

2018 Sea Grant National Aquaculture Initiative

FFO webinar



Contacts

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All questions should be directed to

oar.hq.sg.aquaculture@noaa.gov



General Information

- Anticipate **\$7-11.5m** across fiscal years 2018-2020
- Up to **\$750k per proposal** (smaller proposals also encouraged)
- **50% match required for each year** (Guam exemption for first \$200k of match)
- **September 1, 2018** = earliest start date for projects (dependent upon availability of Federal funds)
- **September 30, 2021** = project end date(s)



Priorities

This competition is designed to ***foster the expansion of a sustainable U.S. ocean, coastal and Great Lakes aquaculture sector.***

- 1. Supporting the development of emerging systems or technologies** that will advance aquaculture in the U.S., including projects that will help stimulate aquaculture production by nascent industries;
2. Developing and implementing actionable methods of **communicating accurate, science based messages and information about the benefits and risks of U.S. marine and Great Lakes aquaculture** to the public; and,
- 3. Increasing the resiliency of aquaculture systems** to natural hazards and changing conditions.

It is not a program priority to fund projects focused on catfish or invasive species.



Deadlines

- **March 2, 2018 (5 p.m. local time)**: Applicants submit proposals to State Sea Grant programs
 - Prospective applicants are ***strongly encouraged to contact their Sea Grant Program one to two months prior***
- **March 30, 2018 (5 p.m. eastern time)**: State Sea Grant programs upload proposals to Grants.gov
- **No limit on number of proposals** submitted to Grants.gov
- **State SG programs cannot impose additional deadlines**

Notify the Federal Competition Manager at **oar.hq.sg.aquaculture@noaa.gov** for applications you feel do not meet the minimum requirements.



Program Objectives

- **Address the needs of the U.S. ocean, coastal and Great Lakes aquaculture sector** by supporting research, technology transfer, and best practices related to the sustainable aquaculture of ocean, coastal, or Great Lakes fish, shellfish, or algae species (including state- and federally-managed species),
- **Increase production** of such species in federal waters and the coastal zone of state waters (as defined by the Coastal Zone Management Act to include the Great Lakes), and
- **Address major constraints, barriers, or hurdles of domestic aquaculture** development that currently limit increased production.

Proposals should meet the program objectives to the extent practicable.



Proposals are encouraged to...

- **Utilize a team approach** that fully integrates at least one SG program and at least one end-user or public-private partnership,
- **Involve Sea Grant Extension personnel** and include a **technology transfer component**, where appropriate,
- Address how project impacts will be applicable to a **broader geographic area** through regional or topical partnerships, and
- Discuss how, upon completion, the **work will have a high likelihood of increasing aquaculture production** or address how the work will **stimulate or advance nascent aquaculture industry(ies)**.

While not mandatory, these aspects will be reviewed as part of the Evaluation criteria.



Eligibility Information

Who is eligible?

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. **Sea Grant staff (except Directors) are eligible.**

SG Directors will serve as the administrative leads in the submission of applications, therefore, **SG Directors are not eligible to compete for funds** under this opportunity.

SG Directors are considered the Principal Investigator for all awards and must be listed as such in Grants.gov.



Eligibility Information (cont'd)

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.

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



Application & Submission

Application package can be obtained from www.grants.gov under opportunity number **NOAA-OAR-SG-2018-2005489**

Optional **Proposal Title Page** template, required Sea Grant Aquaculture **90-2 project summary SHORT** form and required Sea Grant **90-4 budget** form are available at <http://seagrants.noaa.gov/insideseagrants/Forms-and-Templates>

Request application/forms from the Agency at oar.hq.sg.aquaculture@noaa.gov.



Application Review

Applications will be evaluated on five Criteria (100 pts)

- 1. Importance, relevance and applicability of proposed project to the National Sea Grant College Program objectives and priorities (maximum 30 points):** Does the proposed project hold intrinsic value or relevance to NOAA, federal, regional, state, or local activities?
- 2. Technical/scientific/merit (maximum 30 points):** Is the approach technically sound and/or innovative, are the methods appropriate, and are there clear project goals and objectives?
- 3. Overall qualifications of applicants (maximum 10 points):** Does the applicant and others on the team possess the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and resources accomplish the project?



Application Review (cont'd)

4. **Project costs (maximum 10 points)**: Is the budget realistic and commensurate with the project needs, size and time-frame?
5. **Outreach, education and tech transfer (maximum 20 points)**: Assesses whether the project provides a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nation's natural resources. Does the project provide a focused and effective education and outreach strategy?

All complete and timely applications will be subject to a relevancy and technical review based on the evaluation criteria.



Application Review – Selection Factors

1. Availability of funding
2. Balance/distribution of funds:
 - a) Geographically
 - b) by type of institution
 - c) by type of partners
 - d) by research priority
 - e) by project types
3. Duplication of other projects funded or considered for funding
4. Program priorities and policy factors
5. Applicant's prior award performance
6. Partnerships with/Participation of targeted groups
7. Adequacy of information necessary for NOAA staff to make a NEPA determination and draft necessary documentation



Award Administration

Award notifications will be made in Summer 2018

Successful applicants will receive notification that the application has been recommended for funding to them NOAA Grants Management Division. Official notification of funding, signed by the NOAA Grants Officer, is the authorizing document that allows the project to begin.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified that their proposal was not selected for recommendation.



FAQs

FAQs

Are all elements of the FFO inclusive of both marine and Great Lakes applications?

Yes.

FFO Revision

Page 2 and 5 (Priorities section) – References to “marine” have been changed to **“marine and Great Lakes”** (e.g., “marine and Great Lakes aquaculture”)



FAQs

Can state SG programs run their own selection process?

No. All proposals submitted by the March 2nd deadline that meet the minimum requirements must be entered into Grants.gov by the national deadline (March 30th)

If there are questions re: an application's eligibility, please email oar.hq.sg.aquaculture@noaa.gov

Clarity has been provided in Revised FFO, see next slides.



FAQs – FFO Revision

Page 12 (Part G. Other Submission Requirements)–

“~~Selected~~ Applications from Sea Grant Program must be submitted electronically to Grants.gov by the application deadline.” (the word “selected” has been removed)



FAQs – FFO Revision

Page 7 – replaced last paragraph with the following language:

“All applications submitted by the March 2nd deadline that meet the requirements outlined in Section IV.B, Application Format and Content Requirements, **must be submitted** by the state Sea Grant program to Grants.gov by the March 30th deadline. If a state Sea Grant Program receives an application that they believe does not meet the minimum requirements, they should notify the Federal Competition Manager (oar.hq.sg.aquaculture@noaa.gov) for concurrence that it is not eligible for Grants.gov submission.”



FAQs – FFO Revision

Page 7 (cont'd) – replaced last paragraph with the following language:

“Applications submitted to an eligible Sea Grant program by the applicant **must be submitted to Grants.gov unchanged**, with the exception of budget detail in parts 1 (c), 3, and 6 of Section IV.B, Application Format and Content Requirements, requiring adjustment for Sea Grant host program administrative costs, and budget totals resulting from those changes in other parts of the application package.”



FAQs

Are Letters of Support allowed/required?

Yes. Letters of Support are allowed, but not required.

FFO Revision

Page 8 (Part B. Content and Format Requirement) –
“Letters of Support are allowed, but not required, and do not count toward the 20-page project description limit.”



FAQs

What is the role of Sea Grant Directors?

- Listed as Principal Investigators on Grants.gov applications, but will serve as administrative leads.
- Distribute funds to co/Principal Investigators through their SG programs (similar to Omnibus process).
- Cannot compete for funds.

Are other SG staff eligible for funding?

Yes. Other SG staff (e.g., extension agents) are eligible for funding



FAQs

Can State SG Directors provide match on a proposal?

No. This could be seen as a potential conflict of interest.

Are extension specialists required to collaborate or partner with all applicants?

No. State SG programs have the flexibility to choose which proposals they have the expertise and bandwidth to dedicate extension capacity to, so it is likely that not all proposals submitted will have SG extension involvement.



FAQs

Are non-food aquaculture interests eligible (e.g., culturing marine ornamentals)?

Yes.

Does the lead PI need to be from an institution within the state where the proposal is submitted?

No.



FAQs

Do I have to submit a proposal to my state SG program if the work will be conducted elsewhere?

No. Proposals should be submitted to the state SG program that makes the most sense considering where the work will be conducted.

Are Hawaii and Guam considered to be in the same region for regional proposals?

Yes.



FAQs

Can one PI submit multiple proposals?

Yes.

Our state SG program expects to receive multiple proposals. Do we need to submit these individually through Grants.gov?

Yes.



FAQs

Can a non-U.S. PI apply for funding?

Yes, but all applicants must apply through a state SG program. It is important that projects focus on promoting U.S. aquaculture and are in line with the priorities listed in the FFO.

Would an interim or acting Director be able to apply for funding through this competition?

No.



FAQs

How should state SG programs balance the requirement to offer the same amount of assistance and/or collaboration to all applicants?

State SG programs should do their best to offer support to those that reach out in good faith and with adequate notice during the proposal development stage.

We understand that the level of collaboration will vary among proposals based on resource and time constraints of individual state programs.



FAQs

Can state SG programs impose restrictions on certain types of aquaculture that are controversial in nature, such as net pen culture in the Great Lakes?

No. The FFO is open to all types of aquaculture projects. State SG programs cannot impose additional restrictions on applicants.

State SG programs should communicate potential constraints to applicants so they are properly informed prior to investing the time in submitting an application.



Questions?

Agency Contacts

For questions, contact:

oar.hq.sg.aquaculture@noaa.gov

Mailing Address:

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