

SEA GRANT FY 2020

AQUACULTURE SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING GUIDANCE

Proposals:

This document is intended to follow up on the discussions in January 2020 between your Sea Grant program, your National Sea Grant Program Officer, and the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) Aquaculture Managers regarding aquaculture supplemental funding amounts and your intent on how these funds will be used. Moving ahead, each Sea Grant program receiving aquaculture supplemental funding will be required to submit a proposal (see below for instructions) detailing how they propose to invest their portion of supplemental funds on aquaculture activities.

As we have discussed, aquaculture supplemental funds may be directed to a range of possible activities including, for example, one or more aquaculture proposals from the most recent RFP cycle that were deemed fundable but not funded; aquaculture extension, education or communication activities; a joint regional aquaculture research competition; a joint regional (or topical) aquaculture extension position; competitive exploratory aquaculture Program Development funds; or a range of other activities that fall within approved strategic plans and the [Aquaculture 10 year and Communications Visioning Plans](#).

It is a priority for the NSGO that these funds be committed to new activities. These funds are not intended to replace other support for staff so that those funds might be used for non-aquaculture activities. The funds may, though, be used to support existing staff to expand their aquaculture activities.

Please note that 50% non-federal matching funds will be required for each dollar of federal funds requested.

Note: Dates and requirements closely mirror those provided in the guidance for receiving your base increase. This is intentional to help Sea Grant programs and the NSGO streamline efforts.

Sea Grant programs have two options for submission:

- 1) If your program would like to receive FY 2020 funding and propose a start date as early as September 1, 2020, then applications must be submitted via Grants.gov no later than May 19, 2020. Additional submission instructions are below.
 - For this option, proposed start dates may be as early as September 1, 2020 and must have end dates no later than January 31, 2023.
- 2) If your program chooses to opt to use the funds to run, for example, a yet-to-be-completed competition, regional competition, or hire a new employee - those

Distributed on March 5, 2020

projects may result in the need to wait to submit a proposal until early FY 2021. In that case, start dates would be no earlier than February 1, 2021. For this option, applications must be submitted via Grants.gov no later than November 3, 2020. Additional submission instructions are below.

- For this option, proposed start dates may be as early as February 1, 2021 and must have end dates no later than January 31, 2023.
- NOTE: If the federal government is under a continuing resolution at the beginning of FY 2021, funding may not be immediately available to process and start these projects. Programs should consider this when deciding which option to choose.

Finally, as you put together your proposals, please highlight in an email to us if any of your submission addresses the FY2020 Congressional appropriations language regarding federal aquaculture spending:

- FY2020 Congressional language:
 - House - Marine Aquaculture Program.—The Committee recognizes the importance of NOAA’s Marine Aquaculture research and development activities that help coastal communities and maintain a safe and sustainable local seafood supply through research and technology transfer to support and expand America’s aquaculture industry. As such, the Committee provides \$12,000,000 for Marine Aquaculture. **The Committee further encourages NOAA to partner with Historically Black Colleges and Universities that conduct aquaculture research to reach those urban communities impacted by rising seafood prices.**
 - Senate - Aquaculture Research.—The Committee provides \$13,000,000 for marine aquaculture research. NOAA is directed to support marine aquaculture research and development **in partnership with universities, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities.** Similar research efforts have led to beneficial outcomes such as the development and commercialization of new technologies to meet the domestic demand for seafood, including finfish, shrimp, and oysters. NOAA is encouraged to use the increase above fiscal year 2019 levels to **explore new research topics, including engineering of ocean-based infrastructure, accumulation and metabolization rates of brevetoxins in commonly farmed shellfish, and integrated multitrophic aquaculture.**

Application Package Requirements:

Applicants should include the following components in their proposal package. Incomplete application packages will be rejected.

Project Narrative

- The Project Proposal Narrative must explain the scope of work for the project(s).

Distributed on March 5, 2020

- The project(s) in the Application must be assigned a project ID that identifies the type of project using the standard omnibus project codes (C/, A/, E/, R/).
- A [90-2 form](#) is required at the time of submission. Guidance for completing the short and long 90-2 forms is provided in our [Sea Grant Application Guidance](#).
- A NEPA [Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire](#) (OMB Control No. 0648-0538) is required, where applicable, for all newly proposed categories of activities as defined in our [Sea Grant Application Guide](#). For expansion of existing projects, which do not include new actions and were reviewed for environmental compliance in the original omnibus application, a questionnaire does not need to be completed. However, please attach a NEPA Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire and state at the top of the questionnaire “this project is an expansion of project XXX in the original omnibus application.”
- A data management plan is also required at the time of submission. If your proposed project will not generate environmental data, you still must include a data management plan that states “This project will not generate any environmental data.” For further guidance please see page 9 of our [Sea Grant Application Guide](#).

Budget Forms and Budget Narrative

- [90-4 forms](#) for each year of each project must be included, and a budget justification should be included for each project. A summary 90-4 Form for each year as well as a summary 90-4 for all four years of the proposal must be included. See pages 10-11 of our [Sea Grant Application Guide](#) for details.
- A budget narrative detailing how funds will be expended in each project for each year is also required. See page 11-15 of the [Sea Grant Application Guide](#) for more details.

Overall Proposal Package

Your application package must include the following standard forms. A general breakdown of these forms is provided on pages 15-18 of our [Sea Grant Application Guide](#).

- SF424 (mandatory, obtain from [grants.gov](#))
- SF424A (mandatory, obtain from [grants.gov](#)) - this is one of the most commonly incorrect forms. Please pay attention to our guidance linked above.
- SF424B (mandatory, obtain from [grants.gov](#))
- CD511 (mandatory, obtain from [grants.gov](#))
- SF-LLL (if needed, obtain from [grants.gov](#))

NOTE: It is imperative that programs follow the guidance and submit the above components correctly. Failure to follow guidance may result in a loss of FY2020 funding for the program resulting from the tight grants processing timelines to which the NSGO we must adhere.

Deadline:

Distributed on March 5, 2020

- 1) The deadline to submit your proposals in order to receive FY 2020 funding is: **May 19, 2020**.
- 2) If your program chooses to wait to submit a proposal for FY 2021 funding, please let your assigned NSGO Aquaculture Manager know as soon as possible. The deadline to submit in FY 2021 is **November 3, 2020**.

Submission Instructions

- An Institutional RFA is now available on grants.gov: [NOAA-OAR-SG-2020-2006359](#). The same RFA will be used for proposals due by May 19, 2020 and for proposals due by November 3, 2020.
- If you are planning to submit an unfunded project from your last RFP, please include the letter of intent and program officer response to the letter of intent with your application package.
- Some programs may elect to do a new competition (and may collaborate with other Sea Grant programs). Please run this competition the same as you would for your omnibus competitions. Guidance from the NSGO for previous competitions can be found [HERE](#).