

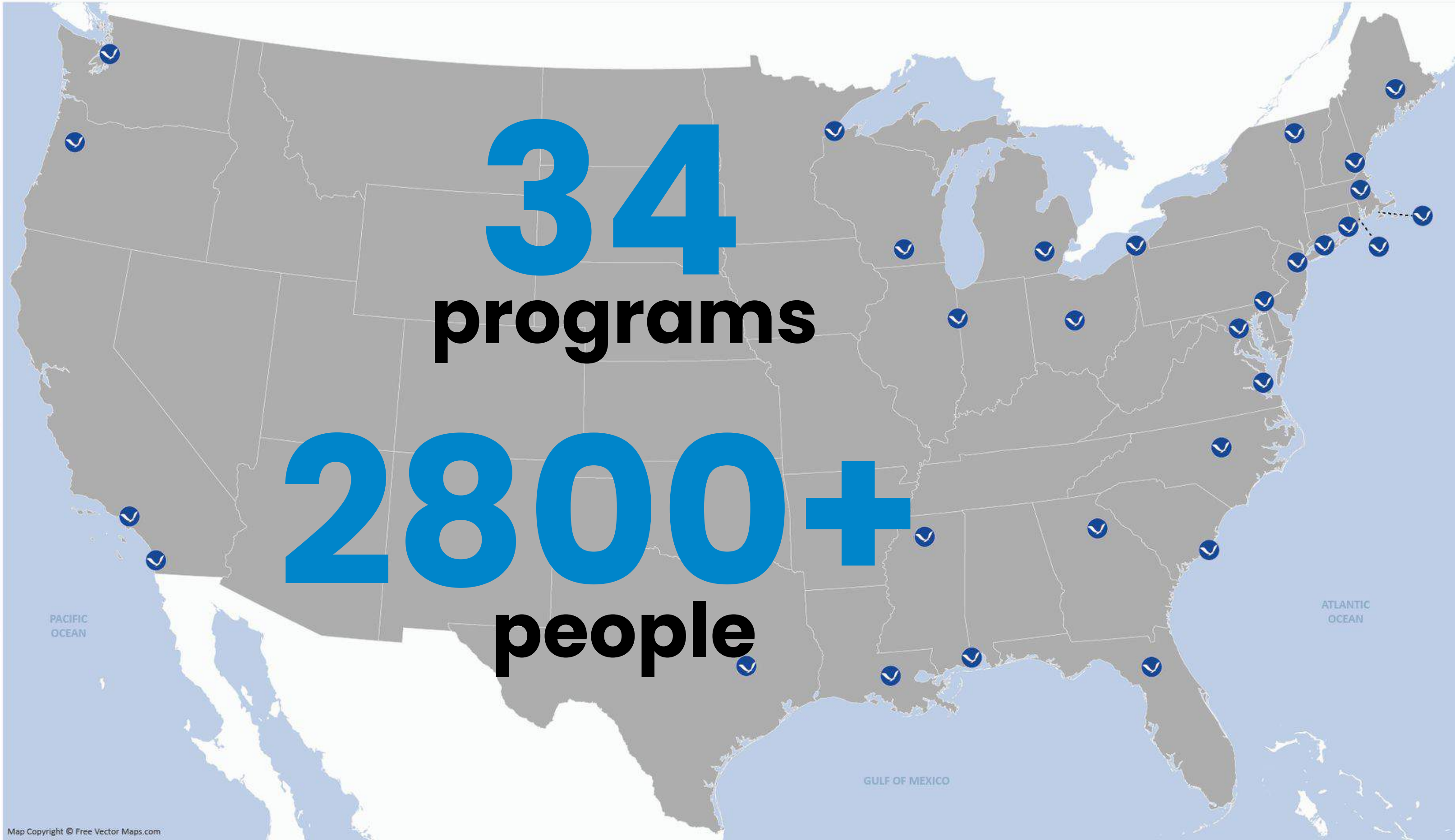
FY 2025 National Aquaculture Initiative: Strengthening U.S. Coastal, Marine, and Great Lakes Aquaculture Through Business Support



National Sea Grant College Program

The National Sea Grant College program was **established by the U.S. Congress** in 1966 and works to create and maintain a healthy coastal environment and economy. Sea Grant's mission is to **enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine and Great Lakes resources in order to create a sustainable economy and environment.**

Research | Education | Extension



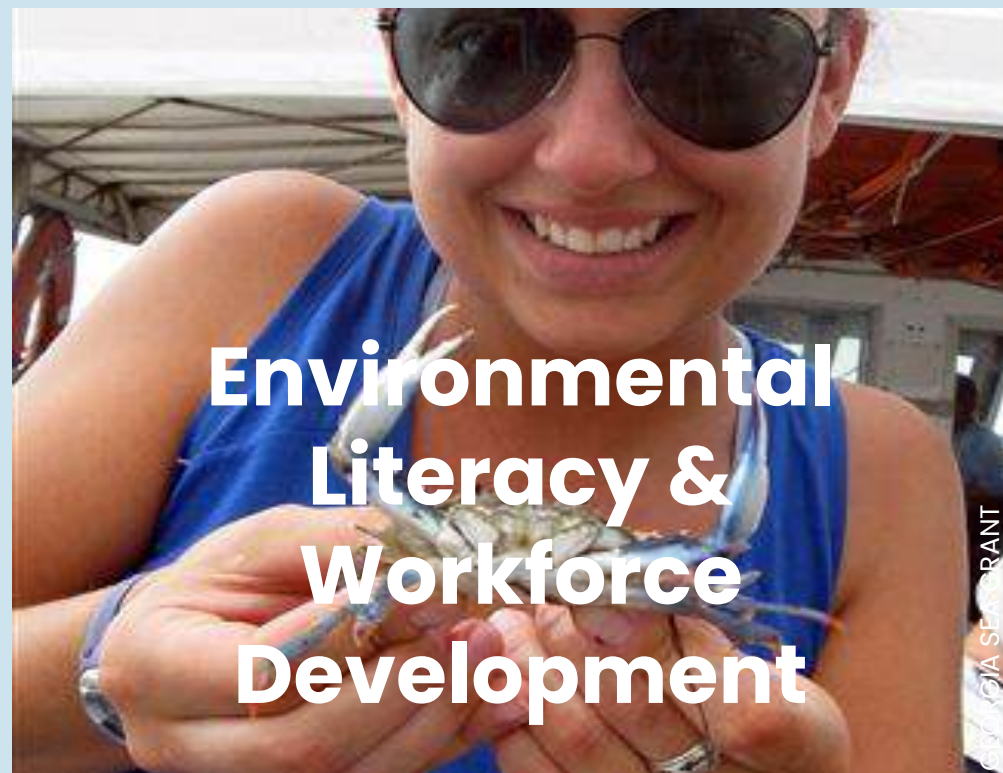
34

programs

2800+

people

Focus Areas



NSGO Aquaculture Funding

Since 1966, Sea Grant has invested in the development of sustainable marine and Great Lakes aquaculture to help coastal communities maintain a safe and sustainable local seafood supply.

- National Aquaculture Initiatives (NAI)
 - Production
 - **Business Support**
- Enhancing Knowledge of Aquaculture Technologies, Practices, and Businesses
- Aquaculture Internships Program
- Aquaculture Collaboratives
- Legal Issues
- Aquaculture Supplemental

FY 2025 National Aquaculture Initiative: Strengthening U.S. Coastal, Marine, and Great Lakes Aquaculture Through Business Support

Consistent with Sea Grant's national focus area of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Sea Grant Network 10-year Aquaculture Vision, and NOAA and Department of Commerce Aquaculture goals.

Builds on NOAA's investments in extramural aquaculture research through Sea Grant, the National Marine Fisheries Service (Fisheries Commissions and Saltonstall-Kennedy), and NOAA Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grants.

All projects must take place within the United States or territories or their respective waterways.

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NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO) WEBINAR

Posted on Grants.gov – October 18, 2024
NOAA-OAR-SG-2025-28975

This webinar will include:

- [Available Funding and Project Period](#)
- [Program Objectives](#)
- [Program Priorities](#)
- [Eligibility Information](#)
- [Submission Information](#)
- [Additional Information](#)

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Available Funding & Project Period

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- Sea Grant anticipates having approximately **\$5,000,000** in FY2025 and FY2026 federal funds will be available to fund projects for **up to three years**.
- Each award can request between **\$100,000 to \$1,000,000**.
- Projects **must** have a start date of **September 1, 2025** and an end date no later than August 31, 2028.

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Program Objectives

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This competition is seeking proposals that focus on supporting the development of new U.S. coastal, marine, and Great Lakes aquaculture businesses, as well as **enhancing the output, efficiency, and profitability of existing aquaculture businesses**. Projects **must** be focused on supporting businesses that will be or are now involved with aquatic species **currently being produced on a commercial scale in the U.S.**

Strong applications will address program priorities and will integrate **research and extension**, and

- support broad, non-proprietary research to address issues of new and existing aquaculture businesses;
- make that information available to the U.S. aquaculture community;
- preferably include participation and involvement of Sea Grant extension personnel and industry stakeholders.

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Program Priorities

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Proposals are **not** being considered that involve new or emerging aquatic species, new or novel production methods, improving production of species, or restoration projects.

Program Priorities:

Proposals may address one or more topical areas of research including:

- **Development of new aquaculture businesses, including siting and/or scoping efforts**
- **Aquaculture business planning and development, including economic analyses and risk management**
- **Assistance of aquaculture businesses regarding regulatory compliance**
- **Market research and development, including work focused on consumer behavior and supply-chain development**

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Program Priorities

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Program Priorities (continued):

Proposals may address one or more topical areas of research including:

- **Workforce development of aquaculture businesses**
- **Consumer education focused on enhancing aquaculture market development**
- **Social license issues relevant to aquaculture businesses**
- **Improvement of post-production aspects of aquaculture businesses, including:**
 - **Harvest methods**
 - **Processing technologies**
 - **Product quality and safety**
 - **Methods involving mitigation of potential product toxins and contaminants**
 - **Product forms and value-added products**

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Program Priorities

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Successful proposals will:

- **Demonstrate a clear understanding** of current limitations regarding development of new aquaculture businesses and support of existing aquaculture businesses
- **Increase the knowledge base** of various aspects of enhancing output, efficiency, and profitability of aquaculture businesses
- **Involve Sea Grant extension personnel and relevant activities** (e.g., education, outreach, transfer of technology and results) to build on past research and inform industry stakeholders and others involved in U.S. aquaculture, including funding (federal or match), as appropriate.

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Program Priorities

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Successful proposals will:

- **Involve** industry participation
- **Engage with and support** investigators and/or students through partnerships with Minority Serving Institutions
- **Engage underserved** audiences and communities



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Eligibility Information

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The following entities are eligible and encouraged to participate in this funding opportunity:

- any individual;
- any public or private corporation, partnership, or other association or entity (including any Sea Grant College, Sea Grant Institute or other institution);
- or any State, political subdivision of a State, Tribal government or agency or officer thereof.

Federal agencies and their personnel are **not permitted to receive federal funding under this competition**; however, federal scientists and other employees can serve as uncompensated partners or co-Principal Investigators on applications.

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Eligibility Information

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Federal labs and offices can also make available specialized expertise, facilities or equipment to applicants but **cannot be compensated under this competition for their use, nor can the value of such assets be used as match.**

Non-Federal matching funds equal to at least 50 percent of the federal funding request must be provided unless a waiver justified by statute is granted.

The cumulative match at the end of each year of the grant must not fall below 50 percent of the cumulative Federal request up to that point.

In-kind contributions directly supporting this application may count towards this matching requirement.

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Submission Information

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Letter of Intent (LOI)

LOIs will allow the National Sea Grant Office to gauge interest and topics that may be submitted. While **LOIs are required to be eligible to submit a full proposal**, they will **not** be used to decide whether or not a full proposal should be encouraged.

All applicants submitting a Letter of Intent will be eligible to submit a full proposal.

Letters of Intent to this competition **must be received** via electronic mail by the National Sea Grant Office (oar.hq.sg.aquaculture@noaa.gov) **by 5:00 pm** (local time of lead submitting entity) **on December 4, 2024.**

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Submission Information

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Full Proposal Applications

Full Proposal Applications **must** be submitted to [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and accepted by eRA **by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on February 12, 2025**.

- Validation or rejection of an application by [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and eRA may take up to two business days after submission.

Application packages are available online and can be downloaded from www.grants.gov under opportunity NOAA-OAR-SG-2025-28975.

We **strongly** recommend that applicants attempt to submit their full proposals at least a few days prior to the due date in case these or other issues impact your submission, as they are not reasons we can extend the deadline. If you have issues during the submission process, please contact the [eRA Service Desk](#).

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Additional Information, Resources &
Reminders

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Applications must adhere to the provisions under "Required Elements" described in the NOFO. Failure to adhere to these provisions may result in a delay in award processing or rejection of the application, based on the extent of the noncompliance.

Applicants **must redact all Personally Identifiable Information (PII)** in application materials **prior to** final submission to Grants.gov. PII that **must** be redacted from the application includes, but is not limited to, social security number, date of birth, student ID number, or other information which if lost, compromised, or disclosed without authorization, could result in harm, embarrassment, inconvenience, or unfairness to an individual.

Applicants may contact the [competition managers](#) to confirm receipt of required application elements prior to the Grants.gov deadline.

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Additional Information, Resources &
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To be eligible to apply or receive an award, applicants **must** complete and maintain three registrations; [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov), [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), and [eRA Commons](https://eracommons.org). For each, the complete registration process can take 4 to 6 weeks, so applicants should begin this activity as soon as possible and well before the proposal due date. For more information on how to meet these registration and application submission requirements without errors, we advise all to carefully review relevant Applicant and Grantee Training modules: <https://www.commerce.gov/ocio/programs/gems/ap-plicant-and-grantee-training>. Additionally, we advise that all carefully read 'Additional Application Package Forms' within the 'Full Proposal Required Elements' section.

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Additional Information, Resources &
Reminders

VERY IMPORTANT!

- **Carefully read and follow the NOFO** and ensure **all** stated requirements (e.g. registrations, required elements/content and forms) are completed and included in the proposal.
- **Both the total and cumulative match for each year must be at least 50%. Double check with your finance person/office before submitting your proposal!**
- *Tip - ensure all references in the NOFO designated by the word **must** are met.*

QUESTIONS?? – contact us!!

Contacts: NSGO Aquaculture Managers

Competition Inbox

(managed by the NSGO Aquaculture Team)

oar.hq.sg.aquaculture@noaa.gov

(PLEASE INCLUDE THE NAME OF THE
COMPETITION IN THE SUBJECT LINE –
e.g. Aquaculture Business Support)

To view a copy of the webinar go
to
[https://seagrant.noaa.gov/oppor
tunities/funding/](https://seagrant.noaa.gov/opportunities/funding/)



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