



Special Projects Competition

Sea Grant Northeast Fishing Communities and Offshore Wind Extension Support

SPECIAL PROJECTS "K" ANNOUNCEMENT

Competition:

Sea Grant Northeast Offshore Wind and Fisheries Communities Extension Support

Closing Date:

April 30, 2021 at 11:59 PM Eastern Time

Eligible Sea Grant Programs:

This competition is open only 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.

Award Time Frame:

The proposed start date should be no earlier than September 1, 2021, with projects to be completed no later than August 31, 2025.

Funding Availability:

The National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) and the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) anticipate that approximately **\$350,000** will be available to support extension programming for up to seven cooperative agreements that will extend research results, support stakeholder needs, and increase scientific knowledge regarding offshore wind and fisheries communities. Applications should request no more than 50% of the overall budget in any one year over the project's 4-year duration. No matching funds are statutorily required for this competition.

Project Description (program priorities):

The Sea Grant Northeast Offshore Wind and Fisheries Communities Extension Support opportunity will provide outreach, policy, technical, and/or legal expertise to northeast fishing communities in ME, NH, MA, RI, CT, and NY affected by the rapid rate of offshore wind development to (1) increase community preparedness and (2) improve capacity for fishing communities to engage in the process.

Applications must describe how the proposed project would accomplish the "Funding Objectives" section below.

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 34 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 the **Sea Grant Northeast Offshore Wind and Fisheries Communities Extension Support** opportunity is to provide outreach, policy, technical, and/or legal expertise to northeast fishing communities affected by the rapid rate of offshore wind development. This includes engagement and coordination with regional fisheries scientific planning efforts currently underway and SG-funded research focused on advancing human dimensions with a focus on co-existence of fishing communities and regional offshore wind energies. In addition, legal and policy research support is also encouraged to improve fishing community preparedness for offshore wind energy and improve capacities for fishing communities to efficiently and effectively engage in the process.

Coastal states in the northeast have set ambitious targets for offshore wind energy by 2030 and developments in the planning, siting, and leasing for offshore wind have increased rapidly in the region in recent years. The scales of engagement and transboundary nature of fisheries creates a complex landscape for stakeholders in fisheries communities to navigate. Sea Grant programs possess the social capital and technical expertise to effectively engage with these communities, support the research (including but not limited to collaborative efforts), translate the science, and build the capacity needed in order to fully engage in the scientific planning processes and research efforts associated with offshore wind development in ME, NH, MA, RI, CT, and NY.

FUNDING OBJECTIVES

Program Planning

Based on the Sea Grant extension model, applications seeking funding for **Sea Grant Northeast Offshore Wind and Fisheries Communities Extension Support** should:

- Within fisheries communities, identify the program's target audiences and determine their needs with attention to local and regional synergies and opportunities.
- Establish goals and objectives designed to meet these needs, including but not limited to facilitating engagement with research efforts funded through Sea Grant's offshore wind research competition(s) and enhancing capacity to participate in existing regional fisheries scientific planning efforts.
- Create and implement an extension implementation plan to achieve the goals and objectives outlined in this announcement and that provides for a collaborative working relationship among the Northeast Fisheries Science Center and the state Sea Grant programs in the northeast.

Implementation plans should provide for periodic evaluation to monitor program effectiveness and to anticipate changing audience needs.

Partnerships and Regional Coordination

Proposals for **Sea Grant Northeast Offshore Wind and Fisheries Communities Extension Support** should look to engage in and coordinate with existing regional scientific efforts. Proposals to this opportunity should:

- Contribute to the development of and support engagement with an integrated and coherent fisheries and offshore wind research framework being advanced by Federal, state, academic, and industry partners; build off emerging partnerships in the region, including but not limited to BOEM, NMFS, ROSA, and RODA's 2020-2021 Synthesis of the Science Effort.
- Support the strategic objectives outlined in the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, NMFS, and Responsible Offshore Development Alliance's (RODA) 10-year Memorandum of Understanding.
- Engage with fisheries communities to identify, describe, and address key issues, including but not limited legal and policy questions, barriers, and possible solutions to achieving co-existence between offshore wind and fisheries.
- Employ effective engagement strategies that consider broad and diverse perspectives consistent with Sea Grant's diversity, equity, and inclusion values statement - <https://seagrant.noaa.gov/values>

Connecting Research and End-Users

Sea Grant and its partners will be funding research related to offshore wind energy. Proposals to this opportunity should:

- At least once per year, engage with the research funding partners to understand research recommendations, understand emerging needs, and promote collaborative fisheries research principles.
- Ensure research results are translated for and extended to identified end-users (e.g. managers, commercial and recreational fishing industry, developers, universities/research institutions, NGOs, and NOAA), the Sea Grant programs in the northeast, and others who may be impacted by the rapid rate of offshore wind development
- Enhance the relevance, visibility, and utility of Sea Grant-funded offshore wind research to regional scientific planning efforts involving fisheries and offshore wind development.
- Facilitate the inclusion of fisheries expertise and industry knowledge into collaborative research design and support extension of the results

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 "K"** 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.

Applications must include the following elements. Failure to adhere to these provisions may result in a delay in award processing or rejection of the application, based on the extent of the noncompliance.

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

- a. Project Description. The total number of pages in the project description should not exceed fifteen (15). Excess pages will not be included in the review. The works cited, CVs, letters of support, and current and pending support sections do not contribute to the page limit.
 - i. Cover page (1 page maximum)
 - Project title and names, titles, affiliations, and contact information (email and phone) of co-PIs.
 - Budget overview - Total cost and annual breakdown of requested funding by partner.
 - ii. Project Abstract (1 page maximum)
 - iii. Project background (suggested 2 pages)
 - Explain the specific problem(s) this project seeks to address and justify its importance.
 - iv. Project objectives (suggested 1 page)
 - Provide a list of clearly defined objectives. For each objective, provide a concise statement explaining how it is aligned with the goals and priorities of this funding opportunity.
 - v. Project details (suggested 4 pages)
 - Provide an explanation of the methods you will use to address your project objectives. Explicitly explain how this project leverages the expertise of both researchers and stakeholders.
 - vi. Anticipated outcomes and deliverables (suggested 1 page)
 - What are the expected outcomes and deliverables related to the creation of reports (e.g. technical publications, policy-briefs, and/or outreach materials), data/data products, tools, technologies, and management practices that can be directly applied to the current and future needs of fishing community preparedness for offshore wind?
 - vii. Outreach and technology transfer plan (suggested 1 pages)
 - Provide a strategy that details how end users, beyond those who actively participate in the proposed work, will learn about the project's outcomes.
 - viii. Project timeline (suggested 1 page)
 - Please provide a timeline for accomplishing the proposed work, which covers the entire duration of the project. Include approximate dates for key milestones related to the proposed work, including the accomplishment of anticipated outcomes and release of deliverables.

- Applicants submitting proposals that involve the use of human test subjects should state so clearly in their application. These proposed research activities require approval of the applicant’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) before such research can proceed. Applicants are responsible for obtaining IRB approval from their institution and providing that documentation to NOAA once the approval is obtained and prior to any NOAA-funded human subject testing. Proposals intending to use human test subjects should specify clearly in the timeline approximately when IRB approval will be obtained and when the testing is expected to occur.
 - ix. Diversity statement (suggested 1 page)
 - 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 identities, 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/Networking/DiversityInclusion>
 - x. Works cited (does not count towards page limit)
 - All in-text citations should be listed here.
 - xi. Curriculum vitae (CV) for each co-PI (does not count towards page limit)
 - Each person’s CV should not be longer than 2 pages. Excess pages will not be included in the review.
 - xii. Letters of support (does not count towards page limit)
 - All letters of support should be included here. Required in the instance that a Sea Grant program is applying on behalf of a partnership of multiple Sea Grant programs; otherwise, recommended but optional.
 - xiii. Current and pending support (does not count towards page limit)
 - Describe any current or pending sources of support if applicable.
- b. Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire (OMB Control No. 0648-0538)
- i. Applicants must ensure that the 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.
 - ii. The questionnaire can be found here: <https://seagrant.noaa.gov/insideseagrant/Implementation>.
 - iii. Guidance on how to complete the questionnaire, including how to describe work that will not involve any environmental impact, can be found here: <https://seagrant.noaa.gov/Portals/1/Forms/NEPA%20Questionnaire%20-%20Guidance.pdf>

- c. Data Management Plan
 - i. All applications must include a Data Management Plan that is compliant with NOAA's [Public Access to Research Results](#) Plan. 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.
 - ii. If proposed activities will not generate any environmental data, such as the scoping activities and research competition, please include the following statement at the end of your proposal: "Because this project will not generate environmental data, a Data Management Plan is not required."
- 2. Budget Narrative.** *The Budget Narrative must include the following budget documents (Sea Grant 90-4 Forms and Budget Justification) in the following order and format. Additional budget narrative guidance can be found [here](#).*
- 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, Year 4, and Years 1-4).
 - 1-4). 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 Justification is located in the [Sea Grant General Application Guide](#).
- 3. Overall Application.** *In addition to the forms required above, standard Federal Forms and Assurances are required for the overall application 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, 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 "Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs," should describe the entire funding period in federal and non-federal dollars, for the entire application. Fill out Section B of this SF-424A form to show the overall budget breakdown by object class by year. Each federal and match year should have its own column. If there is insufficient space, an additional SF-424A Form, Extra Section B should be used (see below).

- c. Additional SF-424A Form, Extra Section B (<https://seagrant.noaa.gov/insideseagrant/Implementation>, OMB Control No. 4060-0006)

The SF-424A Form described above only includes space to report the applicant’s yearly federal and non-federal dollars over two years. If the application covers more than two years of federal and non-federal dollars, then please 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 Sea Grant [How to Use Form “424A Extra Section B” 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 of the NOFO.
- d. SF-424B Assurances ([Grants.gov](https://grants.gov), OMB Control No. 4040-0007)

The form, titled “Assurances – Non-Construction Programs,” should be completed and signed by the institution’s authorized representative or designee.
- e. CD-511 ([Grants.gov](https://grants.gov), US Department of Commerce)

The form, titled “Certification Regarding Lobbying,” should be completed and signed by the institution’s authorized representative or designee. In some instances, the SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form may also be required. See the instructions on the CD-511 for further information.
- f. SF-LLL ([Grants.gov](https://grants.gov), OMB Control No. 0348-0046) if applicable

The form, titled “Disclosure of Lobbying Activities,” should be completed and signed by the institution’s authorized representative or designee, if appropriate.

Application Evaluation Criteria:

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

1. Importance/relevance and applicability of proposed projects to the program goals (30%). This criterion ascertains whether the proposed work is relevant to the goals set out in this announcement.
2. Technical/scientific merit (30%). This criterion assesses whether the proposal is technically sound, employs appropriate methods, and outlines clear objectives. Applications will be evaluated based on the following:
 - a. Whether the proposal clearly identifies goals and objectives, and whether the timeline for the project is reasonable and in line with the award period guidelines;
 - b. Whether the project will deliver tangible, specific results that are attainable and measurable within the proposed time frame.
 - c. Whether the proposed methods and approaches to be used in the project are valid to achieve project goals.

3. Overall qualifications of applicants (5%). This criterion ascertains whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project.
4. Project costs (10%). This criterion evaluates the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time frame.
5. Outreach and Education (25%). 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 target audiences, including underserved and underrepresented audiences.

Other Information:

Reporting:

The selected proposals will be awarded as stand-alone (i.e., non-omnibus) awards for which annual progress reporting will be required.

Agency Contacts:

Questions about this competition or the Special Projects Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) may be sent to oar.hq.competitions@noaa.gov. Please specify that your question is related to the Sea Grant Northeast Regional Offshore Wind Extension Support 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>