must be submitted on grants.gov to Federal Funding Opportunity NOAA-OAR-SG-2018-2005457, Special Project "D", no later than 11:59 PM Eastern Time on February 5, 2019.

This competition is only open to the following programs in the northeast region - Maine Sea Grant, New Hampshire Sea Grant, MIT Sea Grant, Woods Hole Sea Grant, Connecticut Sea Grant, Rhode Island Sea Grant and New York Sea Grant.

For how to submit, evaluation criteria, general programmatic priorities and selection factors, eligible applicants, required elements of the application, and other necessary information, please consult Federal Funding Opportunity NOAA-OAR-SG-2018-2005457, available on grants.gov. The [Sea Grant General Application Guide](#) can be found on our website. Questions may be sent to oar.hq.sg.competitions@noaa.gov and please include the competition name in the subject line.