



Request for Research Proposals
FY2020-2022

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I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Program Objective

Administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Sea Grant is a national network of 33 university-based programs in each of the coastal U.S. states, Great Lakes region, Puerto Rico and Guam. For over 40 years, Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant have supported research, education and outreach activities that promote environmental and economic health in Georgia by helping improve public resource policy, encouraging far-sighted economic and fisheries decisions, anticipating vulnerabilities to change and educating citizens to be wise stewards of the coastal environment.

The purpose of this request for proposals (RFP) is to support original and innovative research projects that address one or more priorities identified in our 2018-2021 Strategic Plan and are aligned with one or more of our four focus areas:

1. Healthy Coastal Ecosystems
2. Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture
3. Resilient Communities and Economies
4. Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development

Georgia Sea Grant aims to support use-inspired¹ research projects that span broad areas of natural, physical, social, behavioral and economic sciences and engineering. Use-inspired science consists of scientific investigation whose rationale, conceptualization, and research directions are driven by the potential uses of the knowledge. Georgia Sea Grant funded research must provide quantifiable evidence for impacts that stimulate learning (awareness, knowledge, skills, motivations), promote action (behavior change, practice, decisions, policies) and/or lead to social, economic and/or environmental benefits in Georgia.

Is my research project use-inspired?

Here are some criteria indicating that a research project might be use-inspired.

- Aim: the project aims to produce scientific insights and solve practical problems;
- Source of research question: the question is designed in collaboration with a user/practitioner community;
- Implementation in the near future: the project has the potential to be implemented in the near future;
- Types of output: the project will produce academic and non-academic products (for example, refereed journal articles, extension bulletins, educational publications, curricula, etc.)
- Target audience: the results will be made accessible to broader public outside academia;
- People involved: the research team is composed of scientists, extension specialists and users/practitioners.

Potential investigators are encouraged to integrate social science approaches, economics and the use of information technology into the research, where appropriate. Research proposals should include

¹ Stokes, D. E. (2011). *Pasteur's quadrant: Basic science and technological innovation*. Brookings Institution Press.

clear, well-designed plans to engage and transfer findings to users/practitioners. Potential users/practitioners include individuals from underrepresented groups, coastal resource managers, decision-makers, commercial fishermen, environmental NGOs, industry, K-12 students, and targeted groups within the general public.

More information about previously funded Sea Grant projects can be found on our website using this link: <https://gacoast.uga.edu/research/funding/current-projects/>.

B. Program Priorities

Through our strategic planning process, we have identified a list of research priorities under each of our four focus areas. For more details, please refer to our 2018-2021 Strategic Plan:

<https://gacoast.uga.edu/about/about-us/strategic-plan/>

Healthy Coastal Ecosystems (HCE)

- Develop new models, tools and technologies to demonstrate the value and function of healthy ecosystems, as well as the factors and practices that affect them.
- Develop new models, tools and technologies to demonstrate the economic and ecological importance of sustaining critical habitats, biodiversity, ecosystem services and wildlife corridors.
- Develop new models, tools and technologies to understand the impacts of habitat alteration and loss of ecosystem function in coastal environments and watersheds.
- Develop actionable information on the effectiveness of habitat enhancement, ecosystem restoration, nonpoint source pollution control, green infrastructure, low impact development and living shoreline planning and design initiatives.
- Develop new models, tools and technologies to improve the effectiveness of remediation and restoration of impaired habitats and identify new restoration approaches and technologies.

Resilient Communities and Economies (RCE)

- Develop new models, tools and technologies to help communities assess their vulnerability to climate-related hazards, such as shoreline erosion, flooding, drought and salt-water intrusion, man-made disasters and development.
- Develop new models, tools and technologies to inform comprehensive planning and adaptive management strategies.
- Develop and test new methods to inform coastal citizens about the connection between economic growth and resource protection, translate science on coastal hazards and increase awareness about coastal hazard mitigation measures.
- Determine how freshwater management policies, regulations, and socio-economic factors affect the relationship between sustainable coastal communities and healthy coastal ecosystems.
- Conduct research on population growth, land use changes and climate change to inform water use governance.
- Develop new models, tools and technologies to understand and visualize coastal hazards and disasters and assess interconnections with at-risk communities.

- Develop actionable information to assist keystone businesses, local governments and the public in planning for weather-related disasters in order to build resilience, improve communication and facilitate recovery.

Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture (SFA)

- Develop new models, tools and technologies to identify and respond to emerging issues that threaten the health and sustainability of Georgia’s seafood supply.
- Develop and test new models, tools and technologies to help Georgia’s seafood industry market their products and maximize profits.
- Develop actionable information to support sustainable and resilient working waterfronts and marine-dependent businesses.
- Assess rising concerns about bacteria and viruses, such as Vibrio species and norovirus, in a changing environment.

Aquaculture

- Develop new and optimize existing culture systems and practices for finfish, shellfish, shrimp and sea weeds in Georgia.
- Develop new and optimize existing integrated multi-trophic systems for marine aquaculture and aquaponic systems in Georgia.
- Conduct economic analyses of using public waters for aquaculture including an assessment of ecological and socio-economic benefits.
- Develop business models for oysters and other species, including hatcheries and grow-out for freshwater, low-salinity and marine species and systems.
- Facilitate the development of model state laws and guidance to address typical legal and regulatory barriers to the aquaculture industry,
- Surveys to assess and describe consumer, public, and coastal managers’ acceptance level and desire to promote aquaculture industries, including consumer perception and preferences, food safety, labeling and certifications, seafood demand studies and promotion of local seafood.
- Studies to assess siting issues related to marine aquaculture operations. Development of tools to aid in siting decisions.
- Develop sustainable alternative and emerging species including reproductive biology, nutrition and feeding, health, husbandry practices and other species-specific research.
- Improve the understanding of aquaculture interactions with wild stocks and the natural environment relative to diseases and other factors affecting product quality and sustainability.

Environment Literacy and Workforce Development (ELWD)

- Develop innovative learning methods to engage public in community planning processes for adaptive management to changing conditions.
- Develop innovative learning techniques to increase environmental literacy among stakeholders, including how ecosystem change affects economic, social, and cultural values, as well as implications for conservation and management.

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

Georgia Sea Grant has allocated approximately \$800,000 for the FY2020-2022 research competition. We anticipate funding 5-7 research awards with a maximum budget of \$150,000 for two years (including indirect costs). The total number of grants awarded by Georgia Sea Grant for the FY2020-2022 funding cycle will depend on the number and types of meritorious applications submitted in response to this request for proposals (RFP). Based on the project scope and budget of all applications selected for awards, the actual award amounts may differ from the funds requested by the applicant.

As part of the Sea Grant National Aquaculture Initiative (<https://seagrant.noaa.gov/Our-Work/Aquaculture>), we anticipate receiving additional funds to support aquaculture research. Therefore, we strongly encourage proposals that inform aquaculture in Georgia and will likely make additional funding available to projects submitted under this RFP.

Over the duration of two years, we will also invest nearly \$340,000 in Georgia Sea Grant's Research Traineeship Program. A separate RFP is being released for this program on January 15, 2019. Our traineeship program includes an assistantship that offers qualified undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to work with faculty at different universities in Georgia. The traineeship does not cover tuition and fees. Sea Grant funded research projects provide training in the students' major fields, and often provide material for dissertation and theses. The trainees work closely with faculty conducting research to formulate methodology and conduct scientific research. A Sea Grant trainee is expected to work as an investigator (not simply a research technician or laboratory helper) on the research project.

B. Project/Award Period

The start date for all research projects shall be February 1, 2020. Projects funded through this RFP will have a performance period up to 24 months. The projects will be awarded as two-year awards. Proposed projects should request funding up to two years, and applicants must include project plans and budgets for each year of the project. Funding for second year is contingent upon availability of funds from the Congress, satisfactory performance, continued relevance to program objectives, and is the sole discretion of Georgia Sea Grant.

Award recipients may request a no-cost extension of up to 6 months, if additional time beyond the established expiration date is required to assure adequate completion of the original scope of work within the funds already made available. Under such circumstances, a formal request must be submitted to Georgia Sea Grant via email to the director or associate director. The request must explain the need for the extension and a plan to use the unexpended balance. The research plan should not change the approved statement of work of the original proposal.

C. Georgia Sea Grant Traineeship Program

Georgia Sea Grant strives to identify qualified undergraduate and graduate students in all disciplines displaying evidence of high-levels of motivation and the capability to pursue marine, coastal and ocean science research. Under the supervision of their faculty advisors, undergraduate and graduate trainees are engaged in research projects that advance the goals and objectives outlined in our Strategic Plan. A Sea Grant Research Trainee is a full-time registered undergraduate or graduate student who is working towards a degree related to marine, ocean or coastal sciences. The assistance provided through our traineeship program does not cover student tuition and fees.

PIs can request an undergraduate and/or graduate research trainee on their projects and include the student in their budgets to guarantee funding. A separate competitive RFP for students will be launched by January 15, 2019 to provide research assistantships to undergraduate and graduate research trainees. Students working on Sea Grant funded projects will be given consideration, however no guarantee will be made that a student associated with a Sea Grant funded research project will be successful. To guarantee an undergraduate or graduate research trainee on projects, PIs are encouraged to include student costs in their research projects.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

- Universities and colleges: Georgia universities, and two- and four-year colleges (including community- colleges) acting on behalf of their faculty members. We strongly encourage applications from women and minorities, and faculty at Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) in Georgia.
- Nonprofit, non-academic institutions: Independent museums, observatories, research laboratories, professional societies, and similar organizations in Georgia that are directly associated with educational or research activities.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

At the full proposal stage, target budgets should be no greater than \$150,000 (full award amount for two years) in direct and indirect costs combined. Applicants can use their negotiated indirect rate to calculate indirect costs on their applications. If applicants do not have a federally negotiated indirect cost rate, the de-minimus 10% rate can be used. Applicants can also elect to use a rate lower than their federally negotiated indirect rate. The amount above, \$150,000, does not include the required matching funds provided by the PI. There is mandatory cost-sharing. For every two federal dollars received by a PI, one dollar in non-federal cost-sharing is required. Institutional cost-sharing may be one of two forms: in-kind contributions or matching funds. In-kind contributions are defined under federal guidelines as "contributions other than cash." While they usually add real value to a project, they do not require an actual cash outlay. Some examples of in-kind contributions are effort (existing salaries and benefits of investigators and others working on the proposed project and paid from non-federal sources), indirect costs not charged to the sponsor, third-party contributions and donated

labor, materials, equipment, supplies, ship-time, and services. Matching funds are actual cash contributions.

PIs can request any level of funding for undergraduate or graduate research trainees and matching funds are required for student costs included in the research projects. Matching funds will be not required for students who submit proposals in response to Georgia Sea Grant's Traineeship Program RFP.

C. Other Criteria That Affect Eligibility

Any eligible applicant may submit no more than two applications as principal investigator (PI) or co-PI.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. How to Submit Proposals

Georgia Sea Grant uses a web-based system called eSeaGrant (eSG) that allows preparation, submission, and management of proposals online. Mandatory registration is required before the pre-proposal submission process. Proposals that are not submitted via eSG will not be considered.

Prior to submitting an application, the PI must complete a one-time registration process in the eSG. It can take as long as two weeks to complete the registration process so it is critical to begin as soon as possible before the pre-proposal due date.

Instructions on how to register to use the system and how to upload your proposal to the eSG system can be viewed on the following webpage:

<https://gacoast.uga.edu/research/funding/sea-grant-request-proposal/>

No proposals will be accepted after the proposal deadline.

B. Pre-Proposal Phase

Submission of preliminary proposal (pre-proposal) is required to be eligible for a full proposal submission. Pre-proposals must be submitted using the eSG system. All pre-proposals will be subjected to administrative review. Pre-proposals that are not compliant with the guidelines may be returned without review. It is the investigator's responsibility to ensure that the proposal is compliant with all applicable guidelines. For collaborative proposals, only the lead institution should submit the proposal. All other collaborators should be indicated in the list of personnel in the project description.

Pre-proposals must be single-spaced or double spaced with 1-inch margins, written in 12 point, Times New Roman, and must contain the following items, arranged in the order listed, and strictly adhere to the specified page limitations. Figures and tables are included in the applicable page limitations. References are not included.

- 1) Investigator Information: Biographical Sketches (two-page limit for each) should be included for each person listed on the cover sheet. It should include the individual's expertise as it relates to the proposed research, professional preparation, professional appointments, five relevant publications and up to five synergistic activities. Advisors, advisees and collaborators should not be listed on this document.
- 2) Project Summary: Provide an overview of the proposed research, addressing separately the intellectual merit and broader impacts (engagement, education and outreach). The summary should be written in third person, informative to those working in the same or related field(s), and understandable to a scientifically literate audience. The summary should not exceed 250 words. Preliminary proposals that do not contain a project summary, including an overview and separate statements for intellectual merit and broader impacts will be returned without review.
- 3) Project Narrative: The pre-proposal narrative should not exceed two pages.
 - a. What is the research problem, issue, need or hypothesis requiring this work?
 - b. What is the significance of the proposed research?
 - c. What is the project's relevance to the Georgia Sea Grant program goals as outlined in the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan?
 - d. What are the goals and objectives of the proposed research?
 - e. What will be methodology used? Include theoretical studies, laboratory analyses and/or fieldwork, etc.
 - f. What are the economic, social and/or environmental benefits of the proposed research?
 - g. Has an education and outreach plan been considered?
 - h. Who will use and benefit from this research? How will the results be made available to the user?
- 4) References: Limit references to a single page.
- 5) Budget: An estimate of the total funding that will be requested by year is required at the pre-proposal phase.

No other items, appendices, letters of support or supplementary documents are permitted for preliminary proposals. Only acrobat (PDF) documents are accepted, and page numbers must be included.

C. Full Proposal Phase

Full proposals will be accepted from all potential investigators who have submitted a pre-proposal, however priority will be given to pre-proposals that have been encouraged by Georgia Sea Grant to be developed into full proposal. The full proposal should not deviate substantially from the pre-proposal in the scope of the project or the list of personnel. Proposals submitted in response to this solicitation via eSG should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the instructions given below.

All full proposals will be subjected to administrative review. Full-proposals that are not compliant with the guidelines may be returned without review. It is the investigator's responsibility to ensure that the proposal is compliant with all applicable guidelines. For collaborative proposals, only the lead institution should submit the proposal. All other collaborators should be indicated in the list of personnel in the project description.

Full proposals must be single-spaced with 1-inch margins, written in 12 point, Times New Roman, and must contain the following items, arranged in the order listed, and strictly adhere to the specified page limitations. Figures and tables are included in the applicable page limitations. References are not included.

- 1) Investigator Information: Investigator information is carried over from preliminary proposal stage and updated to reflect changes in senior personnel.
- 2) Project Summary: Each proposal must contain a one-page summary of the proposed project. The project summary consists of an overview of the proposed research activity, a statement on the intellectual merit of the proposed activity, statement on the education and outreach components of the proposed activity. The overview includes a description of the research need that will be addressed if the proposal were funded, identification of Georgia Sea Grant's focus area(s), and a statement of objectives and methods that will be employed to conduct research. The statement on intellectual merit should describe the potential of the proposed activity to advance knowledge. The statement on broader impacts should describe the potential of the proposed activity to benefit Georgia, its coastal communities, and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired, societal outcomes.
- 3) Project Description: The project description should be limited to 12-pages in length. It should provide a clear statement of work that will be undertaken and must include: research need, goals and objectives for the period of the proposed research, expected significance of the research project, relevance to 2018-2021 Strategic Plan, and relation to the present state of knowledge in the field. The project description should also outline the general plan of work including a broad design of the research project, clear methodology, outreach and extension plan, expected outputs and outcomes, any professional or technical partnerships that will be leveraged or created, and timelines for major tasks; target milestones and key project outcomes.

Some guiding questions are as follows.

- a. *Rationale*: What is the proposed research? What is the problem or issue that the proposed research will address? Why should Georgia Sea Grant invest in the proposed project?
- b. *Scientific or Professional Merit*: How will the proposed research advance the state of the scientific knowledge or discipline? How will the proposed research be implemented? Which methods will be used in the proposed research?
- c. *Innovativeness*: How is the proposed research unique? How does the proposed research activity lead to innovative solutions to a research need that is being addressed?
- d. *Relationship to Sea Grant Priorities*: What is the project's relevance to the Georgia Sea Grant program goals as outlined in the Strategic Plan?
- e. *Task Outputs and Outcomes*: What benefits (societal/economic/environmental) could accrue if the project is successful? How does the proposed research contribute to, or is an essential or complementary unit to other projects?
- f. *User Relationships*: Who will use and benefit from your research? Are the users engaged in developing the proposal? How will the results be made available to the users?

- g. *Partnerships*: Does the project leverage or create any professional or technical partnerships? Are the roles of partners and any efforts or resources that will be leveraged to support the project clearly outlined?
 - h. *Milestone schedule*: Does the project description clearly outline a timeline for major tasks, target milestones for important intermediate and final products and key program outcomes?
- 4) References: Reference information is required and should include the name of all authors (in the same sequence that they appear in the publication), the article and journal title, book title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. The list of references should be limited to two pages. These pages are outside of the 12-page project description.
 - 5) Budget Narrative and Justification: In order to allow reviewers to evaluate the appropriateness of all costs, applications should include a detailed budget narrative and a budget justification broken out by individual tasks for both years. The budget narrative submitted with the final application should match the dollar amounts included on all required forms and clearly link to the project narrative. Please explain each calculation and provide a narrative justification to explain expenditures for each budget category. The budget narrative should describe, by category of expenditure, the total funding needed to accomplish the objectives described in the project description for the entire award period.

Applicants should include detailed budget information regarding all known contracts and subawards, and indicate the basis for the cost and price estimates in the narrative. Describe activities to occur or products or services to be obtained and indicate the applicability or necessity of each to the project.

The budget narrative should also provide, to the extent possible, detailed information on travel, including costs, a description of anticipated travel, destinations, number of travelers, and a justification of how the requested travel is directly relevant to the successful completion of the project.

- 6) Appendices:
 - a. *Biographical Sketches*: Biographical Sketches (two-page limit for each) should be included for each person listed on the cover sheet. It should include the individual's expertise as it relates to the proposed research, professional preparation, professional appointments, five relevant publications and up to five synergistic activities. Advisors, advisees and collaborators should not be listed on this document.
 - b. *Letters of Collaboration*: Letters of support from collaborating institutions, contributors of in-kind or matching funds, and organizations that will benefit from project results may be included. Letters must clearly indicate the level of commitment and/or collaboration.
- 7) Data Management Plan: 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, except where limited by law, regulation, policy or by security requirements.

The requirement has two parts: (1) environmental data generated by a research project must be made available after a reasonable period of exclusive use, and (2) the grant proposal must describe the plan to make the data available.

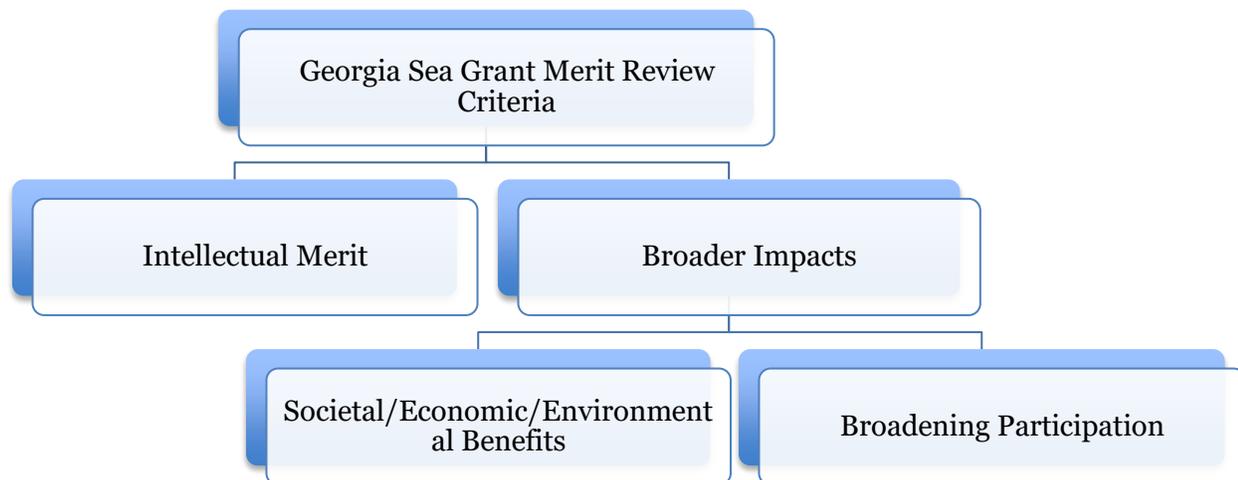
All applicants are required to complete a one-page Data Management Plan” (DMP) in their full proposal (see Appendix A for more details). Funds may be allocated for data management activities. The DMP is not part of the 12-page project description. Even if no data will be produced, a DMP is required that states: “No data are expected to be produced from this project.” Data Management Plans are not required at the pre-proposal stage.

In collaborative proposals, involving sub-awards, the lead PI is responsible for the DMP of the entire project. The lead PI may assign different roles and responsibilities to co-PIs with respect to the management of data. The lead PI is also responsible to provide a contingency plan for management of data in case of departure of key personnel from the project. The lead PI is also responsible for reporting in the Annual and Final Reports on the data management, preservation and access for the whole project.

DMPs will be considered during the merit review process.

V. Merit Review Information

To maintain the highest quality, integrity and relevance of Georgia Sea Grant funded research, we have modeled the core values of our merit review process after the National Science Foundation’s gold standard of scientific review. The primary goal of Georgia Sea Grant’s merit review process is to ensure that all proposals are evaluated in a transparent, objective and rigorous manner.



Similar to the National Science Foundation, Georgia Sea Grant merit review includes two criteria – Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts. Both criteria are to be given full consideration during the

review and decision-making process; each criterion is necessary but neither, by itself, is sufficient. The intellectual merit criterion encompasses the potential to advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields. The broader impacts criterion encompasses the potential to prepare a diverse workforce, the potential to advance societal/economic/environmental outcomes by integrating outreach and extension activities, and/or the potential to broaden participation from underrepresented groups.

A. Merit Review Process

All pre-proposals that are submitted in response to Georgia Sea Grant's FY2020-2022 RFP will undergo review by a panel composed of technical experts, stakeholders and advisory board members. Fully developed proposals that are submitted in response to encouragement from the pre-proposal process will be subjected to peer review. Following the completion of the peer review process, Georgia Sea Grant will convene a technical review panel that is capable of interpreting peer reviews within the fields of specialty in which proposals are under consideration. The technical review panel will rank the proposals on the basis of overall quality and advise Georgia Sea Grant on which proposals should be considered for funding. The technical review panel will operate under procedures to avoid conflict of interest and will include Georgia Sea Grant's NSGO program officer. Prior to notifying proposers of the outcome of the proposal process, the director of Georgia Sea Grant will inform the NSGO of Georgia Sea Grant's intended decisions and document the corresponding rationale for the record. Once the NSGO has approved the decision-making process, Georgia Sea Grant will notify all proposers of the decisions regarding the proposals. Records of the proposal and decision-making process, including peer reviews and technical reviews, will be maintained for audit.

B. Selection of Reviewers

Georgia Sea Grant strives to ensure selection of diverse experts who can provide us with appropriate information needed to make a funding decision. Selection of reviewers is based on the following criteria.

- Specialized knowledge of the science and engineering subfields involved in the proposals to be reviewed to evaluate competence, intellectual merit, and utility of the proposed activity.
- Broader or generalized knowledge of the science and engineering subfields involved in the proposals to be reviewed to evaluate the broader impacts of the proposed activity.
- Broad knowledge of the infrastructure of the science and engineering enterprise, and its educational activities, to evaluate the contributions to broader impacts.
- Broad knowledge of environmental issues and research needs in Georgia.
- Broad knowledge of 2018-2021 Strategic Plan to establish relevance of the proposed research activity in achieving the goals and objectives of the plan.
- To the extent possible, diverse representation within the review group, including but not limited to, reviewer diversity, type of organization represented, age distribution and geographic balance.

C. Pre-proposal Phase Review Process

Evaluation Criteria

Pre-proposals will be evaluated on the basis of following criteria.

- Scientific and technical feasibility of the proposed research project.
- Relevance to the goals and strategies of our 2018-2021 Strategic Plan.
- Feasibility of the project within the proposed timeframe and budget.
- Investigators' expertise.
- Use of collaborative or multidisciplinary teams, where appropriate.

Administrative Review

Upon receiving the pre-proposal, Georgia Sea Grant conducts an administrative review to ensure completeness and conformance with the pre-proposal submission requirements. Adherence to guidelines is strictly enforced. If the proposal does not adhere to the instructions in the solicitation, then Georgia Sea Grant may return the pre-proposal without review. Pre-proposals that meet our administrative requirements are considered during the stakeholder panel for review.

Stakeholder Panel Review

The review panel will be comprised of members of diverse stakeholder groups including representatives from underrepresented groups, coastal managers and decision makers, extension specialists, subject matter experts and advisory board members. Based on the panel recommendations, Georgia Sea Grant will communicate decisions either encouraging or discouraging investigators to submit full proposals via eSG. The reviewers' comments (blinded) will be made available to the PIs. There will be no rebuttal or response process.

D. Full Proposal Phase Review Process

Evaluation Criteria

Full proposals will be evaluated on the basis of following criteria.

- Scientific and technical feasibility of the proposed research project.
- Engagement with users/practitioners.
- Coordination with Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant staff to develop outreach and communication plans.
- Relevance to the goals and strategies of our 2018-2021 Strategic Plan.
- Feasibility of the project within the proposed timeframe and budget.
- Investigators' expertise.
- Use of collaborative or multidisciplinary teams, where appropriate.
- Data management plan.

Administrative Review

Georgia Sea Grant conducts an administrative review of all full proposals to ensure completeness and conformance with the full proposal submission requirements. Adherence to guidelines is strictly enforced. If the proposal does not adhere to the instructions in the solicitation, then Georgia Sea Grant may return the proposal without review. Full proposals that meet our administrative requirements are considered during the stakeholder panel for review.

Peer Review

After undergoing administrative review, all full proposals will go through a standard review process by at least three out-of-state scholars in a particular field to evaluate the scientific merit of the proposal and to ensure the reliability of the material being presented. Full proposals submitted in response to this solicitation will be reviewed by Ad hoc Review. Each reviewer will complete a summary rating and accompanying narrative. Verbatim copies of reviews, excluding the names of the reviewers, are sent to the PIs using eSG. The proposers will be allowed to rebut, answer questions raised or clarify the doubts.

Technical Panel Review

Technical review panel will be composed of out-of-state subject matter experts and extension specialists. Each proposal will be assigned to one primary reviewer and one secondary reviewer. During the technical panel review meeting, the primary reviewer will take the lead in summarizing the assigned proposal, discussing its merits, and offering the perspectives of peer reviewers. The secondary reviewer will cover additional viewpoints not mentioned by the primary panelist. The proposal will then be open for discussion and anyone on the panel can join in. A scribe will be assigned for each proposal and will be responsible for taking notes and summarizing the comments made by the primary and secondary reviewers and other panelists. After the discussion, the panel will come to a consensus about the strengths/weaknesses and ranking of the proposal. The maximum time allotted for the discussion of each proposal will be 15 minutes. The panel will be asked to formulate a recommendation to either support or decline each proposal. Panel comments (blinded) will be made available to the PIs using eSG. There will be no rebuttal or response process after the technical panel review. Based on the panel recommendations, Georgia Sea Grant will communicate the decision to accepted for funding/not accepted for funding to all investigators whose full proposals were reviewed by the technical panel.

Business Review

All proposals that are recommended for funding undergo a review by Georgia Sea Grant Fiscal Officer for business, financial and policy implications and the processing and issuance of a grant.

VI. Important Dates

January 4	Request for pre-proposals released
January 14	RFP informational webinar
February 11	Pre-proposals due
March 11	Pre-proposal review panel
March 22	Invitation for full proposals
April (Date TBD)	Prospective researchers workshop and research symposium
May 3	Full proposals due
June 26	Full proposal technical review panel
September 1	Funding notification

Prospective applicants are invited to participate in our RFP informational webinar on Monday, January 14 from 3:30-5:00pm using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/403157261>

The webinar and slides will also be posted on our website on this link:
<https://gacoast.uga.edu/research/funding/sea-grant-request-proposal/>

VII. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

Applications recommended for funding by Georgia Sea Grant will be forwarded to the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO). Notification of the award is made to all lead PIs who submitted the full proposal via email. Verbatim copies of reviews, not including the identity of the reviewer, will be provided automatically to the PI.

A Georgia Sea Grant award consists of: (i) the award letter which includes any special provisions applicable to the award and any numbered amendments thereto; (ii) an itemized budget, on which Georgia Sea Grant has based its support; (iii) the proposal referenced in the award letter; and (iv) any applicable award conditions.

B. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NEPA requires that Federal agencies consider the environmental impacts of major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. If a proposed project might have an environmental impact, the proposal should furnish sufficient information to assist Sea Grant in assessing the environmental consequences of supporting the project. Applicants will be required to cooperate with Sea Grant in identifying feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. Failure to do so shall be grounds for not selecting an application. Georgia Sea Grant will determine:

- the adequacy of the information submitted;
- whether or not additional information is needed; and
- whether or not an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement will be necessary.

A NEPA form will only be required if the application is selected for funding.

C. Data Sharing

After an award has been made, implementation of DMP will be monitored through the annual and final report process. PIs will be required to provide information on the data produced during the award period, where the data is being deposited, and how the data will be disseminated for long-term public access.

Failure to comply with DMP during and after the award may lead to ineligibility for future funding.

Investigators may use any resource to deposit and archive their research related data. Although this list is not exhaustive, yet some useful websites are as follows.

<https://data.gulfresearchinitiative.org/>
<http://www.nodc.noaa.gov/argo/>
<http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/repository>

D. Reporting

Georgia Sea Grant adheres to the highest ethical standards in conducting research, and expects substantial outcomes from supported research projects. All outcomes should be submitted for peer-reviewed publications with authorship that accurately reflects the contributions of each participant on the research project. Georgia Sea Grant expects timely dissemination of research results, data-sharing, and access to samples, collections or other supporting materials that are created or gathered during the research process.

For all Sea Grant funded projects, the lead PI is required to submit progress and annual project reports. These reports collect information about project participants, research activities, outcomes, publications, tools and technology developed, management and decision-making processes influenced, education products and programs developed, and other products and contributions, which are critical to Georgia Sea Grant's annual performance evaluation.

All progress related to Georgia Sea Grant funded research projects must be submitted to Sea Grant using eSG. Within 90 days after expiration of a grant, the PI is also required to submit a final project report. Failure to provide the required annual or final project report data jeopardizes continued funding.

VIII. Program Contacts

- For questions about Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant or program priorities, please contact director, Mark Risse at mrisse@uga.edu.
- For questions about application submission, review and approval process and the eSG system, please contact associate director, Mona Behl: mbehl@uga.edu.

Appendix A

Sea Grant Data Management Plan Form

Title of the Proposal (required answer):

Name of the lead PI (required answer): Sea Grant requires that the lead PI serve as the data steward.

Contact Information (required answer):

Dataset Description(s) (required answer): What data will the dataset(s) contain? This includes descriptive details on data types, inclusion of metadata, data format(s), collection times / date ranges, etc. What name(s), if any, will be designated to the dataset(s)?

Do you agree to release all data no later than 2 years after the end-date of the project? (required answer):

Issues (required answer): Are there any legal, access, retention, etc. issues anticipated for the dataset? If yes, please explain.

Data Size: What will be the estimated size of the dataset? Please report estimated number of MB, GB, TB, etc., collected.

Data Format: What format will the dataset utilize? (i.e., Excel file, model code, audio/video recording, etc.)

Ownership (required answer): Who will own the dataset, if not the lead PI?

Post-Processing: What post-processing, QA/QC will this dataset undergo? Who will be responsible for performing this post-processing and QA/QC to prepare the dataset for its deposition into a repository?

Preservation Plan (required answer): What data repositories will be used to host the dataset? If none, how will the data be preserved?

Products: Will any information or data products be developed from this dataset? How will the related costs be supported? Which organization(s) will be producing these products?

Other Comments: Are there any additional comments related to the data that will results from your Sea Grant-funded study?