
Washington Sea Grant

2011 Request for Proposals

Funding cycle: February 1, 2012 – January 31, 2014

Preliminary proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, March 7, 2011

Full proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time, May 23, 2011

Preliminary and full proposals must be submitted online at <https://grant.wsg.washington.edu>



Washington Sea Grant (WSG) requests proposals for one- to two-year research projects from investigators at academic and research institutions throughout the state of Washington. Approximately \$2.4 million will be available during the two-year funding cycle

to support an estimated 10-15 projects selected through an open, competitive, peer-review process. Of those projects selected, a minimum of six projects will be funded from submitted proposals that focus on the WSG critical program area of changing oceans and coastal communities.

This document provides guidance for submitting preliminary and full proposals. Investigator registration and detailed instructions for preparing and submitting proposals can be found at WSG's eSeaGrant online proposal submission system (<https://grant.wsg.washington.edu>). Individuals accessing eSeaGrant may be requested to accept a security certificate.

I. Project Submission and Review Schedule

2011

Preliminary proposals due by 5:00 p.m. March 7
Notification of preliminary proposal review outcome April 5
Full proposals due by 5:00 p.m. May 23
Peer review and project selection June through September
Notification of funding decisions Early October 2011

2012

Projects scheduled to begin February 1

II. Research Priorities and Scope

Washington's marine and coastal ecosystems are diverse and rapidly changing. Expanding pressures from population growth, changing land use and large-scale environmental shifts are affecting the natural resources and biogeochemical processes that sustain coastal regions and the communities, businesses and people that rely upon them. WSG is committed to strengthening its efforts to assist coastal residents and managers and to support economically and environmentally sound management and development. In this funding cycle, WSG looks forward to funding at least six new research projects that focus on the WSG critical program area of changing oceans and coastal communities and that further the following WSG strategic goals:

- Improve capacity to manage ocean and coastal ecosystems and resources for societal benefit under changing climatic and demographic conditions.
- Assist coastal communities and marine-dependent businesses in planning and making decisions that provide local and regional economic benefits, increase resilience and foster stewardship of social, economic and natural resources.
- Improve understanding of coastal hazards and environmental change and develop tools and approaches for observation, prediction, planning and adaptation.

More information about the WSG changing oceans and coastal communities critical program area is available in the *Washington Sea Grant Strategic Plan 2010-2014*, available online at www.wsg.washington.edu.

In this funding cycle, projects also may be selected that address research questions related to the three other WSG critical program areas: living marine ecosystems; ocean and coastal environmental health; and ocean literacy and workforce capacity. Alignment also is encouraged with state, regional and national priorities identified in documents such as:

- 2009-2013 National Sea Grant Strategic Plan
seagrant.noaa.gov/other/admininfo/documents/0209_StratPlan.pdf
- West Coast Regional Marine Research and Information Needs report
wsg.washington.edu/research/pdfs/WCRMRIIN_2009.pdf
- Action Plan for the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health
westcoastoceans.gov/documents
- Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda, 2009-2011 Biennial Science Work Plan
psp.wa.gov/documents.php
- Washington's Ocean Action Plan, Ocean Policy Work Group final report
ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/ocean/pdf/OPWG_Volume1_web.pdf
- 2009-2029 NOAA Education Plan
www.oesd.noaa.gov/NOAA_Ed_Plan.pdf

WSG encourages applications from researchers in the natural, social and education sciences. Research projects may range from basic to applied research or include a combination of both. Successful WSG projects combine scientific excellence and a focus on problems and opportunities facing ocean and coastal users, managers and educators. WSG is especially interested in supporting collaborative projects, interdisciplinary partnerships and early career researchers. Partnerships among academic and research institutions, agencies, industry and user-groups are encouraged. Current WSG research projects are described in the *WSG 2010-2012 Program Directory*, which can be downloaded from wsg.washington.edu.

WSG activities for the period from February 1, 2010, through January 31, 2014, are funded through a federal omnibus grant that integrates research, education, public engagement and administrative activities. This request for proposals covers the second half of the WSG 2010-2014 omnibus proposal, and projects must be conducted in calendar years 2012 and 2013. Projects may be scheduled to begin in 2012 or 2013 and may be of one or two years in duration. However, the proposed project end date may not extend past the current omnibus completion date of January 31, 2014.

III. Project Requirements

Project Investigators

Project Principal Investigators (PIs) must be affiliated with a university, two- or four-year college, museum, research laboratory or other nonprofit or tribal research institution in Washington state. Project Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs) may be affiliated with the above-listed Washington institutions, research institutions outside of Washington, state and federal agencies and for-profit and foreign organizations. With few exceptions, individuals from state and federal agencies and for-profit and foreign organizations are discouraged or prohibited from requesting direct support; however, their contributions may be eligible as matching or in-kind support for the project. WSG welcomes proposals for cooperative projects involving research institutions and the private sector.

WSG discourages PIs from submitting more than two preliminary proposals. When multiple preliminary proposals are submitted, no more than one preliminary proposal will be considered at the full proposal stage.

PIs who have received WSG funds previously and have not completed all reporting requirements are ineligible for future funding until reports have been submitted and approved.

Student Support

Student support is a critical proposal component. A long-term WSG goal is to reach out to students by providing support for marine-related careers. Thus, the inclusion of student support is strongly encouraged for all projects. This may include support for undergraduate and graduate students and post-doctoral researchers. Only in exceptional cases will projects lacking significant involvement of students or post-doctorates be funded.

Engagement Plan

In addition to the research plan, WSG requires that each proposal provide an engagement plan for ensuring that project results become available to broader audiences. The broader impacts of a proposed project are important considerations in advancing the WSG mission — to improve the translation of research and scientific information into knowledge for use in the marine environment. To support this mission, the engagement plan must describe: target audiences and participant groups; an approach that identifies outreach, communications or education activities; anticipated outcomes; and estimated engagement costs. Candidate engagement activities may include: use of project results in education or resource management settings; development of publications and presentations for public audiences or specific user groups; involvement in citizen science and volunteer networks; and technical training and assistance.

Investigators are encouraged to identify and contact user

groups, industry and government agencies that will benefit from project results. WSG staff can help facilitate interaction with appropriate organizations and are available to discuss specific outreach, communications and education ideas, as well as potential beneficiaries (users) and outcomes. Letters of support may be submitted with the full proposal application, especially if cooperative activities are planned.

Matching Funds

Federal law requires that WSG provide a non-federal cost share of one dollar for every two dollars of federal funds received. This match is required for WSG research projects in all but a few exceptional cases. Inclusion of additional matching or in-kind funds for a project will allow WSG to better leverage limited available funds for project support and will be a positive factor in evaluating project costs.

Matching contributions should be fully identified, because projects selected for funding support will be required to provide documentation of the funds claimed. Matching funds must be expended during the same time period as the project. University of Washington (UW) departments may be liable for support that cannot be documented or that is disallowed by auditors. Matching funds may be provided in kind as well as in cash. Examples of in-kind matching include: non-federal salaries, wages and benefits of those working on the project; expendable supplies and equipment; ship time; and donated volunteer time, supplies, space or equipment. Indirect costs associated with non-federal contributions also may be used for matching. Foundation grants, state and local grants and other state funds are eligible sources of matching funds. Questions about matching funds should be directed to WSG Administrator Karen Mooseker.

Conflicts of Interest, Human Subjects and Animal Care

All research and technology transfer transactions undertaken through WSG must be conducted in full compliance with applicable federal and state laws pertaining to conflicts of interest. The UW's Significant Financial Interest Disclosure Policy applies to all UW participants in grants and contracts and is available at washington.edu/research/osp/gim/gim10.html. Other participating institutions have adopted their own policies consistent with state codes and federal policies and, where this is the case, project members will be expected to follow these policies. In situations where participating institutions do not have formal policies, the UW policy will apply.

For projects that involve animal or human subjects, it is the PI's responsibility to identify and ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state and institutional requirements. UW PIs may contact the **Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee**, depts.washington.edu/iacuc/, or the Human Subjects Division, washington.edu/research/hsd. Other investigators should contact the relevant divisions at their institution.

IV. Preliminary Proposals

Preliminary proposals must be submitted by **5:00 p.m. on March 7, 2011**. **Only investigators who submit preliminary proposals are eligible to submit full proposals.** For detailed instructions, refer to the online guidance in eSeaGrant. Each preliminary proposal must contain the following components:

1. Investigator Records and Resumes: Completed online record and two-page resume for each investigator. A WSG resume template is available in eSeaGrant.
2. Project Summary: Project title, duration and list of all team members in addition to investigators.
3. Project Narrative: Four-page document that includes research priority or priorities addressed, project summary and research methodology, expected outcomes and potential benefit, and engagement plan.
4. Budget: Completed budget worksheet for each year of the project. Although numbers are preliminary estimates, the budget should reasonably approximate final project costs.
5. Suggested Reviewers: Contact details for at least three scientific peers who are not direct project beneficiaries or recent research collaborators and qualified to provide independent and knowledgeable reviews.

The WSG director will convene a review panel to evaluate preliminary proposals and identify projects for which full proposals should be encouraged. All applicants will receive electronic or paper responses to their preliminary proposals, indicating whether they are encouraged to submit full proposals.

V. Full Proposals

Full proposals are due by **5:00 p.m. on May 23, 2011**, and are to be submitted using eSeaGrant and following its guidelines and instructions. Each full proposal must contain the following components:

1. Investigator Records and Resumes: Carried over from preliminary proposal stage and updated to reflect changes in personnel and effort.
2. Project Summary: One- to two-page description that includes project title, list of related WSG-funded projects, keywords and Sea Grant classification codes, short- and long-term project objectives related to WSG goals and strategies, summary of approach and methods, and rationale explaining project importance and why WSG support is appropriate.
3. Full Project Narrative: The primary basis for funding decisions, this 20-page document discusses the problem or opportunity addressed, rationale and present status, approach, expected results, engagement plan, dissemination of results, and references.
4. Budget: Carried over from the preliminary proposal stage and updated to reflect final budget costs. All subawards will require full budget documentation.

5. Budget Justification: Separate detailed justification for each budget item that must be added to each budget form.
6. Current and Pending Support: Planned and ongoing research funding for all investigators. This information will be used to assess capacity to complete proposed project.
7. Time Schedule: Details of project activities and key milestones. A WSG timeline template is available in eSeaGrant.
8. Support Letters: Letters of support from collaborating institutions, contributors of in-kind or matching funds, and organizations that will benefit from project results.

Each completed full proposal will be distributed to external reviewers for written evaluation and comments. At the completion of the review process, PIs will be given the opportunity to respond to reviewer comments. The WSG director will convene a technical review panel to develop funding recommendations for inclusion of research projects in the WSG omnibus research submission.

VI. Project Evaluation Criteria

WSG will apply the following criteria in project evaluation. Evaluation criteria are the same for preliminary and full proposals, but there are differences at each stage with respect to relative weighting.

Criteria	Weighting		Description
Project Contribution	40%	25%	Importance, relevance and applicability of proposed project to WSG goals; application to problems or opportunities with societal (resource management, business, public) relevance; and contribution to capacity building (undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral support) and partnerships at all levels.
Technical and Scientific Merit	20%	35%	The degree to which the activity will advance scientific understanding and whether the approach is technically sound, innovative and includes: clearly stated goals and measurable objectives; project technical feasibility and use of appropriate methods; appropriate mechanisms to evaluate the success of the project; and the likelihood of meeting milestones and achieving anticipated results in the time proposed.
Engagement Plan	15%	15%	Description of how specifically targeted groups will learn about and benefit from research outcomes through outreach, communications and education activities. Degree to which Sea Grant outreach staff and potential users of the results have been and will be included in project planning and implementation.
Qualification of Applicants	10%	10%	Whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities and administrative resources to accomplish the project, with consideration to career stage and past performance.
Project Costs	15%	15%	Budget evaluation to determine if costs are realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time-frame, reasonable given the availability of program funds, and effectively leverage other resources to achieve project objectives.

VII. About Washington Sea Grant

WSG has served the Pacific Northwest and the nation for more than 40 years by funding research and working with communities, managers, businesses and the public to strengthen understanding and sustainable use of ocean and coastal resources. Based at the UW, WSG is part of a national network of 32 Sea Grant Colleges administered by NOAA and located in every coastal and Great Lakes state.

The University of Washington ensures equal opportunity in education regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, disabled veteran, or Vietnam era veteran status in accordance with University policy and applicable federal and state statutes and regulations.

For More Information

Investigators are encouraged to contact WSG at 206.543.6600 or wsggrfp@uw.edu to discuss proposal ideas or ask questions.

Penny Dalton, Director

Rachel Waters, Associate Director

Karen Mooseker, Administrator

For eSeaGrant questions or technical support, contact Marcus Duke, Web Administrator, mduke@uw.edu



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