

# National Sea Grant BIL Marine Debris Challenge Competition

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**Sea Grant**



# Challenge Competition: Goals & Structure

- Research to Applications Projects
  - Innovative ideas
  - Prevention and/or removal
  - Transformational behavior change
- Display a diverse coalition of partners
- Leverage additional sources of funding
- Include funding for Sea Grant education and extension professionals
- Structure
  - Funding pool: ~ \$16M available
  - Funds are pooled from FY24 & FY25
  - Project size: ~ \$1-3M
  - Number of projects: ~ 5-12
  - Duration: 1-3 years
  - Reporting
    - NOAA's Grants System (RPPR)
    - Sea Grant's PIER system (annual report)

# Challenge Competition: Goals & Structure

- Require strong partnerships
- Require and fund Sea Grant participation
  - Any PI, must partner with Sea Grant program
- A Sea Grant program may be involved in more than one proposal
- Require participation in annual national Sea Grant marine debris meetings
- No match requirement
  - Leverage and partnerships are important
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Accessibility (DEIJA) elements are essential

# Challenge Competition: Eligibility

- We encourage anyone to apply
- Applications must be with a Sea Grant program as a partner
  - Ensures administrative and reporting consistency
  - Provides long-term outreach and engagement capacity
- Sea Grant programs can say no!
  - Work with them early
  - Work with them politely
  - Work with them thoughtfully
- You **must** have a Letter of Intent submitted by January 31st, 2024 **with a Sea Grant program** to be eligible to submit a full proposal

# Challenge Competition: Priorities

Draw from relevant plans and reports, such as:

- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine 2021. Reckoning with the U.S. Role in Global Ocean Plastic Waste
- Regional marine debris action plans
- Strategic plans
- Similar documents

Address the following:

- Be responsive to state, local, and regional needs within a national framework.
- Leverage existing Sea Grant and partner investments and capacities.
- Embed diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and accessibility (DEIJA) fully into the effort.
- Show how this work will be enhanced through partnerships, including collaboration among Sea Grant programs, with the NOAA Marine Debris Program, and with other appropriate partners.

# Challenge Competition: Priority Examples

- Development of innovative removal and/or interception technologies and reusable systems that prevent debris from entering the marine environment.
- Innovative solutions for mitigation and clean-up of derelict fishing gear and ghost gear.
- Microplastics and nanoplastics.
  - Mitigation of the effects of microplastics and nanoplastics on human health and marine biota (including residence time, digestive degradation, and ingestion and excretion rates).
  - Detection methods for microplastics and nanoplastics in products, organisms, and/or the environment.
  - Improvements to wastewater treatment that eliminate microplastics and nanoplastics from effluent and sludge.
  - Mitigation of the impacts of plastics in food webs

# Challenge Competition: Key Dates

- Letters of Intent
  - January 31st, 2024
- Full Proposals
  - March 27th, 2024
- Project Start Date
  - September 1, 2024

# Challenge Competition: Letters of Intent Requirements

- A letter of intent must be received to be eligible to submit a full proposal
- 2 pages, including:
  - Working project title
  - PI Name(s)
  - PI Position(s) and Affiliation
  - Partnering Sea Grant program
  - PI Contact Information
  - Brief discussion of the focal topic and approach, and how it will be transformative within the proposal's scope of action
  - The approximate funding to be requested



# Challenge Competition: Full Proposal Narrative Requirements

- Project Description
  - Cover page
  - Project abstract
  - Project background
  - Project objectives
  - Project details
  - Anticipated outcomes and deliverables
  - Project timeline
  - Future competed research (if applicable)
  - Community engagement, DEIJA, and outreach plan
  - Works cited
  - Curriculum vitae (CV) for each co-PI
  - Letters of support
  - Current and pending support
- Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire
- Data Management Plan

# Challenge Competition: Evaluation Criteria

- Administrative Review
  - Correct format, forms, etc.
  - Correct & consistent funding amounts
  - Failing this, your proposal WILL not be reviewed further
- Technical Review
  - Importance & Applicability (30 points)
  - Technical & Scientific Merit (35 points)
  - Overall Qualifications (10 points)
  - Community & Stakeholder Engagement, DEIJA, & Outreach (13 points)
  - Project Costs (12 points)
    - Cost sharing and leveraged funds
- Please read ALL criteria thoroughly

# Challenge Competition: Full Proposal Budget Narrative & Standard Forms

- Budget
  - Sea Grant 90-4 Forms
    - Per project: Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, and Years 1-3
    - If more than one project, cumulative across projects
  - Budget Justification
    - Per project, by year
    - Include travel to an annual Sea Grant Marine Debris Meeting
- SF-424 Form
- SF-424A Form
- SF-424B Assurances
- CD-511 (if applicable)
- SF-LLL (if applicable)

# Other Marine Debris Funding Opportunities at NOAA

- Sea Grant Community Action Coalition Competition
- Marine Debris Program Removal Competition
- Marine Debris Program Interception Competition

# Questions?

Agency Contact:  
[sg.grants@noaa.gov](mailto:sg.grants@noaa.gov)

