

# **NORTHEAST SEA GRANT COLLEGE CONSORTIUM CALL FOR PRELIMINARY REGIONAL PROPOSALS 2014-2016 OMNIBUS FUNDING CYCLE**

## **Human Dimensions of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems**

Recognizing that some issues are best addressed at the regional scale, the Sea Grant Programs in the Northeast (New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, MIT, Woods Hole, New Hampshire, and Maine), through the Northeast Sea Grant Consortium, have set aside funds (approximately \$350,000) for social science research proposals that have relevance to the Gulf of Maine and Greater New York Bight regions (from the Canadian Border to Cape May, NJ).

- Research period: February 1, 2014 to January 31, 2016
- Duration of project: one or two years
- Funds requested from Sea Grant should not exceed \$100,000 per year; 50% match required.
- Up to \$700,000 may be available for this call for proposals.
- Only projects that are regional in nature will be considered for funding.
- Pre-proposal deadline: 5:00 p.m. EST, Friday, February 22, 2013
- Full proposal deadline: 5:00 p.m. EDT, Monday, June 3, 2013

### **Topic Areas**

Through this competition, the Northeast Sea Grant Consortium seeks to support social science research relevant to regional coastal and ocean management. Pre-proposals are welcome from any social science discipline, and will be assessed in terms of originality, technical merit and relevance.<sup>1</sup> Priority will be given to social science research that:

1. Links social sciences to natural science research or data
2. Addresses the interface between natural and human systems
3. Relates to ecosystem-based management approaches, marine spatial planning, or the understanding or valuation of policy relevant ecosystem services.<sup>2</sup>
4. Engages with research end-users (e.g., policymakers, stakeholders) to enhance the relevance, utilization and societal impacts of the research results.

While case studies are suitable for funding under this RFP, it is expected that all funded projects will have some implications which reach beyond the case study context to broader regional research or policy challenges.

We seek pre-proposals that address topics including, but not limited to:

- Development of decision-support tools that help stakeholders conceptualize or evaluate the trade-offs of future scenarios in coastal communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Other assessment criteria may include such factors as investigator qualifications and cost-effectiveness of the research plan.

<sup>2</sup> See, for example, priorities identified in the Gulf of Maine Strategic Regional Ocean Science Plan (see [http://seagrant.mit.edu/rosi/draft\\_final\\_ropsp.pdf](http://seagrant.mit.edu/rosi/draft_final_ropsp.pdf)). While a final plan for the Greater New York Bight Regional Ocean Science Planning initiative is not yet available, information on the workshops leading to the plan can be found on the project web site (see <http://web2.uconn.edu/seagranntybight>).

- Evaluation of the effectiveness of current governance institutions and regulatory frameworks and their associated implications for compliance and enforcement in coastal and marine ecosystems.
- Socioeconomic research in support of management decisions which address the balance among economic development, ecosystem protection and sustainability.
- Socioeconomic paradigms in management and governance to improve coastal management.
- Contribution to better understandings of ecosystem services through the development of data collection tools, models, and valuation indices.
- Advancement of our understanding of the vulnerabilities and resiliencies of coastal communities to a changing environment and economy, especially in light of recent storms (e.g., hurricanes Irene and Sandy).
- An assessment of environmental change and coastal community adaptation with implications for the development of offshore renewable energy.
- Socioeconomic consequences of introducing a new ocean or coastal use, such as renewable energy (wind, wave, or tidal).

### **Duration and Funding**

Proposed activities may be of one or two years in duration, for the period between February 2014 and January 2016. The pre-proposal budget should not exceed \$100,000 per year in Sea Grant funds, including all direct and indirect costs. In addition to Sea Grant funds, there is a 50% matching requirement, i.e. \$1 in non-federal match is required for every \$2 requested from Sea Grant. Therefore, the maximum annual budget is \$100,000 in Sea Grant funds with a mandatory \$50,000 non-federal match. The project scope should reflect the available funds. It is expected that 5-8 projects will be funded. Sea Grant support is awarded on a competitive basis, and is available to researchers at all non-profit academic institutions, research laboratories, and extension/outreach facilities in the Northeast.

### **PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL GUIDELINES**

A preliminary proposal, while not as detailed as a full proposal, should clearly define the objectives, rationale, and methodology for the project, as well as the potential benefits and qualifications of the investigators who would perform the work. Pre-proposals requesting funding that is complementary to that sought from other sponsors are welcome. In this case, other funding sources and amounts should be disclosed.

A preliminary proposal should consist of a single file which includes:

1. a preliminary proposal cover sheet,
2. a project description of up to 3 single-spaced, single-sided pages of text in 11 point font or larger,
3. a reference list,
4. a budget outline for each year.

No appendices or other attachments are permitted.

The preliminary proposal cover sheet should include:

1. For each of the principal investigators, co-principal investigators, and associate investigators, provide:
  - a) names
  - b) affiliations
  - c) contact information (telephone and email)

2. A brief project title,
3. Total project budget including direct plus indirect costs.

The preliminary proposal project description must not exceed 3 pages, including minimum 1-inch margins and 11-point font. The project description must include subsections which describe the:

1. Objectives,
2. Rationale,
3. Methodological approach,
4. Expected outputs of the project,
5. Relevance to the regional priorities and thematic areas identified in this RFP

Illustrations and tables, if included, must be of legible size, and are *included* in the page limitation.

References cited may be included as a separate section, and are *not included* within the stated page limits.

### **Submission Process:**

Regional pre-proposals must be submitted through Woods Hole Sea Grant no later than **5:00 p.m. EST on Friday, February 22, 2013**. Investigators must submit by e-mail an electronic copy of each preliminary proposal. Electronic files *must* be a single Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format file and *must* be sent by email to [seagrant@whoi.edu](mailto:seagrant@whoi.edu). You must specify "Regional Sea Grant Proposal" in the subject line. Regional pre-proposals will NOT be accepted through individual state Sea Grant programs. Pre-proposals should include all information in the submission guidelines and clearly indicate all co-PIs involved, Sea Grant programs involved, and budget information. *Preliminary proposals that are not received by the 5:00 p.m. EST deadline will be returned without review.* Hard copy and faxed submissions, in addition to preliminary proposals that fail to comply with content, format and length requirements, will not be accepted. Unless otherwise required by your institution, we do not require that University (or institutional) sponsored programs offices formally approve preliminary proposals prior to submission.

Each pre-proposal must be submitted with the total aggregate budget for the project. No individual state budget is requested.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

The Northeast Sea Grant program directors will convene a panel to review the pre-proposals for:

- a. Their responsiveness to the priorities of the New York Bight and Gulf of Maine plans, including those identified in this RFP;
- b. Their overall approach, including clarity of hypotheses, research questions and/or conceptual framing, novelty or originality of the proposed project and adequacy/feasibility of the methodologies as outlined;
- c. Their potential to provide impact at a regional scale, and should preferably address issues applicable to the New York Bight as well as the Gulf of Maine.

Only those prospective principal investigators with the highest-ranked preliminary proposals will be encouraged to submit full proposals. Comments relating to the evaluation of each pre-proposal will be disseminated to each primary author on or before April 17, 2013. The deadline for full proposals is Monday, June 3, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. EDT.

For more information, see <http://www.whoi.edu/seagrant/page.do?pid=34015> or contact:

Dr. Judith E. McDowell, Director  
Woods Hole Sea Grant College Program  
Tel. (508) 289-2557  
E-mail: [jmcdowell@whoi.edu](mailto:jmcdowell@whoi.edu)