California Sea Grant

[Call for Proposals](#) – 2020

Deadlines

Letters of Intent: June 21, 2019 – 5 PM PT
Full Proposals: August 8, 2019 – 5 PM PT

The California Sea Grant College Program is now soliciting proposals for projects to begin on/after February 1, 2020. Faculty and academic staff from universities and scientists from research institutions throughout California are invited to apply. California Sea Grant is accepting letters of intent until 5:00 p.m. PT on June 21, 2019. Full proposals will be due 5:00 p.m. PT on August 8, 2019 via eSeaGrant. ***Only applicants who have submitted a letter of intent may submit a full proposal.***

We anticipate funding 11~ 14 projects contingent upon receipt of anticipated funds from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Project budgets should range from $25,000 to $80,000. Applicants may propose an additional $20,000 dedicated to a specific outreach or communication project component. The goal of this component should be communicating research results to or working with a specific group of stakeholders or the general public.

The duration of a project request is typically two years, though requests for a 1-year award will also be considered. Successful Sea Grant projects involve both a substantial intellectual question and the promise of useful application to a real-world problem. California Sea Grant encourages projects that are likely to yield measurable impacts to the local economy, community, and environment.

This announcement and additional information can be found at: http://caseagrant.ucsd.edu/

For those seeking funds for graduate students, please encourage your students to apply for a [Graduate Research Fellowship](#). Graduate traineeships are not available.

INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

California Sea Grant will host an optional informational webinar to review the request for proposals and application logistics on **June 4, 2019 from 2pm to 3pm.**

Registration is required to join the webinar. Please sign up [here.](#)

The webinar will be recorded and made available on the [solicitation webpage](#).

CALIFORNIA SEA GRANT

California Sea Grant's mission is to provide integrated research, extension, outreach, and education to help Californians balance diverse interests that intersect with the coastal and marine environments, and adapt to changing conditions and needs. We accomplish this by collaborating with a range of local, state, regional, national, and international partners to further the acquisition and application of relevant scientific knowledge.

The National Sea Grant College Program is a partnership between the nation's universities and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, and is authorized by the United States Congress. California Sea Grant is part of a national network of 33 university-based programs, the National Sea Grant Law Center and the National Sea Grant Library. The network, in cooperation with federal and state agencies, and/or marine industries, involves some 300 universities and colleges.

PRIORITY TOPICS

Applicants **must** propose to conduct research that addresses the following Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Focus Area strategies:

Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture (SFA)

SFA Goal 2: Provide science-based information to support and grow a sustainable California aquaculture industry to help meet the growing demand for seafood, and minimize negative socio-economic and environmental impacts of aquaculture.

- Strategy 2–1: Study interactions between cultured and wild species and ecosystems, including implications for disease transmission, genetic diversity, and water quality.
- Strategy 2–2: Improve the economic and environmental viability of aquaculture operations and animal health through research on the performance of culturing systems and cultured species.
- Strategy 2–3: Identify new species potentially suitable for culture.

- Strategy 2–4: Apply culturing technologies to further conservation goals, including the recovery of rare species and restocking.
- Strategy 2–5: Identify the ecological and socioeconomic synergies and conflicts between capture and culture fisheries as they affect coastal communities and working waterfronts.

The California Sea Grant College Program emphasizes innovative applied research on ocean and coastal resources and processes. In particular, priority will be given to projects that emphasize or include the following:

1. The creation or support of jobs or businesses[1], where:
   a. A job or business created is defined as a new position or firm created and filled as a result of Sea Grant activities, and
   b. A job or business supported is defined as an existing, filled position or firm that is supported as a direct result of Sea Grant activities.
2. Work done with a resource economist to quantify the economic impact or benefit of the proposed research project and its societal implications, where:
   a. Economic impact is defined as the net change to the economic base of a region that either creates or keeps revenue in a given economy that would not exist or leave the region otherwise (e.g. creating jobs, saving an entity money, helping to drive up revenue in a region)
   b. Economic benefit is defined as the net increase in social welfare through market or non-market forces (e.g. enhanced recreation, value of increased knowledge or skills, value associated with improved water quality)

Applicants are encouraged to review the strategic plans and visioning documents linked for more information on California Sea Grant, National Sea Grant, and the Sea Grant Network 10-year Aquaculture Vision research priorities, and then focus on the specific issue(s) of interest to them.

2018-2021 California Sea Grant Strategic Plan

2018-2021 National Sea Grant Strategic Plan

Sea Grant Network 10-year Aquaculture Vision

Applicants are also encouraged to evaluate whether the project will benefit a disadvantaged community. The Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool shows the location of disadvantaged communities in the state.

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[1] Note: This does not include those hired on a project as volunteers, directly-supported staff, Sea Grant trainees, or fellows and should not include employment funded directly from the Sea Grant award (including match)

A potential applicant is welcome to contact California Sea Grant personnel to receive more specific feedback concerning particular research issues (see below for contact list).

Research with a strong theoretical basis that encompasses clear, testable hypotheses is desirable. In contrast, low priority is given to survey or inventory studies. Research that has national or international application, or that addresses important regional issues, problems, and opportunities is appropriate. Potential applicants are encouraged to check the "Research Projects" section of our website for examples of projects currently funded, and the National Sea Grant's previously funded aquaculture projects.

The California Ocean Protection Council's Strategic Plan also helps to inform our research program, providing information about California ocean management information needs. We encourage prospective researchers to consult the planning document, which was informed by other state agencies with ocean and coastal jurisdictions, to ensure that research topics respond to state needs. (http://www.opc.ca.gov/programs/).

ELIGIBILITY

Faculty and academic staff from universities and scientists from research institutions throughout California are invited to apply. Applicants may submit more than one letter of intent and full proposal but if selected, only one award will be made to the PI. In addition, PIs may be listed as co-PIs on other projects even if they are lead PI on their own project. *Only applicants who have submitted a letter of intent may submit a full proposal.*

Sea Grant champions diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) by recruiting, retaining and preparing a diverse workforce, and proactively engaging and serving the diverse populations of coastal communities. Sea Grant is committed to building inclusive research, extension, communication and education programs that serve people with unique backgrounds, circumstances, needs, perspectives and ways of thinking. We encourage applicants of all ages, races, ethnicities, national origins, gender identities, sexual orientations, disabilities, cultures, religions, citizenship types, marital statuses, job classifications, veteran status types, income, and socioeconomic status types.

AWARD INFORMATION

We anticipate funding 11 to 14 projects contingent upon receipt of anticipated funds from NOAA. Project budgets will range from $25,000 to $80,000. The duration of a project request is typically two years, though requests for a 1-year award will also be considered. Successful Sea Grant projects involve both a substantial intellectual question and the promise of useful application to real-world problem. California Sea Grant encourages projects with a high return on investment and will consider a range of budgets for funding.

Applicants may propose an additional $20,000 dedicated to a specific outreach or communication project component. The goal of this component should be communicating research results to or working with a specific group of stakeholders or the general public. Applicants are encouraged to reach out to Extension Specialists early on in the development of the proposal to seek feedback or advice and potentially partner on the project.

Research projects are required to provide 50% in matching funds from the PI's home institution or primary project partners. Continuation of a project beyond the first year is subject to demonstration of satisfactory progress by the project investigator.

For those seeking funds for graduate students, please encourage your students to apply for a [Graduate Research Fellowship](). Graduate traineeships are not available.

PROPOSAL APPLICATION

LETTERS OF INTENT

Letters of intent are due by 5:00 p.m. PT on June 21, 2019 to sgproposal@ucsd.edu

Letters of intent (2-page limit) will allow California Sea Grant to gauge interest and topics that may be submitted.

In the letter of intent, please provide the following basic information:
- Name of applicant and contact information
- Title of project
- Brief discussion of the focal topic and approach
- Approximate funding to be requested

A response acknowledging receipt of the letter of intent will be provided.
More than one letter of intent may be submitted but only one proposal will be funded to the lead PI. However, lead PIs may act as co-PIs and partners on other projects being considered.

FULL PROPOSALS - CONTENTS OF A COMPLETE APPLICATION

Listed below are the requirements for a complete application package. ***Only applicants who have submitted a letter of intent may submit a full proposal.*** Please use this as an inventory checklist to aid you in preparing the application.

1) **Title Page**

A signed title page (Download: [Title Page 2020-Excel](#)) must be included with the proposal. Please provide all requested information and obtain the required signatures. If you are applying from an academic institution, send your original proposal to your campus research office for local campus approval. The completed and signed title page must be converted to a PDF and uploaded.

2) **Project Summary**

The project summary is fillable online in eSeaGrant. **Proposers will need to prepare separate sections for objectives, methodology and rationale to complete the project summary form.** The project summary presents a concise description of the proposed research in a form useful to a variety of readers not requiring detailed information. Instructions are available in eSeaGrant that should help applicants to accurately complete the form. Please follow them carefully - the project summary is the most widely consulted description of your project.

3) **Project Narrative**

The project narrative format and contents may vary; however, proposals should include the information listed below. The project narrative **MUST NOT exceed 12 pages** (including the introduction, objectives, approach, illustrations, charts, tables, and figures). **Proposals exceeding this size limit will not be reviewed.**

   a. **Introduction and Background** – Provide the rationale for your project (a well-defined problem or important opportunity). Show a clear relationship between the problem statement and the project objectives. Merit, rationale, innovativeness, and utilization for the research proposed are criteria by which proposals are evaluated. Thus, a clear, concise statement of the "real world" need for your research (rationale) and a description of who might use the results and how they might use them (utilization) should be addressed.

   b. **Objectives** – In number or "bullet" format, list the objectives or goals of the research program.

   c. **Approach (Plan of Work)** – Present the scientific/technical approach, experiments, procedures, etc. Identify and discuss any new approaches (innovativeness) to solving problems and exploiting opportunities in resource management or development, including public outreach. Please make clear what other sources of support (fiscal, personnel or logistical), if any, will be used to help support the work proposed.

   d. **Outcomes and Deliverables** – Project outcomes should be clearly related to the project objectives and should be briefly described. Any planned interactions with relevant management personnel should be described.

   e. **References** – List all included references alphabetically. (The list of references does NOT count toward the 12-page limit of the narrative, but must be included in the narrative pdf file.)

4) **Data Management/Sharing Plan**

Because funds for our core research program are provided by NOAA, all new Sea Grant awards that generate environmental data (see below) will have to conform to NOAA's Data Sharing Directive, available at https://nosc.noaa.gov/EDMC/PD.DSP.php. This directive says, in part:

"NOAA Programs shall strive to ensure that environmental data produced as a result of NOAA-funded Grants, Cooperative Agreements, or Contracts are made publicly accessible, in a timely fashion (typically within 2 years), free of charge or at no more than the cost of reproduction."

Environmental Data are defined by NOAA as "recorded and derived observations and measurements of the physical, chemical, biological, geological, and geophysical properties and conditions of the oceans, atmosphere, space environment, sun, and solid earth, as well as correlative data such as socio-economic data, related documentation, and metadata. Digital audio or video recordings of environmental phenomena (such as animal sounds or undersea video) are included in this definition. Numerical model outputs are included in this definition, particularly if they are used to support the conclusion of a peer-reviewed publication. Data collected in a laboratory or other controlled environment, such as measurements of animals and chemical processes, are included in this definition."

If your proposed project will generate environmental data your proposal must address the following to be eligible for support (text supplied by NOAA).

1. Environmental data and information collected or created under NOAA grants or cooperative agreements must be made discoverable by and accessible to the general public, in a timely fashion (typically within two years), free of charge or at no more than the cost of reproduction, unless an exemption is granted by the NOAA Program. Data should be available in at least one machine-readable format, preferably a widely-used or open-standard format, and should also be accompanied by machine-readable documentation (metadata), preferably based on widely-used or international standards.

2. Proposals submitted in response to this announcement must include a Data Management Plan of up to two pages describing how these requirements will be satisfied. The Data Management Plan should be aligned with the Data Management Guidance provided by NOAA in the announcement. The contents of the Data Management Plan (or absence thereof), and past performance regarding such plans, will be considered as part of proposal review. A typical plan should include descriptions of the types of environmental data and information expected to be created during the course of the project; the tentative date by which data will be shared; the standards to be used for data/metadata format and content; methods for providing data access; approximate total volume of data to be collected; and prior experience in making such data accessible. The costs of data preparation,

accessibility, or archiving may be included in the proposal budget unless otherwise stated in the Guidance. Accepted submission of data to the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) is one way to satisfy data sharing requirements; however, NCEI is not obligated to accept all submissions and may charge a fee, particularly for large or unusual datasets.

3. NOAA may, at its own discretion, make publicly visible the Data Management Plan from funded proposals, or use information from the Data Management Plan to produce a formal metadata record and include that metadata in a catalog to indicate the pending availability of new data.

4. Proposal submitters are hereby advised that the final pre-publication manuscripts of scholarly articles produced entirely or primarily with NOAA funding will be required to be submitted to NOAA Institutional Repository after acceptance, and no later than upon publication. Such manuscripts shall be made publicly available by NOAA one year after publication by the journal.

It is the investigator's responsibility to conform to this directive and no award can be issued absent an acceptable data management plan. The data management plan can be uploaded as a separate PDF in eSeaGrant or, at the PI's discretion, can be appended to the project narrative as a separate statement after the references. In the latter case, it will not count toward the 12-page narrative limit. If the proposed research will not generate environmental data then a data management plan is not required, but this will need to be stated in eSeaGrant.

5) **Environmental Compliance Questionnaire**
An Abbreviated Environmental Questionnaire is required with each application. (Download: [Abbreviated Environmental Questionnaire-Word](#)). Only one questionnaire is to be submitted per project/proposal, even if there are to be sub-awards issued to multiple institutions. For questions not applicable to the proposed research, please note N/A on the form. Leave blank the question about Grant/Project Number.

6) **Budgets and Budget Justification**
The duration of a project request is typically two years, though requests for a 1-year award will be considered. Project budgets will range from $25,000 to $80,000.

Applicants may propose an additional $20,000 dedicated to a specific outreach or communication project component. The goal of this component should be communicating research results to or working with a specific group of stakeholders or the general public.

Budget worksheets will need to be created in eSeaGrant. Be prepared to enter any salaries, wages, and fringe benefits for all personnel associated with the project. Also, if applicable, indicate expected costs for expendable supplies, publication costs, and travel. Matching funds will also be itemized on this budget worksheet. Matching funds must total at least 50% of TOTAL funds requested. (i.e., application budgets must show $1 of match for every $2 of Sea Grant funding requested). Only non-Federal funds may be

committed as matching contribution.

All budget sections will require justification. Review the online help section to see what is expected as justification for each section.

A budget workbook (Download: [Multiyear Budget Workbook: Excel)](#) may help in planning your budget. However, please remember that your budget submission and justification must be completed using the online form in eSeaGrant. Do not submit the Excel file as your final budget. Additional information about budget justifications can be found at https://caseagrant.ucsd.edu/sites/default/files/90-4_Sample-NOAA-Guidance.pdf

7) **CVs**

CVs (maximum 2 pages for each person) of all key personnel (PIs, co-PIs, Associate PIs) must be included in the submission. Please upload 2-page CVs through the investigator's form.

Note: Several reviewers have complained about PIs and co-PIs providing excessively long CVs, and we are sympathetic to their complaints. If you have uploaded a longer CV, please replace it with one that is no more than 2 pages. Sea Grant will provide reviewers with only the first 2 pages of longer CVs.

8) **Current and Pending Support**

Using the section online in eSeaGrant, please list other current and pending projects associated with investigators. You may also upload the form provided (Download: [Current and Pending Support – Excel](#)).

9) **Proposed Sources of Matching Funds**

Please list the proposed source(s) of institutional and other non-federal matching funds associated with your proposal on the form provided (Download: [Proposed Sources of Matching Funds – Excel](#)). The completed matching funds form must be converted to a pdf and uploaded into eSeaGrant.

10) **Support Letters**

Support letters are optional. However, if they are to be included in the application, please consolidate all letters into one PDF for uploading to eSeaGrant.

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Letters of Intent should be submitted to sgproposal@ucsd.edu by June 21, 2019, 5:00PM PT.

Full proposals are required to be submitted using eSeaGrant by August 8, 2019, 5:00PM PT: http://eseagrant2.ucsd.edu.

**Applicants will receive access to the eSeaGrant's request for applications a few days after the Letter of Intent submission deadline.

If applicants have not registered in eSeaGrant, you will need to register first. Once you login, you can change your password if you would like. To change your password, click on your name in the upper-right corner of the screen, and select "My Profile".

To start a proposal, or revisit/edit an existing proposal, click on "RFP (Request for Proposals)" on the banner head. Then click on "Add Proposal" under "2020 Request for Proposals".

In order to submit a proposal, you must work down the sequence of sections ("Start Here" through "Submission Preview") listed on the left side of the proposal window. eSeaGrant provides sections to upload signed (endorsed) title pages, CVs, project narratives, a data management plan, environmental compliance (short) form, current and pending support, matching funds form, and optional support letters. Some of these pages may require additional calculations and pop-up pages, so please allow your browser to display pop-up windows and enable JavaScript. Files to upload must be converted to PDFs before uploading to eSeaGrant (except the matching funds spreadsheet). Multiple documents must be consolidated into one PDF for each section (except for CVs).

We recommend that eSeaGrant users access the system, review submission requirements within it, and start to upload necessary documents well in advance of the submission deadline. This will give users the opportunity to obtain any necessary clarification or assistance before the deadline. **The submission deadline will not be extended.**

SUPPORTING COASTAL DATA AND MANAGEMENT

Proposers whose projects could benefit from access to coastal oceanographic data should be aware that a wide variety of data on the physical, biological, and chemical properties of California coastal waters are collected by and made available by the two integrated ocean observing systems that cover the entire California coast: the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS - http://www.sccoos.org/) and the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS - http://www.cencoos.org/). These two programs also are potential recipients and managers of environmental data that might be collected by researchers, and this could aid researchers in fulfilling data accessibility requirements (see section labeled *NOAA Data Sharing Requirement*, below). Proposers are encouraged to contact staff at SCCOOS or CeNCOOS, as appropriate, to discuss availability and access to data, and data management, that might bear on the proposed research program.

MATCHING FUNDS

A unique aspect of the Sea Grant Program is the matching funds requirement. According to the 1966 founding legislation, a project leader is required to match each $2 received in NOAA/Sea Grant funds with $1 from non-federal sources.

Examples of allowable items for matching Sea Grant federal funds include existing salaries and benefits of investigators and others paid from non-federal sources, costs of using expendable supplies and equipment already in inventory, costs of boat time supplied by non-federal sources, industry participation, and donated supplies, service, space, or equipment. You may also contact the Sea Grant Assistant Director Rose Madson (rmadson@ucsd.edu), with questions about various sources and types of match. However, your institution remains the final approver for all match included in the proposal.

NOAA DATA SHARING REQUIREMENT (Effective for all NOAA funded research projects)

Data and information collected and/or created under NOAA grants and cooperative agreements must be made visible, accessible, and independently understandable to general users, free of charge or at minimal cost, in a timely manner (typically no later than two years after the data are collected or created), except where limited by law, regulation, policy or by security requirements. The requirement has two basic parts: (1) environmental data generated by a grant project must be made available after a reasonable period of exclusive use, and (2) the grant application must describe the plan to make the data available (Principal Investigators are expected to execute the plan).

If your project produces environmental data, it must conform to NOAA's Data Sharing Directive for Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and Contracts. For detailed guidance, you can view the current version of the policy, including a definition of environmental data (which can include socioeconomic and model data), download any updates and access additional implementation resources at the following permanent URL (Appendix B outlines requirements):
https://nosc.noaa.gov/EDMC/documents/Data_Sharing_Directive_v3.0.pdf.

If funding is required for data curation and archiving, please make sure that funds are budgeted in the project proposal for data management. All data generated through Sea Grant funded projects are required to be completely QA/QC'ed (Quality Assurance and Quality Control) and made publicly accessible **by two years after the end date of the project**.

SELECTION PROCESS

The California Sea Grant College Program emphasizes innovative applied research on ocean and coastal resources and processes. Research with a strong theoretical basis that encompasses clear, testable hypotheses is desirable. In contrast, low priority is given to survey or inventory studies. Research that has national or international application, or that addresses important regional issues, problems, and opportunities is appropriate.

Letters of intent will allow the California Sea Grant to gauge interest and topics that may be submitted. A response acknowledging receipt of the letter of intent will be provided.

Full proposals are reviewed by California Sea Grant technical staff and the California Sea Grant Committee (outside panelists selected for disciplinary expertise). Criteria for review include:

(1) rationale;

(2) scientific merit and impact or outreach quality;

(3) innovativeness;

(4) programmatic justification;

(5) practical impact and user relationships; and

(6) relationship to Sea Grant priorities.

Committee reviews, user collaboration, expected impact (scientific and practical), and letters of support from potential users help determine whether these criteria are met.

Each proposal is considered on its own merits without regard to campus or institutional affiliation. In addition, the Resources Agency Sea Grant Advisory Panel (RASGAP, a panel comprised largely of technical experts employed by state resources agencies) also will review proposals. Input from RASGAP is directed toward identifying research priorities based on state needs.

When all the input is received from the California Sea Grant Committee, and RASGAP, the California Sea Grant management team and director of California Sea Grant make the final recommendations regarding approval of proposals for funding. The National Sea Grant Office then reviews and approves those recommendations.

Recommended proposals are compiled by the California Sea Grant College Program into an institutional proposal containing: project and program summaries, budget pages, full proposal narratives, curricula vitae, and letters of support. The institutional proposal, called the California Sea Grant College Program Omnibus, is submitted to the National Sea Grant College Program for funding and implementation starting on or after February 1 of the following year (depending on when federal funds are ultimately received by California Sea Grant).

If you have any questions, or desire more information about this process, please do not hesitate to call the California Sea Grant office at (858) 534-4440.

TIMELINE

June 21, 2019 (5:00 pm PT): Letters of intent due
August 8, 2019 (5:00 pm PT): Proposals due
August – October 2019: Review of proposals
October 2019 (approximate) – Proposal applicants notified of recommendations
On/after February 1, 2020 – Projects begin

WHO TO CONTACT

Proposal Content Questions:
Shauna Oh, Director – sgproposal@ucsd.edu
(858) 534 - 4440

Proposal Format & eSeaGrant Questions:
Miho Ligare, Research & Fellowship Coordinator – sgproposal@ucsd.edu
(858) 534-1160

Carol Bailey-Sumber, Grants Specialist - sgproposal@ucsd.edu
(858) 534-7855

Budget Questions/Matching Funds Questions:
Rose Madson, Assistant Director - sgbudget@ucsd.edu
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Visit our website at https://caseagrant.ucsd.edu/

CALIFORNIA SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM

Submission Questions

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California Sea Grant Extension Specialists

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Areas of Expertise:
Sea-Level Rise Adaptation,
Natural Shorelines
* * * * *
If your area is not represented
in the above list, and you wish
to speak to an Extension
Specialist, please e-mail
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