



Special Projects Competition

Sea Grant-NCCOS National Aquaculture Extension Coordinator

SPECIAL PROJECTS "F" ANNOUNCEMENT

Competition:

FY 2021 SG-NCCOS National Aquaculture Extension Coordinator

Closing Dates:

April 29, 2021 at 11:59 PM Eastern Time

Eligible Sea Grant Programs:

This competition is open to all Sea Grant programs. All projects must take place within the United States or territories or their respective waterways.

Award Time Frame:

The proposed start date should be no earlier than September 1, 2021, with projects to be completed no later than four years after the project start date.

Funding Availability:

The National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) anticipates that up to **\$600,000 (\$150,000/year for four years)** of federal funds will be available. Applications require the standard 50% non-federal match for Sea Grant projects.

Project Description (program priorities):

The goal of this funding opportunity is to build the capacity of the Sea Grant Network to assist stakeholders in utilizing and informing the coastal science products and resources developed by the NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS). The NCCOS Coastal Aquaculture Siting and Sustainability Program provides high quality science, guidance, and technical support to coastal managers to grow sustainable aquaculture while maintaining and improving ecosystem health (<https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/research/marine-spatial-ecology/aquaculture/>). Their work is focused on developing resources and tools to assist and inform stakeholders including coastal resource managers, regulators, and the industry towards increasing sustainable production of marine-based aquaculture in the US. Thus, as NCCOS does not have a dedicated outreach and education focus, this funding call is directed towards establishing a formal connection between Sea Grant and NCCOS with the overall goal of communicating and extending NCCOS developed resources to stakeholders as well as gaining stakeholder input to inform future research and outreach efforts.

The goals of this funding for the Sea Grant-NCCOS National Aquaculture Extension Coordinator are to:

- 1) Facilitate communication, outreach, and delivery of NCCOS research products to the Sea Grant Extension Network, NMFS Regional Aquaculture Coordinators, coastal managers, and industry stakeholders.

- 2) Support coastal management and development of sustainable marine aquaculture through identifying stakeholder research needs, extending NCCOS science with greater efficacy, and providing increased support and capacity building, including producing extension inreach and outreach products.
- 3) Build capacity towards support of sustainable aquaculture development in the US by informing Sea Grant and NCCOS of stakeholder research and services needs.

In addition to the salary of the Extension Coordinator (the position may be housed by any Sea Grant program), funds may be used to support the costs of workshops led by the coordinator; travel of the coordinator to workshops, conferences or professional meetings; participation in workshops, conferences and professional meetings by the coordinator relevant to achieving Sea Grant's mission; and workshop logistics and administration, and/or related expenses.

To ensure progress is being made toward project goals, and to ensure interaction and communication between the coordinator, NCCOS, and the National Sea Grant Office, regular meetings will be facilitated by NSGO. A small advisory committee should be established by the coordinator - whose members are drawn from the key constituents to support strategic planning - that serves to provide advice to the coordinator, NCCOS, and NSGO on implementation, integration, and partnerships directed toward project priorities.

Application Requirements:

Consult the NOFO [NOAA-OAR-SG-2020-2006435](#), available at [Grants.gov](#), for eligible applicants, required elements of the application, how to submit, general programmatic priorities and selection factors, and other necessary information. Submit your application to **SPECIAL PROJECTS "F"** under this Opportunity in Grants.gov.

Discrepancies between this special project announcement and the NOFO may exist. Specific application details and instructions outlined in this special project announcement take precedence over guidelines in the NOFO.

Proposals **must** include the following elements (1 - project narrative, 2 - budget forms and narrative, and 3 - additional required forms). Please note that incomplete application packages will be rejected.

1. Project Narrative: The Project Narrative must include the following documents:

- a. Project Description. The total number of pages of the project description should not exceed ten (10). Excess pages will not be included in the review. References, CVs, and letters of support do not contribute to the page limit.
 - i. Cover page (1 page maximum).
 1. Project title; Lead Sea Grant program and point of contact name, email address, and phone number; Extension Coordinator candidate name, email address, and phone number; names and affiliations of additional personnel and partners (as appropriate).
 2. Budget overview - Total cost and annual breakdown of requested funding by program.
 - ii. Project Abstract (1 page maximum).

- iii. Description of how the proposed work will address program priorities for this competition, including plans for formation of the project advisory committee.
 - iv. Description of candidate expertise and experience.
 - v. Outreach and education plan.
 - vi. Description of how the proposed work directly applies to addressing Sea Grant's mission to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine and Great Lakes resources in order to create a sustainable economy and environment.
 - vii. Anticipated outcomes and deliverables.
 - viii. Diversity statement - *NSGO recognizes it has a particular and unique opportunity to support NOAA's commitment to diversity and inclusion by taking an intentional step that encourages applicants to consider diversity and inclusion as part of their scientific projects. This action has the potential to make an impact on not only the diversity and inclusion in science at NOAA, but also beyond the agency. In this section, describe how the proposed activity broadens the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, geography, etc.) and how they benefit from its outcomes. Applicants are encouraged to review the resources and best practices compiled by NSGO related to diversity, equity and inclusion:*
<https://seagrant.noaa.gov/insideseagrant/Implementation/Network-Visioning/DiversityInclusion>
 - ix. References (does not count towards page limit)
 - x. CVs (two page limit per each CV) of principal and co-principal investigators (does not count towards page limit). CVs of other investigators and partners are optional.
 - xi. Letters of support (optional, does not count against page limit).
- b. Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire (OMB Control No. 0648-0538) (does not count towards page limit) - *Applicants must ensure that this questionnaire is completed in full and includes detailed information regarding project location, methodology, and permits. Copies of all permits required for project activities should be included with application materials. If a permit is pending or planned, please provide this information. The questionnaire can be found here:*
<https://seagrant.noaa.gov/insideseagrant/Implementation>. *Guidance on how to complete the questionnaire can be found here:*
<https://seagrant.noaa.gov/Portals/1/Forms/NEPA%20Questionnaire%20-%20Guidance.pdf>
- c. Data Management Plan (does not count towards page limit) - *All applications must include a Data Management Plan that is compliant with NOAA's Public Access to Research Results Plan (<https://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/parr.html>). The Data Management Plan should not exceed 2 pages. The Data Management Plan should include descriptions of the types of metadata and data expected to be created during the course of the project, plans for disseminating the metadata and data to the broader community, and plans for long-term archiving of the metadata and data.*

- 2. Budget Narrative and Justification:** The Budget Narrative must include the following documents (Sea Grant 90-4 Forms and Budget Justification) in the following order and format. Additional budget narrative guidance can be found at: https://www.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/gmd_budget_narrative_guidance_-_05-24-2017_final.pdf
- a. Sea Grant 90-4 Form (OMB Control No. 0648-0362) - *Sea Grant 90-4 Forms are required to provide budget breakdowns and budget justifications by year and object class for the proposal. A completed Sea Grant 90-4 Form should be completed for each project year, as well as a total budget for the entire project duration (i.e., Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, and Years 1-3). Guidance on filling out these forms is located in the Sea Grant General Application Guide.*
 - b. Budget Justifications - *For each year of the project, a Budget Justification is required. Each Budget Justification should explain the budget items in sufficient detail to enable review of the appropriateness of the funding requested. Each Budget Justification should be attached as a PDF to each Sea Grant 90-4 Form, as appropriate. Guidance on completing the Budget Justifications is located in the Sea Grant General Application Guide.*
- 3. Required Federal Forms and Assurances:** Standard Federal Forms and Assurances are required and can be found on Grants.gov or on the Sea Grant website (links found below). These include:
- a. SF-424A Form (Grants.gov, OMB Control No. 4040-0006).
 - b. SF-424B Assurances (Grants.gov, OMB Control No. 4040-0007).
 - c. CD-511 (Grants.gov, US Department of Commerce).
 - d. SF-LLL (Grants.gov, OMB Control No. 0348-0046) if applicable.

Application Evaluation Criteria:

The following criteria will be used to evaluate proposals. Note that the weights of each criteria are different than the Evaluation Criteria laid out in the Special Projects Funding Opportunity announcement. Proposals submitted to this competition will be evaluated by at least three independent written reviews based on:

1. Importance/relevance and applicability of the proposed work relative to program priorities (30%)
This criterion ascertains whether the proposed work is relevant to the described program priorities described above.
2. Overall qualifications/expertise of applicants (30%)
This criterion evaluates whether applicants possess the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project.
3. Project costs (10%)
This criterion analyzes the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time frame.
4. Outreach and Education (30%)
This criterion reviews whether the project provides a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nation's natural resources, Sea Grant's strategic focus areas, and the goals of the individual competition announcement to a

*target audience (for example, underserved and underrepresented audiences is a high priority).
For this competition, this includes the quality of the dissemination plan.*

Please note that selected projects will be recommended for funding only if they have a complete application package and if funds are available.

Other Information:

Reporting:

This will be a stand-alone (i.e., non-omnibus) award for which annual progress reporting will be required.

NCCOS support:

NCCOS will provide staff support to inform extension efforts, assist Sea Grant with priority setting for extension efforts, and work to integrate Sea Grant staff into NCCOS aquaculture projects and program coordination. It is estimated that NCCOS FTE staff time of approximately 5% will be committed to provide coordination and support for this position.

Agency Contacts:

Questions about this competition or the Special Projects Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) may be sent to oar.hq.sg.aquaculture@noaa.gov. Please specify that your question is related to the FY 2021 SG-NCCOS Aquaculture Extension Coordinator Special Competition in the subject line.

Fillable versions of required Sea Grant forms can be found here:

<https://seagrant.noaa.gov/insideseagrant/Implementation>

Guidance for completing these forms is located in the Sea Grant General Application Guidance

Document: <https://seagrant.noaa.gov/Portals/1/Guidance/SeaGrantGeneralApplicationGuide.pdf>