



Special Projects Competition

Sea Grant “Food from the Sea” Careers Program: Young Fishermen’s Development Act & Aquaculture Planning Frameworks

SPECIAL PROJECTS “J” ANNOUNCEMENT

Competition:

Sea Grant “Food from the Sea” Careers Program: Young Fishermen’s Development Act & Aquaculture Planning Frameworks

Closing Date:

April 27, 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, its territories, or respective waterways.

Award Time Frame:

The proposed start date should be September 1, 2021, with projects to be completed no later than 6 months after the start date.

Funding Availability:

The National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) anticipates that up to **\$1,200,000** of federal funds will be available to support approximately twelve (12) awards to Sea Grant Programs or partnerships among Sea Grant Programs in order to develop planning frameworks that identify what is needed at local, regional, and national levels to initiate programs, workshops, and services to enable fishermen, aquaculturists, and seafood sector professionals to enter career paths and make a living supplying seafood from our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. Awards will be made for no more than **\$100,000** in federal funds per project.

Applications require the standard 50% non-federal match for Sea Grant projects.

Project Description (program priorities):

Sea Grant is supporting grants to develop regional planning frameworks for conducting “Food from the Sea” Career Development programs to allow Sea Grant Programs, industries and communities to plan for potential upcoming opportunities associated with the [Young Fishermen's Development Act](#) (YFDA) and other initiatives that may provide training, education, outreach, and technical assistance to the U.S. seafood sector. Proposals responsive to this opportunity will identify mechanisms and strategies to enhance job opportunities for the next generation of commercial fishers, aquaculturists, and others who are vital to supplying high quality seafood to American consumers. The proposal should focus on identifying targeted and innovative training opportunities; growing the economies of coastal and Great Lakes communities; and preserving local culture and heritage foodways. Proposed work must ensure

that underrepresented/underserved populations and under-resourced communities are actively included.

Successful projects will create planning frameworks for trainings that include the following types of programs, workshops, and services:

- 1) seamanship, navigation, electronics, and safety;
- 2) vessel and engine care, maintenance, and repair;
- 3) sustainable fishing and aquaculture practices;
- 4) other training needs as identified by the community

A draft final planning framework should be available to be shared with interested stakeholders within the proposed period of performance.

We expect Sea Grant programs to draw on the integrated education, outreach, and extension elements of their programs, as appropriate, to develop the planning frameworks. Teams that support or build collaborative state, tribal, local, or regionally-based networks or partnerships of public or private entities are highly encouraged, as are those that look holistically at needs common to fishermen, aquaculturists, the recreational/charter industry, and subsistence and artisanal fisheries.

It is a priority for this call to fund work for both wild capture fisheries and aquaculture in the the Great Lakes and the five NOAA Fisheries regions, below:

- Alaska
- Great Lakes (Lake Superior to Lake Champlain)
- New England/Mid Atlantic (Maine to Virginia)
- Pacific Islands (Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, and other US Pacific Island territories)
- Southeast/Gulf of Mexico (North Carolina to Texas, including Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands)
- West Coast (Washington to California)

It is a priority for this competition that proposals address one of the following:

- Projects focused on the development needs of Young Fishermen. These projects should be focused on regional commercial fishing industries, though inclusion of other industries is appropriate if they have similar needs.
- Projects focused on the development needs of New Aquaculturists. These projects should be focused on the needs of new aquaculturists, though inclusion of other industries is appropriate if they have similar needs.
- Projects that address the intersection of starting fishermen and/or aquaculturists, and the recreational/charter industry, or subsistence and artisanal fisheries.

We encourage proposals that combine wild catch and aquaculture where appropriate, and those that also include related sectors, while acknowledging that some regions or teams may focus on just one or the other.

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 "J"** under this opportunity in [grants.gov](#).

Please note the following requirements changes from the NOFO:

- At the beginning of your Project Proposal Narrative, please include a cover page that includes project title, lead program, and a 500 word abstract suitable for conveying the value of the project to reviewers and other stakeholders. This title page does not count against the 15 page narrative.
- For purposes of this call (Special Projects “J”), references/literature cited are not included in the standard 15 page limit.

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 (20%). This criterion ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, federal, regional, state, or local activities. For this call, this includes justification of target topics, regions, and communities, as appropriate. It also includes discussions of mechanisms of collaboration and coordination.
2. Technical/scientific merit (20%). This criterion assesses whether the approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, whether there are clear project goals and objectives, and data management considerations. For this opportunity, this includes data collection and management, methods of connecting with target audiences, and other elements as appropriate.
3. Overall qualifications of applicants (10%). 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 (20%). 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.
6. Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (20%). This criterion assesses how well the proposed activity broadens the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, economics, etc) in fisheries or aquaculture (depending on the track the proposal addresses), and related industries; addresses current and historical inequities; and works to build a more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient industry.

Other Information:

Reporting:

Selected projects will be placed on existing Sea Grant omnibus awards and progress will be reported as part of the program's annual report.

Agency Contacts:

Questions about this competition or the Special Projects Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) may be sent to oar.hq.sg.competitions@noaa.gov. Please specify that your question is related to the Fishermen Development 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>