Undergraduate Population and Ecosystem Dynamics Workshop

Webinar
December 18, 2018
Dr. Jim Berkson
Introductions

Population and Ecosystem Dynamics professionals develop and implement quantitative methods for assessing the status of fish stocks and other marine resources and the ecosystems they inhabit.

Purpose of the program

Introduce and recruit students into the field of population and ecosystem dynamics.
Sponsors

- NOAA Fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service – NMFS)
- National Sea Grant College Program
- NOAA Office of Education
The Basics

• Application due: **January 23rd**

• **Only** Sea Grant Programs are eligible to apply
  – All Sea Grant programs, *with the exception of Oregon and Washington Sea Grant*, are eligible to apply.
  – Other interested parties are encouraged to work with their local Sea Grant Program to prepare an application that can be submitted via the Sea Grant Program.

• Interested in applying?
  – Need to be working with local Sea Grant program now
Important documents

• Special Projects Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO): NOAA-OAR-SG-2018-2005457
  – Contains background information and grants.gov application instructions

• Special Project Announcement
  – Unique to Undergraduate PED Workshop

• Frequently Asked Questions
  – Updated as needed

Links to all can be found at:
  – https://seagrant.noaa.gov/Funding
The Basics

1. Maximum of $140,000 may be requested
2. No matching fund requirement
3. One or more workshops may be proposed
4. Each workshop should last 1-2 weeks
5. Workshop(s) should be held between October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020
Workshop Participants

• Work with a minimum of 20 students

• **Ideal participants**: undergraduates with outstanding quantitative skills and interest in the environmental sciences

• Participants will be selected nationwide, regardless of the location of the Awardee
Workshop Participants

• Awardee will recruit participants

• NOAA will assist by advertising the workshop(s) to its undergraduate programs (e.g., Hollings Scholars)
  – Note: Awardee cannot count on filling the workshop(s) with these NOAA-supported students
Cooperative Agreement

- **Awardee**: Will work closely with NMFS during planning, implementation and evaluation

- **Sea Grant Program Officer**: Will work regularly with Awardee to provide advice and oversight

- **Program Officer**: Will approve the student application process, the workshop agenda, and the attendees list
Cooperative Agreement

• Workshop instructors should include both university faculty and NMFS scientists

• NMFS will pay for scientists to participate, but it is the job of the Awardee to work with NMFS to select the scientists

• NMFS scientists do not have to come from the same region as the Sea Grant program

• Applicants may offer suggestions of potential NMFS instructors in their application’s Project Description
Expenditures

- Cooperative agreement funds should cover student travel and expenses associated with the workshop

  - May also cover: other expenses (e.g., faculty time, time for an administrative assistant to work on logistics, faculty travel, other related costs)
Application Package – 1 of 3

- SF-424 – Application for Federal Assistance
- SF-424A – Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs
- SF-424B – Assurances – Non-Construction Programs
- CD-511 – Certification Regarding Lobbying
- A Sea Grant 90-2 Project Summary form; and
Application Package – 2 of 3

• A Project Description (max: 15 pages) including:
  – Introduction/background/justification
  – Project objectives
  – General work plan and milestones
  – Anticipated outcomes
  – Coordination with other program elements
Application Package – 3 of 3

- References and literature citations
  - (these *do not* count towards the 15 page Project Description Limit)

- Short CVs (<2 pages) for each PI and co-PI
  - (these *do not* count towards the 15 page Project Description Limit)

- Letters of support
  - Will be accepted and *do not* count towards the 15 page Project Description Limit

- Sea Grant 90-4 form

- Budget narrative justifying proposed expenses

- NEPA (NOAA Abbreviate Environmental Compliance Questionnaire)
An evaluation of the workshops’ effectiveness is required

- An explanation of the evaluation that will be used should be included in the Project Description.
Proposal Evaluation Criteria

• Q: The Special Project Announcement shows three evaluation criteria, whereas the FFO shows five evaluation criteria. Which evaluation criteria will be used?

• A: The Special Project Announcement, with its three evaluation criteria, will be used
Proposal Evaluation Criteria from the Announcement

• Technical Merit (40%)

• Overall Qualification of Applicants (30%)

• Project Costs (30%) – including cost effectiveness (i.e., whether the proposal makes the most economical use of available resources to maximize project results)
Diversity

• NOAA is dedicated to seeking diversity in the nation’s workforce development
  – Awarded project will be expected to incorporate robust strategies to broaden participation by students traditionally underrepresented in fisheries science

• We advise PIs to include a description of how this will be accomplished in their proposals
Diversity

• Awardee is expected to work closely with NOAA’s Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center (LMRCSC), an educational partnership program for minority-serving institutions, in workshop development, implementation and evaluation.

Point of contact at LMRCSC:
Dr. Margaret Sexton,
masexton@umes.edu
Working with the LMRCSC

Should include:

• Developing student recruiting strategies
• Creating the student application
• Evaluating student applications
• Creating the workshop syllabus
• Co-teaching the workshop
• Developing workshop evaluation tools
• Allowing attendance of 1-3 students from LMRCSC-affiliated institutions, with their expenses paid by the LMRCSC
Diversity

• Awardee, working with the LMRCSC, will define how this collaboration will work

• Nature of collaboration could be determined, at least partially, in advance and described in the proposal’s **Project Description**
Possible Future Workshop Competitions

• NOAA’s goal is to rotate the workshop cooperative agreement regionally, based on the states and territories covered by the NMFS’ Science Centers.

• Annual rotation of host programs and workshop locations ensures *geographic balance* and *diversity of expertise*. 
Possible Future Workshop Competitions

• In FY 2018, Oregon Sea Grant, located in the region of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (Northwest FSC), was awarded the FY 2019 Undergraduate PED Workshop.

• The current FY 2019 Special Projects Announcement, to host the FY 2020 Undergraduate PED Workshop(s), is eligible for applicants from all regions, with the exception of Oregon and Washington Sea Grant, the region of the Northwest FSC.
Possible Future Workshop Competitions

• If a competition is held again next year, it is anticipated that applicants from all regions except the Northwest FSC’s region and the region of this year’s awardee will be eligible.

• In future competitions, it is anticipated that applicants from all regions except those of awardees from the previous three years would be eligible.
Possible Future Workshop Competitions

Great Lakes - no science center: IL-IN, OH, Lake Champlain, MI, MN, NY, PA, WI

CT, DE, MD, ME, MIT, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, WHOI

FL, GA, LA, MS-AL, NC, PR, SC, TX

Guam, HI

CA, USC

OR, WA

AK
The Great Lakes

• **Q:** There is no NMFS Science Center in the Great Lakes. Are the Great Lakes Sea Grant programs included in this competition?

• **A:** Yes. Regarding the annual rotation, they will be treated as a separate region.
Frequently Asked Questions
Should the workshop curriculum be local, regional, or national in scope?

- Applicants will select scope of the curriculum
- We expect that they will build on the expertise of the faculty and NMFS Scientists who will serve as instructors
- Could be determined, at least partially, in advance and described in the **Project Description** section of the proposal
How will the workshop participants be selected?

- The Awardee, working with the NOAA Program Officer and the LMRCSC, will select the participating students.
Can people or institutions from different regions partner together on a proposal? Will this affect the other institution’s ability to compete to run a workshop next year?

• Yes.

• Faculty from different institutions can partner and apply in multiple years, as long as the hosting Sea Grant program and the location of the workshop(s) rotate among the NMFS Science Center regions annually.
The Special Projects FFO on Grants.Gov has many competitions under it. Which do I apply to?

• Competition “C”
I have additional questions after this webinar. Who do I contact?

• Consult the FAQ document found at:
  https://seagrant.noaa.gov/Funding

• Please send questions to:
  oar.hq.sg.competitions@noaa.gov
Thank you!

Photo: Haystack Rock, Oregon, Brooke Carney

oar.hq.sg.competitions@noaa.gov