

SPECIAL GUIDELINES FOR MULTI-PROGRAM PROPOSALS

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, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine) have set aside funds (approximately \$250,000) for research proposals that have regional relevance with principal investigators from multiple states and that can be funded cooperatively by multiple Sea Grant programs. Sea Grant programs are leading a planning exercise to identify regional research priorities, and the plan for the Gulf of Maine can be found at <http://seagrant.mit.edu/rosi>. A similar planning process is in progress for the Greater New York Bight. This funding opportunity represents an initial effort to implement the priorities identified in the Gulf of Maine plan, and it is expected that future funds will be devoted to implementation of the New York Bight plan when it is completed.

The process for submission and review of regional proposals is as follows:

1. Each co-PI must make contact with the Sea Grant director in their host state before submission of their pre-proposal to discuss the process for regional proposals and indicate his/her intention of submitting a regional proposal.
2. Each co-PI must submit the **identical** pre-proposal to their host Sea Grant program following the proposal submission guidelines indicated in the Sea Grant program's RFP. Pre-proposals must be submitted to **all Sea Grant programs** involved on the earliest due date among those Sea Grant programs, as indicated in their RFPs. Pre-proposals should include all information in the submission guidelines and clearly indicate all co-PIs involved, Sea Grant programs involved, and budget information.
3. Each co-PI must include a cover letter with the pre-proposal that identifies the other co-PIs, the other Sea Grant program(s) that will receive the pre-proposal, the lead PI, and an indication that all co-PIs have spoken with their Sea Grant directors about the proposal.
4. Each co-PI must submit their pre-proposal with the total aggregate budget for the project. No individual state budget is requested.
5. The Northeast Sea Grant program directors will meet and review the pre-proposals for their responsiveness to the regional priorities of the Gulf of Maine plan, as well as for their potential to provide impact at the regional scale.
6. The regional pre-proposal will then undergo the individual Sea Grant programs' pre-proposal review process to assess their comparative merit and determine whether or not they will be invited for full proposal submission.
7. If invited back as a regional proposal, the full proposal will be reviewed by a panel of the Northeast Sea Grant directors, as well as by expert reviewers from the individual Sea Grant programs.
8. Copies of the full proposal must be sent to all Sea Grant programs that are involved with the regional project. Full proposals must be submitted to all programs involved on the earliest due date among those Sea Grant programs as indicated in their RFPs.

Although efforts have been made to synchronize due dates and notification dates among the Sea Grant programs in the Northeast, there are unavoidable differences in the schedules. Regional pre-proposals are due 3/2/09 and full proposals are 6/1/09. It is critical that PIs be familiar with, and comply with, the due dates of their host Sea Grant programs.