

Undergraduate Population and Ecosystem Dynamics Workshop Special Projects Competition

SPECIAL PROJECTS ANNOUNCEMENT

Competition: Undergraduate Population and Ecosystem Dynamics Workshop

Application EXTENDED due date: April 30, 2020

Eligible Sea Grant programs: All Sea Grant Programs are eligible to apply, with the exception of those in the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (FSC) and the Northwest FSC (see the end of this announcement for a list of all states in each region). 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. (For more information, see the Section titled, “Past, Current, and Potential Future Undergraduate PED Workshop Competitions.”)

Funding Availability:

The National Sea Grant Office anticipates that up to \$140,000 in Sea Grant funding will be available to support the development of the 2021 Undergraduate Population and Ecosystem Dynamics Workshop. It is anticipated that no more than one application will be selected.

Project Description:

The National Sea Grant Office (NSGO), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the NOAA Office of Education (OEd) anticipate that up to \$140,000 will be available to fund a cooperative agreement to develop, conduct, and evaluate one to several Undergraduate Population and Ecosystem Dynamics (PED) Workshops, to be held between October 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021.

Awards will begin on June 1, 2020, allowing the awardee to attend the FY 2020 Undergraduate PED Workshop, hosted by New Jersey Sea Grant in Summer, 2020 in the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Background

Surveys of the nation’s workforce needs continually indicate the need for professionals in the field of population and ecosystem dynamics (PED). Professionals in this field develop and implement quantitative methods for assessing the status of fish stocks and other marine resources and the ecosystems they inhabit.

The purpose of the proposed undergraduate workshop(s) is to introduce and recruit students into the field of PED. This program fits within the National Sea Grant College Program’s

Updated 3/16/2020

2018-2021 Strategic Plan under the focus areas of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture and Environmental Literacy and Workforce Management.

Participants

Ideal candidates for the workshop(s) are undergraduate students with outstanding quantitative skills and an interest in the environmental sciences. Candidates will be selected nationwide, regardless of awardee location.

Workshop

Applicants should propose a program of one or more workshops, with no less than 20 undergraduate students selected (e.g., one workshop for a minimum of 20 students or two workshops for a minimum of 10 students). Each workshop should last 1-2 weeks and be conducted between October 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021.

Workshops would be taught by a combination of university faculty and NMFS scientists. Workshops may contain but are not limited to, a combination of lectures; computer exercises; field trips; a career question and answer panel; and social activities. Applicants should propose to use grant funds to pay for student travel and expenses associated with the workshop. Grant funds may also cover, but are not limited to, expenses such as faculty time, time for an administrative assistant to work on logistics, faculty travel, and other related costs. An evaluation of the workshop program is also required. Applicants should identify the evaluation strategies they propose to use.

Building on Past PED Workshops

Past hosts have developed and released a series of learning modules that were used at their workshop. Future workshop hosts have the option of incorporating none, some, or all of these modules into their workshop(s).

Applicants are encouraged to incorporate elements of prior workshop evaluation strategies into new workshops.

To learn about Oregon Sea Grant's learning modules and proposed evaluation strategies, contact Selina Heppell at Selina.heppell@oregonstate.edu. To learn about New Jersey Sea Grant's learning modules and proposed evaluation strategies, contact John Wiedenmann at john.wiedenmann@rutgers.edu

Past, Current, and Potential Future Undergraduate PED 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. The annual rotation of host programs ensures geographic balance and diversity of expertise for this as a workforce development training program.

Updated 3/16/2020

In FY 2018, Oregon Sea Grant, located in the region of the Northwest FSC, was awarded the FY 2019 Undergraduate PED Workshop. In FY 2019, New Jersey Grant, located in the region of the Northeast FSC, was awarded the FY 2020 Undergraduate PED Workshop.

This FY 2020 Special Projects Announcement, to host the FY 2021 Undergraduate PED Workshop(s), is eligible for applicants from all regions, with the exception of the Northwest FSC and Northeast FSC.

Although this announcement is for a one-year cooperative agreement for undergraduate PED workshops held in FY 2020, it is anticipated that similar competitions for cooperative agreements for future undergraduate PED workshops will be conducted annually (pending availability of funding). If a competition is held next year, it is anticipated that applicants from all regions except the Northwest FSC's region, the Northeast FSC's region, and the region of this year's awardee will be eligible. Similarly, in the following years, it is anticipated that applicants from all regions except those of awardees from the previous three years would be eligible.

The regions, and their corresponding Sea Grant programs and Fisheries Science Centers (FSC), are:

- CT, DE, MD, ME, MIT, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, WHOI (the Northeast FSC);
- FL, GA, LA, MS-AL, NC, PR, SC, TX (the Southeast FSC);
- CA, USC (the Southwest FSC);
- OR, WA (the Northwest FSC);
- AK (the Alaska FSC);
- GUAM, HI (Pacific Islands FSC); and
- IL-IN, OH, Lake Champlain, MI, MN, NY, PA, WI (the Great Lakes with no corresponding FSC).

(Note that PA and NY are listed under both the Northeast and Great Lakes regions, as they have mandates with each.)

Application Requirements:

Applicants may request up to \$140,000 in Federal funds. Non-federal matching funds are not required for this competition.

Projects may should begin on June 1, 2020, and should be completed no later than September 30, 2021.

NOAA is dedicated to seeking diversity in the nation's workforce development and expects the awarded project to incorporate robust strategies to broaden participation by students from groups traditionally underrepresented in fisheries science. To help accomplish this, the Awardee is expected to work closely with NOAA's Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center (LMRCSC - <https://www.umes.edu/lmrcsc/>), an educational partnership program for

Updated 3/16/2020

minority-serving institutions, in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the workshop. This 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 the attendance of 1-3 students from LMRCSC-affiliated institutions, with their expenses paid by the LMRCSC, outside the budget of the grant. This does not preclude the acceptance of additional students from the LMRCSC or other minority-serving institutions paid for by the grant.

Applicant Evaluation Criteria:

The following Evaluation Criteria will be used in selecting an applicant as a Grantee. Note that these criteria are different than the Evaluation Criteria laid out in the Special Projects Funding Opportunity announcement.

1. Technical Merit (40%): This measures whether the approach is technically sound, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project objectives consistent with the stated goals of this competition.
2. Overall Qualification of Applicants (30%): This evaluates whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project.
3. Project Costs (30%): The budget is analyzed to see if it is realistic, commensurate with the project needs and timeframe, and cost-effective (whether the proposal makes the most economical use of available resources to maximize project results).

Other Information:

For more information on this competition, including working with Sea Grant programs to prepare an application, working with NMFS to select and engage NMFS scientists, or working with LMRCSC, please contact oar.hq.sg.competitions@noaa.gov. Please put "attention: PED workshop" in the email subject line.

The award will be in the form of a Cooperative Agreement with NOAA. The awardee will work closely with the NOAA Program Officer throughout the process in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the workshop(s). NOAA will provide scientists from NMFS to serve as co-instructors at the workshop. NOAA will pay for all expenses related to oversight by the Program Officer and participation by NMFS scientists outside the budget of the grant.

Consult the NOFO [NOAA-OAR-SG-2020-2006252](#), 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.

Updated 3/16/2020

References and literature citations do not count towards the 15-page limit for the Project Description. Although the NOFO states that they do, this Special Project Announcement takes precedence.

More information can also be found in the "Frequently Asked Questions" located at: <https://seagrant.noaa.gov/insideseagrant/Funding-Opportunities>. This document will be continually updated with questions received that are of general interest to prospective applicants.

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>)