Funding cycle: February 1, 2024 – January 31, 2026

Preliminary proposal deadline: 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time, February 16, 2023

Full proposal deadline: 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time, May 4, 2023

Sea Grant
Washington

WASHINGTON SEA GRANT
2023 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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. Funded projects will contribute to WSG and state priority information needs by advancing knowledge in one of the four WSG program areas: environmental literacy and workforce development, resilient communities and economies, healthy coastal ecosystems, and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

WSG is particularly interested in funding projects that engage, and address issues of concern to, Washington Pacific coastal communities. WSG also anticipates partnering with the Puget Sound Partnership to fund projects that align with the 15 priority Science Work Actions identified in the Puget Sound Science Work Plan.

Selected projects will have a start date of February 1, 2024.

Applicants are required to submit both a preliminary proposal and a full proposal through *eSeaGrant*, the WSG online proposal submission system. Please be sure to allow ample time for online proposal submission.

About $2 million will be available over a two-year period to support an estimated eight to ten projects. Proposals may request annual budgets up to $140,000 for a total project cap of $280,000; a 50 percent non-federal cost share or match is required. Investigators may apply for a graduate research fellow to participate in their research project.

This document provides information and guidance for preliminary and full proposal development and submission.
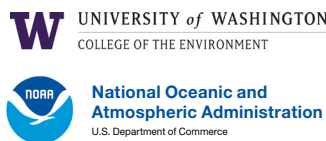
Request for proposals (RFP) information session for potential investigators

Thursday, January 12, 2023

Registration required

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time

RFP information session for potential investigators

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Registration required

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time

Investigator outreach workshop
Join Washington Sea Grant to learn more about our staff's *areas of expertise* and how they can support and/or participate in proposals to WSG's 2023 RFP.

Wednesday, January 25, 2023
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time

Registration required

Preliminary proposals due in *eSeaGrant*

Thursday, February 16, 2023
5:00 p.m. Pacific Time

Notification of preliminary proposal review outcome

Late March 2023

Full proposals due in *eSeaGrant*

Thursday, May 4, 2023
5:00 p.m. Pacific Time

Peer review and project selection

May – September 2023

PI rebuttal period

June 21 – 28, 2023

Notification of funding decisions

Mid September 2023

Project start date

February 1, 2024

WSG serves the Pacific Northwest and the nation by funding marine research and by working with communities, managers, businesses and the general public to strengthen understanding and sustainable use of ocean and coastal resources. Based at the University of Washington (UW) College of the Environment, WSG is part of a national network of 34 Sea Grant programs administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and funded through federal-university partnerships.

To accomplish its mission and achieve its vision, WSG adheres to a set of core values focused on excellence, equity, innovation and societal impact. It seeks to forge tools, foster insights, build capacity and invest in relationships for sustainable management, enjoyment and use of Washington's marine resources. WSG celebrates the diversity of people and the environment and the complex interactions between them.

Facilitating practical and collaborative solutions to today's ocean and coastal issues, WSG supports a culture of scientific integrity and serves as a trusted broker of place-based information and real-world expertise that honors the history, people and places of Washington.

Cross-cutting Principles

WSG endorses and is committed to pursuing activities that advance two cross-cutting principles across its core functions of research, outreach, education and communications: cultivating partnerships and practicing a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, justice and accessibility. In addition, WSG is committed to infusing actions to address the challenges associated with climate change throughout the program's work.

Partnerships: Partnerships are a cornerstone of the Sea Grant model. WSG cultivates partnerships by valuing and engaging the priorities, expertise, capabilities and participation of diverse partners. WSG collaborates with international, federal, tribal, state and local governments; local communities; businesses; people from academia; K-12 schools and nongovernmental organizations on a wide variety of marine-related research, engagement and education projects.

WSG is especially interested in supporting collaborative projects and interdisciplinary partnerships. Partnerships among academic and research institutions, agencies, industry and user groups are encouraged.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Accessibility: To achieve organizational excellence, pursue its vision, and adhere to its mission, WSG maintains a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, justice and accessibility (DEIJA). WSG works to create equitable access to resources and opportunities for Washington's diverse communities and seeks to reflect their voices and priorities. WSG's values are informed by environmental justice and are based in a culture of inclusion, respect, long-term engagement and accountability.

WSG's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, justice and accessibility shapes the organization's investments, practices and social interactions. Specifically, WSG strives to:

◆ create a welcoming work environment, so that each person feels accepted, valued and safe;

◆ build community and learn from each other, honoring differences in background, skills, interests and values;

◆ ensure the right of all people to live and work in a clean environment;

◆ address root causes of unequal exposure to environmental hazards, and eliminate disparities in access to natural resources, opportunities and decision-making processes; and

◆ nurture an atmosphere that encourages open, honest and respectful exchange.

WSG's DEIJA goals are outlined in the *WSG Diversity, Equity and Inclusion 10-year Roadmap*. Goals 8 and 9 (page 5) specifically describe strategies and outcomes related to the WSG research program. WSG encourages proposals that advance the goals, strategies and outcomes in the Roadmap. Specifically, WSG encourages proposals to document how the project will engage and support underserved and underrepresented communities and individuals, and how the project will advance diversity, equity, inclusion, justice and accessibility.

Addressing Climate Change: Current and future climate change impacts each of WSG's program areas; addressing these impacts is essential to meeting WSG's goals. WSG pursues strategies to further climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience across the human and ecological communities in coastal Washington State.

WSG is interested in supporting research projects that advance understanding of climate change impacts and enable enhanced mitigation, adaptation and resilience.

WSG Strategic Plan

WSG is requesting proposals to implement its *2024-2027 Strategic Plan*. Applicants may propose to conduct research projects that align with any of the four program areas laid out in the WSG strategic plan. The proposal must identify the areas addressed and explain how the project contributes to WSG strategic goals. Program areas are not mutually exclusive, and successful proposals often fit into more than one. The four areas are explained in greater detail in the strategic plan and summarized below:

◆ **ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Environmental education is essential to build scientific literacy and help learners of all ages appreciate the importance of ocean and coastal resources and ecosystems. Despite strong physical and cultural ties to the coast, most Washington residents have significant knowledge gaps when it comes to the waters that surround them. In addition, Washington's ocean economy relies on a well-trained workforce capable of dealing with the complexity and diversity of its marine sector. Through the competitive research program, WSG supports educational research projects to inform novel approaches to education for learners of all ages and workforce development.

◆ **RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIES**

Nearly seven out of ten Washington residents live in the state's 15 coastal counties, with the vast majority living in large Puget Sound urban centers. In contrast, the coast is characterized by small natural resource-based communities. Regional population and economic trends often put pressure on traditional maritime sectors, creating user conflicts and degrading environmental quality through practices such as shoreline armoring, water pollution and increased vulnerability to natural hazards. WSG supports natural and social science projects that help local communities and businesses, improve coastal management, encourage sustainable development and build resilience to hazards and climate change.

◆ **HEALTHY COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS**

Located within one of the world's most productive marine regions, Washington's ocean and coastal resources support diverse cultural, economic and ecological services. Population growth, regional development and environmental change create stresses on and challenges for those services throughout Puget Sound and on the coast. Research is needed to improve understanding of ecosystem structure and function; identify and prioritize emerging threats; rebuild depleted marine populations; restore coastal habitats; and address threats like ocean acidification, harmful algal blooms, hypoxia and aquatic invasive species.

◆ **SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**

Seafood harvesting is a vital part of Pacific Northwest culture and commerce. For many Indigenous people in the state, seafood harvest and consumption are part of cultural practices and traditions that have persisted since time immemorial. Washington's marine resource economy—commercial and recreational fishing, aquaculture, and seafood processing and sales —is also an economic staple of the state, providing thousands of jobs and generating millions of dollars. Marine waters support a vigorous aquaculture industry, producing more farmed clams, oysters and mussels than any other state, and maintain a longstanding tradition of recreational and subsistence harvests. Potential research topics include tools and approaches to improve fisheries management, productivity and ecological sustainability, as well as sustainable aquaculture operations and shellfish harvest.

Specific Priorities for 2023 RFP

RESEARCH OF VALUE TO COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Within these program areas, WSG is particularly interested in funding projects in 2024 that engage, and address issues of concern to, Washington Pacific coastal communities.

RESEARCH ALIGNED WITH THE PUGET SOUND SCIENCE WORK PLAN

WSG also anticipates partnering with the Puget Sound Partnership to fund projects that align with the 15 priority Science Work Actions identified in the *Puget Sound Science Work Plan*.

In addition to WSG's program areas, investigators are encouraged to align with priorities identified by state, regional, tribal and national organizations.

Information on current WSG-supported research projects is available on the WSG website at *wsg.washington.edu/research*.

Project Award Information

WSG activities for the period from February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2026 will be funded through a federal omnibus award that integrates research, education, engagement and administrative activities. This RFP solicits research projects that will be conducted primarily in calendar years 2024 and 2025. Projects may be scheduled to begin in 2024 or 2025 and may be of one or two years in duration. The project end date may be no later than January 31, 2026.

In addition to federal funding, WSG anticipates partnering with the Puget Sound Partnership to direct state funding to projects that align with the 15 priority Science Work Actions identified in the *Puget Sound Science Work Plan*.

WSG anticipates that eight to ten projects will be selected for the 2024-2026 funding cycle. Awards are contingent on the availability of funds to WSG through NOAA's National Sea Grant Office and the Puget Sound Partnership. Proposals may request annual budgets up to $140,000 for a total project cap of $280,000 in requested funds.

Required Cost Share or Match

Federal law requires that WSG provide a non-federal cost share (match) of 50 percent, or one dollar for every two dollars of federal funds awarded. For WSG competitive projects, cost share is the applicant's responsibility in all but a few exceptional cases. Cost share sources must be clearly identified; projects selected for funding will be required to provide documentation that supports the funds claimed. Cost share must be expended during the same time period as the project and may be provided in-kind or as cash.

Examples of cost share sources 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. Foundation, state and local grants and other state funds are eligible sources of cost share funds with documented approval from those sources.

Investigator Eligibility

Project principal investigators (PIs) must be affiliated with a university, two- or four-year college, museum, research laboratory or other nonprofit or tribal institution in Washington State. Project co-principal investigators (Co-PIs) may be affiliated with the above-listed Washington institutions, institutions outside of Washington, state and federal agencies or for-profit or foreign organizations. Individuals from state and federal agencies and for-profit and foreign organizations are discouraged or prohibited from requesting direct support, with few exceptions. However, their contributions may be eligible as cost share or leveraged support for the project.

WSG encourages applications from investigators in the natural, social and education sciences. WSG is committed to building an inclusive program that serves all people, including those with unique needs, circumstances, perspectives, and ways of thinking. WSG encourages proposals that include diverse participants with regards to age, race, ethnicities, national origins, gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, cultures, religions, citizenship types, marital statuses, education levels, job classifications, veteran status types, income and socioeconomic status. WSG is especially interested in supporting early career investigators.

WSG discourages PIs from submitting more than two preliminary proposals. If a PI submits multiple preliminary proposals that are encouraged for development as a full proposal, they will be limited to submitting a single proposal in the full proposal stage.

PIs who have received WSG funds previously and have not completed reporting requirements are ineligible for future funding until all delinquent reports have been submitted and approved. A summary of all prior WSG projects will be required as part of the full proposal.

Student and Postdoctoral Support

Student education and involvement is a vital component of WSG projects and only in exceptional cases will research projects be funded that lack significant involvement of students or postdoctorates. WSG encourages projects that promote exploration of research and employment opportunities for students and include direct student support in proposed budgets. WSG encourages projects to recruit and engage students from underserved and underrepresented communities. This may include engagement of and support for undergraduate and graduate students, research fellows and postdoctoral researchers.

Sea Grant Graduate Research Fellowships

Research projects seeking to support graduate students may request a Sea Grant graduate research fellow. Sea Grant graduate research fellows must be full-time registered graduate students who are working toward an advanced degree related to marine or coastal sciences. To justify inclusion of a fellowship, the project should provide the fellow with the basis for a thesis. The fellowship will offer up to eight quarters of a graduate student stipend over a two-year project, and that cost must be included in the project budget. The stipend will be set at the amount paid to a 50 percent-time graduate student at the host university's

approved rate, but may not exceed $49,750 per year inclusive of benefits. The fellowship stipend cannot cover graduate student tuition and fees. If requested, these fees should be included in the overall project costs. The fellowship stipend, graduate student tuition and fees will not be subject to indirect costs per Sea Grant's federal implementing regulations found at 15 CFR 917.11. If an investigator is interested in applying for support for a fellow, that interest should be stated clearly in the preliminary proposal.

Engagement Plan

In addition to supporting research projects that are scientifically excellent and societally relevant, WSG is committed to projects that engage and inform relevant communities.

Each proposal must provide an engagement plan that describes how project design and implementation has been developed in partnership with and informed by relevant communities and audiences, and how results will be communicated and accessible. A project's relevance and impact to coastal communities are an important consideration in advancing the WSG mission—to help people and marine life thrive by supporting research, technical expertise and educational activities that foster the responsible use and conservation of ocean and coastal ecosystems. The goal is to ensure that vital research results are informed by and shared with relevant communities in ways that are timely, relevant and meaningful.

In considering engagement with relevant communities, PIs are encouraged to refer to WSG project and program priorities stated above related to partnerships and diversity, equity, inclusion, justice and accessibility. PIs are encouraged to work with WSG staff and to identify and engage communities, individuals and organizations early on.

While WSG staff may participate as part of a project team, the cost of their time should not be included in project budgets; rather, they will be funded separately through the WSG outreach budget. Staff are also available to facilitate interactions with potential project partners and participants and to discuss specific outreach, communications and education ideas.

On **Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 10:00 a.m**. Pacific Time, WSG will host an outreach workshop to brief potential PIs on the Sea Grant program, introduce WSG staff and facilitate collaborative and innovative plans for outreach and engagement. Investigators are strongly encouraged to attend. *Please register*.

The timing of the outreach workshop is intended to facilitate early engagement with WSG staff in the proposal development process. Please do not wait until the last minute to contact WSG staff.

Conflicts of Interest; Human Subjects and Animal Care; Permits

All projects 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 (SFI) disclosure policy* applies to all UW participants in grants and contracts. Please note: this policy requires that any UW personnel who are responsible for the design, conduct or reporting of university research on any project selected for funding are required to electronically complete a disclosure before the WSG omnibus grant can be submitted to NOAA. Project members external to UW will be expected to follow the policies of their home institution in accordance with state codes and federal policies. For situations in which institutions do not have formal policies, the UW policy will apply.

For projects that involve research on vertebrate animals or human subjects, it is the PI's responsibility to identify and ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state and institutional requirements. PIs must identify the use of vertebrate animals or human subjects in full proposal submissions. UW PIs should contact the *Office of Animal Welfare*, or the *Human Subjects Division*. Other investigators should contact the relevant divisions at their institution. Project funds will not be awarded without appropriate approvals.

Per National Environmental Policy Act requirements, funded investigators are required to provide proof of all state and federal permits required to complete the project prior to expenditure of funds on activities requiring the permits. Information on required permits, including whether the permits have already been secured, will be required for all projects selected for funding, prior to final proposal submission to NOAA. Failure to secure permits may result in delayed receipt of funds or changes to the scope of work proposed.

IV Preliminary Proposal Guidance

Preliminary proposals must be submitted electronically through the WSG *eSeaGrant* system by **5:00 p.m. Pacific Time on Thursday, February 16, 2023**. Preliminary proposals received after the deadline will not be considered; the system will shut down automatically and lock out further submissions. **Please be sure to allow ample time for online proposal completion and submission.**

Each preliminary proposal must contain the following components:

1. ### PROPOSAL INFORMATION
   Project title, keywords, and project initiation and completion dates. The proposed project end date may not extend past January 31, 2026.

2. ### INVESTIGATOR DEMOGRAPHICS
   National Sea Grant Office required demographics question. Response is voluntary.

3. ### INVESTIGATOR RECORDS AND RESUMES
   Online record and resume of no more than two pages for each of the senior personnel on the project. An optional WSG resume template is available in eSeaGrant.

4. ### PROGRAM AREA ALIGNMENT AND SEA GRANT CLASSIFICATION
   Identification of relevant WSG program areas and Sea Grant classification code.

5. ### PROJECT NARRATIVE
   (4-page maximum; Times New Roman, 12-point or greater, 1-inch margins, single-spaced)
   The following elements should be covered:
   - alignment of the project with the program and project priorities described above;
   - a summary of the project and methods;
   - identification of expected outcomes and potential benefits; and
   - an engagement plan (see above for details).

   The project narrative may include references, which *do not* count in the four-page limit.

6. ### SEA GRANT RESEARCH FELLOW REQUEST
   Request for a fellow and number of quarters each year.

7. ### BUDGET
   A completed budget worksheet for each year of the project. Detailed budget instructions are provided in *eSeaGrant*. Although numbers are preliminary estimates, the budget should reasonably approximate final project costs. Budget justifications are not required for preliminary proposals.

8. ### SUGGESTED REVIEWERS
   Contact details for **at least five** scientific peers (**at least three outside** of Washington State) who are qualified to provide an independent and knowledgeable review of your project. Suggested reviewers must be free from conflict of interest as defined by the *NOAA Policy on Conflict of Interest for Peer Review*. Suggested reviewers cannot be beneficiaries of the proposed project; affiliated with applicant institution(s) in any way (including having received an honorarium from the institution within the last 12 months); employed at the same institution as the investigators within the last 12 months; colleagues the investigators have worked with in the last four years as project co-investigators, co-authors, etc.; or former mentors, advisors or students of investigators.

Proposals should be written so that reviewers who are not familiar with conditions in Washington State can understand the context and relevance of the proposed project.

Only investigators who submit preliminary proposals are eligible to submit full proposals. Full proposals must be submitted electronically through the WSG *eSeaGrant* system by **5:00 p.m. Pacific Time on Thursday, May 4, 2023**. Full proposals received after the deadline will not be considered; the system will shut down automatically and lock out further submissions. Please be sure to allow ample time for online proposal completion and submission.

Each full proposal must contain the following components:

1. **PROPOSAL INFORMATION**
   Project title, keywords, and project initiation and completion dates. The proposed project end date may not extend past January 31, 2026.

2. **INVESTIGATOR DEMOGRAPHICS**
   National Sea Grant Office required demographics question. Response is voluntary.

3. **INVESTIGATOR RECORDS AND RESUMES**
   Completed online record and resume of **no more than** two pages for each of the senior personnel on the project. A WSG resume template is available in *eSeaGrant*.

4. **PROGRAM AREA ALIGNMENT AND SEA GRANT CLASSIFICATION**
   Identification of relevant WSG program areas and the Sea Grant classification code.

5. **PROJECT SUMMARY**
   Used during the proposal review process, the project summary should provide a clear and concise description of the project in terms that are understandable by individuals who are not experts in your field.
   - **Objectives** (*2,000 character limit, including spaces*)
     Briefly and clearly state the short-term and long-term objectives of the proposed work related to WSG goals and outcomes. Incorporate both the scientific and societal purposes of the project in these objectives.
   - **Methodology** (*2,000 character limit, including spaces*)
     Succinctly describe the methods and approach to be used in accomplishing the objectives.
   - **Rationale** (*2,000 character limit, including space*)
     Concisely state the problem or opportunity addressed. Indicate why the project is important, appropriate for WSG support, and why the proposed approach is necessary. Identify the expected outcomes of the project and potential project users.

6. **PROJECT NARRATIVE**
   (*15-page maximum; Times New Roman, 12-point or larger, 1-inch margins, single-spaced*)
   The project narrative is the primary basis for funding decisions. Documentation must be complete and provide adequate information for evaluation of the project's technical merits and its contribution to WSG's mission and strategic priorities. The following elements should be covered:
   - **Goals and objectives** – Describe in the narrative the specific project goals and objectives to be achieved for each year of the work plan presented. The project outcomes should be clearly stated.
   - **Background** – Provide sufficient background information for reviewers to independently assess the significance of the proposed project and relevance to the WSG strategic plan. Summarize the problem, need or opportunity to be addressed and critically evaluate existing knowledge and previous work pertaining to the problem or opportunity.
   - **Approach** – Provide a work plan that fully describes the project structure and design, identifies specific tasks to be accomplished, explains the methods that will be used to accomplish the tasks, identifies the roles of team members and partners, and discusses potential challenges to successful completion of the project. In all projects that involve students, fellows or postdoctorates, show how the proposed effort will provide training for these individuals and in what capacity they will be involved.
   - **Engagement plan** – Describe a) your community collaborators, target audiences and participant groups and provide rationale for their engagement; b) the engagement, outreach, communications or education approaches to be used in co-development of your project and in dissemination of outcomes; c) anticipated outcomes and how engagement effectiveness will be evaluated; and d) estimated costs. Engagement activities may include use of project results in education or resource management settings; technical training and assistance; development of publications, presentations and other outreach products for public audiences or specific user groups; and involvement in teaching, citizen science and volunteer networks. Ensure outreach costs are included in your budget in the applicable budget categories.
   - **References** (*do not count toward the 15-page limit*)

7. **TIME SCHEDULE**
   Details of project activities and key milestones. A WSG timeline template is available in *eSeaGrant*.

8. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**
   Complete the following:
   - request for a fellow and the number of quarters each year
   - project use of vertebrate animals
   - project use of human subjects
   - required permits

9. **BUDGET**
   Completed budget worksheet for each year of the project. Detailed budget instructions are provided in *eSeaGrant*. All subawards will require full project documentation (narrative and budget) and official approvals from subawardee organizations or institutions.

10. **BUDGET JUSTIFICATION**
    Separate detailed justification for each budget item must be added to each budget worksheet. Detailed instructions and a budget justification example are provided in *eSeaGrant*. Subawards require an additional scope of work and budget worksheet documents and justifications.

11. **CURRENT AND PENDING SUPPORT**
    Planned and ongoing research funding for all investigators. All current and pending support records must provide the investigator name and affiliation and the following information for each record:
    - support status (current, pending, submission planned in near future)
    - project/proposal title
    - source of support
    - total award amount
    - award period
    - project location
    - person-months committed to project

    A WSG current and pending support template is available in *eSeaGrant*. This information will be used to assess capacity to complete the proposed project.

12. **SUPPORT LETTERS**
    Letters from subawardee institutions, contributors of cost share or leveraged funds, other collaborating institutions and organizations that will benefit from project results. Each organization providing third-party cost share contributions in the proposal must provide a letter of commitment, on their letterhead, acknowledging their commitment and the dollar amount.

13. **NOAA DATA SHARING PLAN**
    (6,000 character limit with spaces)
    A data sharing plan that meets requirements established by the *NOAA Data Sharing Directive for NOAA Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and Contracts*. Additional information on NOAA data sharing plan requirements is provided in *eSeaGrant*. Projects selected for funding will be required to report on implementation of the data sharing plan.

14. **RESULTS OF PRIOR SEA GRANT SUPPORT**
    For all projects receiving funding from any Sea Grant program during the previous five years, provide the following information:
    - title of the project, amount and period of support
    - short summary of the major accomplishments of the project, including outreach
    - list of publications resulting from the project
    - short description of commercial, societal or other impacts and deliverables.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)
NEPA information will be required for all projects selected for funding — *Environmental Compliance Questionnaire for NOAA Federal Financial Assistance Applicants* (OMB Control No. 0648-0538). Additional information will be provided.

A multiple-step process is followed for selecting WSG competitive projects:

1. The call for preliminary proposals is widely distributed across the state, and submitted applications are screened to ensure that eligibility criteria are met. The WSG director convenes a review panel to evaluate preliminary proposals and identify projects for which full proposals should be encouraged. Proposals are evaluated on the basis of project evaluation criteria. Full proposals are encouraged for those projects that rate highly in all evaluation criteria, considering the funding level that is likely to be available.

2. Each submitted and complete full proposal is distributed to at least three external reviewers for written evaluation and comments. At the completion of the review process, PIs are given the opportunity to respond to reviewer comments.

3. The WSG director convenes a scientific and technical review panel comprising experts in the range of disciplines proposed across the submitted full proposals. Panel members are provided with copies of the proposals, all merit reviews and the investigator response to those reviews. The panel discusses each proposal individually and develops recommendations for funding. Summaries of proposals recommended for funding are provided to members of the WSG Advisory Committee, who evaluate the project's contribution to the WSG program and make recommendations regarding priorities for funding.

4. WSG applies the following criteria (see table below) 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.

5. The WSG director and leadership team review all information available and make final decisions on projects for inclusion in the WSG omnibus proposal. Projects will be selected based on the following criteria: ranking and recommendation of the scientific and technical panel; recommendations and input from the WSG Advisory Committee; diversity and balance of proposals across program areas, institutions and geographies; availability of funding; and programmatic priorities. Proposals selected for funding may be returned to applicants for revision prior to submission to the National Sea Grant Office.

6. A letter of intent is submitted to the National Sea Grant Office, describing the proposed projects and the rationale for their selection. Once the letter is approved, final proposals are submitted as part of the WSG 2024–2027 omnibus proposal to the National Sea Grant Office, NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce. Contingent on the availability of funds, satisfaction of any animal care and human subjects requirements, and confirmation of all required permits, projects will be funded and implemented on February 1, 2024.

Criteria	Weighting		Description
	Preliminary Proposal	Full Proposal	
Project contribution	35%	20%	Importance, relevance and applicability of proposed project to WSG program and project priorities, application to problems or opportunities with societal relevance, and contribution to student and postdoctoral support and partnerships at all levels.
Technical and scientific merit	20%	35%	The degree to which the project will advance scientific understanding and whether the approach is technically sound and innovative, uses appropriate methods, includes clearly stated measurable objectives and mechanisms to evaluate success, and is likely to achieve anticipated results in the time proposed.
Engagement plan	15%	15%	Effective plan for ensuring that relevant groups contribute to, benefit from, and learn about project outcomes; degree to which potential users of the results and Sea Grant staff have been and will be included in project planning and implementation.
Diversity, equity and inclusion	10%	10%	The degree to which the project advances knowledge and topics of particular relevance to communities disproportionately impacted by environmental changes; engages communities in development of research questions and methodologies; and broadens the participation of underserved and underrepresented communities and individuals in research.
Qualification of applicants	10%	10%	Applicants possess the necessary education, experience, training, facilities and administrative resources to accomplish the project, with consideration to career stage and past performance.
Project costs	10%	10%	Budget is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and timeframe, reasonable given the availability of program funds, and effectively leverages other resources to achieve project objectives.

VII Contacts and Additional Information

nvestigators are encouraged to discuss proposal ideas with the WSG director. To arrange a time to talk or to ask questions, please contact WSG at *wsgres@uw.edu* or 206.543.6600.

W. Russell Callender
Director
wrc4@uw.edu

Kate Litle
Deputy Director
kalitle@uw.edu

Washington Sea Grant RFP Infomation Sessions and Outreach Workshop

Washington Sea Grant will be holding two RFP information sessions and an outreach workshop for prospective investigators. All who are interested in submitting a proposal are strongly encouraged to attend.

The information sessions will include a short presentation about the RFP by Russell Callender, WSG director, and an opportunity for participants to ask questions.

The outreach workshop will include the same RFP overview as the information sessions, as well as lightning-round introductions to WSG outreach staff, followed by an interactive opportunity to connect with WSG outreach staff. The outreach workshop is intended to facilitate collaborative and innovative plans for outreach and engagement.

All meetings will be held virtually on Zoom and registration is required.

WASHINGTON SEA GRANT RFP INFORMATION SESSIONS

Thursday, January 12, 2023
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time

REGISTRATION

Wednesday, January 18, 2023
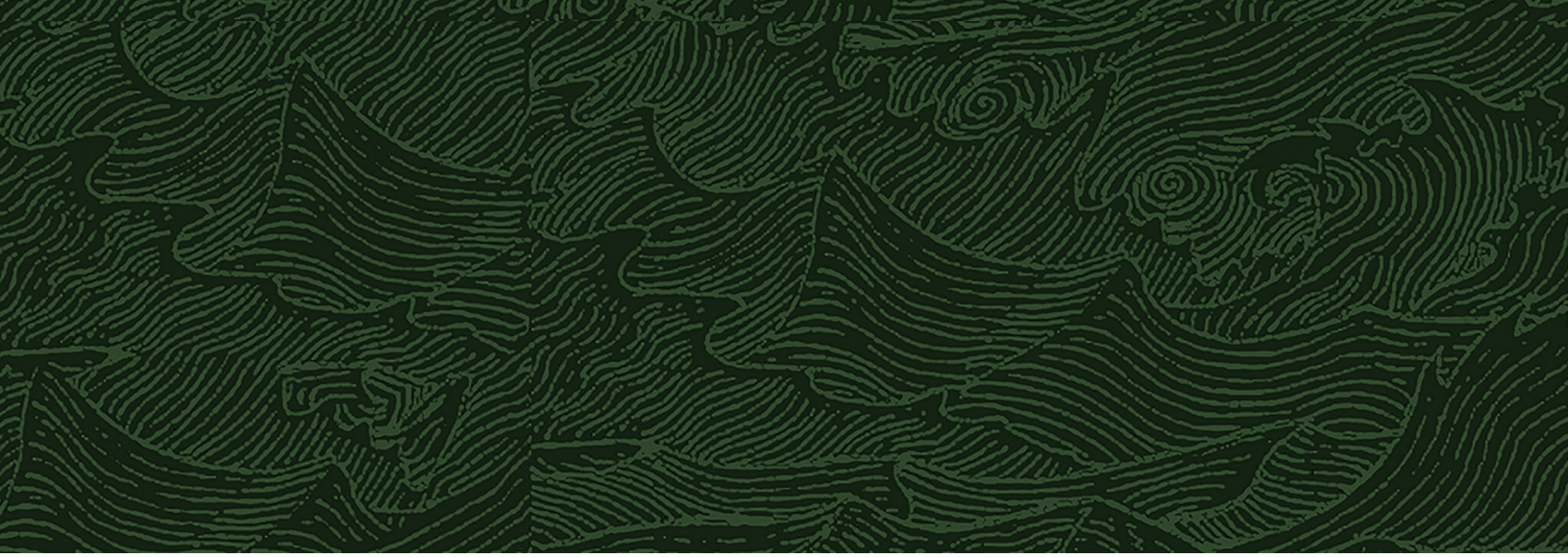10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time

REGISTRATION

WASHINGTON SEA GRANT OUTREACH WORKSHOP
(Attendance strongly encouraged)

Wednesday, January 25, 2023
10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m. Pacific Time

REGISTRATION

University of Washington
Brooklyn Avenue N.E.
Seattle, WA 98195-6716
206 543 6600
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WSG-PW-