

**Omnibus Mid-cycle Timelines (2026-2027)**  
**Sea Grant Program Competitions and Aquaculture Supplemental**  
September 2024

This document provides reminders and timelines associated with Sea Grant program's competitions for 2026-2027 projects associated with the 2024-2027 Omnibus awards (generally the biennial research competitions) and the aquaculture supplemental. The purpose of this document is to provide information that informs conversations between Sea Grant programs and National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) program officers (POs) and highlights the necessary steps to ensure efficient processing of 2026-2027 funding requests.

Please note the timeline below is aligned with what was provided for the last round of biennial research competitions associated with the Omnibus application and the follow-up aquaculture supplemental. In addition, references below apply beyond biennial research competitions to any competitive process, although the timeline is specific to the former.

- National Competition Policy (NCP) - For competitions, Sea Grant programs must follow the NCP processes located on the [Inside Sea Grant-Implementation page](#). As a reminder, the NCP was updated slightly in 2024, to include the following changes:
  - Requires the use of the (*previously optional*) Letter of Intent (LOI) data collection template when submitting LOI information to NSGO.
  - New language indicating that, while this policy is written for SG program request for proposals, competitive funding opportunities issued by the NSGO are expected to adhere to the same competitive procedures outlined throughout the policy.
  - NSGO policy format updates and slight changes in wording to add additional clarification where necessary.
  - Updates to references to eRA as the new granting system, replacing Grants Online.
- Project submissions - For details related to individual project proposal materials (project narratives, budget forms and justification narratives, data management plan, a completed Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire, and any necessary permits etc.) as a part of the overall competition package, please reference the Omnibus guidance on pages 13-20 located on the [Inside Sea Grant-Implementation page](#).
- Aquaculture Supplemental - For the 2026-2027 cycle, there will again be an opportunity for aquaculture supplemental funding. This will be determined by the Sea Grant program biennial competitive Omnibus investment in aquaculture work, which will be used to determine potential aquaculture supplemental funding levels. The 2026-2027 aquaculture supplemental funding guidance will be released in Fall 2024 and posted to the [Inside Sea Grant-Implementation page](#).
- As always, outyear Omnibus and aquaculture supplemental funding availability depends on annual federal appropriations.

### **Timeline**

*(as noted above please see NCP and Omnibus guidance for more details on submissions)*

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| Fall 2024  | NSGO releases 2026-2027 aquaculture supplemental funding guidance.  |
| Winter 2024-Fall 2025                                    | Sea Grant programs solicit applications and host technical review panels (TRPs). Programs must send RFPs for concurrence, and coordinate TRP timing with your PO.   |
| Summer/Fall 2025<br>(No later than<br>September 5, 2025) | Sea Grant programs send Letter of Intent (LOI) package via email to PO for concurrence. (Please do this <u>as soon as possible after the TRP</u> , and no later than September 5; have early discussions with your PO if you believe you may not be able to submit the LOI by this date).   |
| Summer/Fall 2025<br>(By October 17, 2025)                | Sea Grant programs submit <a href="#">Revision Requests</a> through eRA (Satisfy Specific Conditions for the appropriate Future Competed Placeholder project) after LOI concurrence. NSGO has 30 days to process once received (in addition to the 60 day GMD time, see below). (Please work with your PO to coordinate when your Revision Request will arrive; in most cases this should be before October).                                       |
| Fall/Winter 2025   | <p>NSGO sends Revision Requests in eRA to the NOAA Grants Management Division (GMD) for final review. GMD has 60 days to review once received. Given the nature of these Revision Requests the review time is longer than the standard 30 day total NOAA review, although we will do what we can to minimize.</p> <p>NSGO will use Revision Requests/LOIs from programs to calculate aquaculture supplemental funds for each Sea Grant program.</p> |
| ~Mid-November 2025                                       | NSGO notifies Sea Grant programs about aquaculture supplemental funding and guidance on how to submit proposed work.  |
| February 1, 2026   | Target start date (no earlier than) for biennial research projects.   |