



**CONNECTICUT SEA GRANT
COLLEGE PROGRAM
CALL FOR
PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS
2008-2010 OMNIBUS FUNDING CYCLE**

You are invited at this time to submit preliminary proposals to the Connecticut Sea Grant College Program (CTSG) for the funding period of February 1, 2008 to January 31, 2010. Any investigator seeking support for this period must submit a preliminary proposal by mail or in person, which must reach the Connecticut Sea Grant Office by **4:30 p.m. EST on Thursday, March 1, 2007**. Email or fax submissions will NOT be accepted. The due date for full proposals (for those investigators invited to submit full proposals) is June 1, 2007. The first year of the funding period covered by this Call for Proposals begins on February 1, 2008.

Connecticut Sea Grant supports applied research, education, and outreach activities aimed at fostering the sustainable use and conservation of coastal and marine resources for the benefit of the environment and current and future generations of residents of Connecticut and the Region. Applied projects with clear relevance to Connecticut's marine and coastal resources will be given priority. However, CTSG may also fund research (at Connecticut institutions) with broader applicability to national marine and coastal issues.

Topic Areas

CTSG seeks proposals for coastal/marine research, outreach, and education of the highest quality and relevance within the focus areas identified by *Blueprint for a Coastal Legacy: Connecticut Sea Grant Strategic Plan 2007-2011* (available on the CTSG website). Based on these theme areas, additional strategic guidelines and priorities of NOAA and the National Sea Grant College Program (reflected in their respective strategic plans), and our external advisory committees, CTSG solicits preliminary proposals in the following topic areas:

1. Marine aquaculture and biotechnology

This topic area encompasses research that contributes to the expansion of environmentally- and economically-sustainable marine aquaculture in Connecticut and the Northeast. This includes research that directly or indirectly reduces impediments to a sound business; improves the potential for profitability; enables management of aquatic ecosystem health; directs or enhances relevant biotechnology; addresses issues of conflict and policy; and assesses impacts of aquaculture on the economy and/or environment.

2. Use and conservation of marine resources, ecosystems and habitats

This topic area encompasses research that directly or indirectly supports management efforts to conserve and protect ecosystems, habitats and living resources in Long Island Sound and its watershed, Connecticut and the Northeast United States. Areas of particular emphasis include:

- a. Coastal Land Use and Community Planning
- b. Habitat Restoration and Enhancement
- c. Aquatic Invasive Species
- d. Use and Conservation of Marine Resources

Within these general focus areas, CTSG particularly welcomes proposals that recognize the critical importance of linkages within ecological systems and the potential implications of regional research for broader management challenges. More specifically, CTSG will give priority to proposals that:

- A. Recognize Long Island Sound (and neighboring coastal lands and waters) as a **coordinated ecological system**. This includes research topics that incorporate a systems-based perspective, and provide information relevant to ecosystem-based management.
- B. Use the Long Island Sound ecosystem—as one of the more highly urbanized US estuaries—as a **model to explore broader implications and management of human pressures** on estuarine systems.
- C. **Make efficient use of requested funds** through leveraging with partner organizations and optimal use of new and existing data.
- D. **Coordinate research with education and/or outreach activities.**¹

While it is not necessary that proposals incorporate all of these elements (i.e., A, B, C and D), adherence to one or more of these principals will be a positive factor in proposal evaluation. Moreover, while CTSG strongly encourages proposals that integrate research, education and/or outreach, all proposals must incorporate a central research component.² This research component may be derived from either the natural or social sciences. If in doubt regarding the suitability of a research topic for CTSG funding, please contact the Sea Grant Office.

Duration and Funding

Proposed activities may be of one or two years in duration. In exceptional cases extensions may be granted for activities that extend beyond two years, but initial funding is limited to the period between February 2008 and January 2010. Successful proposals are typically in the range of \$25,000 to \$65,000 *per year*, including all direct and indirect costs. CTSG typically receives 20-30 preliminary proposals, from which 12-15 full proposals are solicited. From these, the program typically funds 3 to 5 awards during each two-year funding cycle. Sea Grant support is awarded on a competitive basis, and is available to researchers at all non-profit academic institutions, research laboratories, and extension/outreach facilities in Connecticut. CTSG will also fund projects involving partnerships with non-Connecticut institutions. See “Preliminary Proposal Guidelines” for more detail.

PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

A preliminary proposal, while not as detailed as a full proposal, should clearly define the objectives, rationale, and methodology for the project, as well as the potential benefits and qualifications of the investigators who would perform the work. Proposals involving multiple investigators and/or multiple Sea Grant programs are welcome. Proposals requesting funding that is complementary to that sought from other sponsors are also welcome; in this case, other funding sources and amounts should be disclosed.

A preliminary proposal to CTSG should consist of 1] a preliminary proposal cover sheet, 2] a project description of up to 3 single-space, single-sided pages of text, 3] a list of references cited, 4] a budget form (one page per project year, plus one for the total project), and 5] a two-page curriculum vitae for each investigator. Cover sheets and budget forms are available on the CTSG website, <http://www.seagrants.uconn.edu/funding.htm>. No appendices or other attachments are permitted.

The preliminary proposal project description must conform to stated page limitations, including minimum 1-inch

¹ Highest priority will be given to proposals that provide substantive evidence of coordination with extension, communication or education activities or specify other clear means through which impacts will be achieved. This includes evidence that related activities have been considered as an integral part of proposal development and not simply appended to an already completed proposal. For those interested, Connecticut Sea Grant Outreach (Extension and Communications) and Education staff members are available to discuss ideas for meaningful outreach and education components to research proposals. Requests for assistance may be made to the Sea Grant office in a timely manner, well before the pre-proposal and budget are fully-developed. Last-minute requests for assistance will not be considered.

² For example, proposals for internships or similar projects should identify proposed research activities that will be undertaken, or how the proposed activities will integrate with and contribute to scientific research. Education and outreach activities that do not incorporate original research of some type will not be considered.

margins and 12-point font. Illustrations and tables must be of legible size, and are *included* in the page limitation. References cited may be included as a separate section, *in addition* to stated page limits. Letters from potential collaborators may also be included, and are not included in the stated page limitations. However, these letters are to be used to express support and collaboration only—not to provide project information.

Investigators must submit sixteen (16) complete paper copies of each preliminary proposal, *in addition* to an electronic copy on CD (preferred) or 3.5-inch floppy disk(s). Electronic files *must* be in Microsoft Word, Wordperfect, or Adobe PDF format. Fax or email submissions are NOT acceptable. Hard copies and electronic media must reach the Connecticut Sea Grant Office by 4:30 p.m. EST on Thursday, March 1, 2007. *Preliminary proposals that are not received by this deadline will be returned without review, as will preliminary proposals that fail to comply with content, format and length requirements.* Preliminary proposals should be addressed to Robert Johnston, Associate Director, at the address listed below. Unless otherwise required by your institution, we do not require that University (or institutional) sponsored programs offices formally approve preliminary proposals prior to submission.

Requests for full proposals will be sent to only those prospective principal investigators with the highest-ranked preliminary proposals following panel review and evaluation. Comments relating to the evaluation of each pre-proposal will be disseminated to each primary author on or before April 6, 2007. For those investigators invited to submit full proposals, the deadline for these full proposals is Friday, June 1, 2007 at 4:30 p.m. EDT.

Successful Connecticut Sea Grant proposals are typically in the range of \$25,000 to \$65,000 per year, including all direct and indirect costs. Sea Grant is a matching funds program, which requires that at least 50% of the aggregate federal dollars received be matched by state or private funds. CTSG therefore expects that proposals will include at least 50% match. Additional information regarding match/cost sharing at the University of Connecticut may be found at http://www.osp.uconn.edu/prop_guidelines.php#bdgt_costshare.

For more information and downloadable forms, see <http://www.seagrant.uconn.edu/funding.htm>, or contact:

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SPECIAL GUIDELINES FOR MULTI-PROGRAM PROPOSALS

Occasionally, investigators choose to submit proposals for larger projects to several different Sea Grant offices, with each office asked to support a specifically identified component of the overall project (multi-program or regional proposals). The Sea Grant Programs in the Northeast (New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, MIT, Woods Hole, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine) have established a process for reviewing and funding research proposals that have regional relevance, principal investigators from multiple states, and that can be funded cooperatively by multiple Sea Grant programs. If you are interested in submitting a regional proposal, **you must contact your local Sea Grant director to discuss this process.**

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

1. Each co-PI must make contact with the Sea Grant director in their host state to discuss the process for regional proposals and indicate his/her intention of submitting a regional proposal.
2. Each co-PI must submit the identical preliminary proposal (project description section and budget) to their host Sea Grant program following the proposal submission guidelines indicated in the Sea Grant program's RFP. Preliminary proposals must be submitted to all programs involved on the earliest due date among those Sea Grant programs as indicated in their RFPs. Preliminary proposals should include

all information in the submission guidelines and clearly indicate all co-PIs involved, Sea Grant programs involved, and budget information.

3. Each co-PI must include a cover letter with the preliminary proposal that identifies the other co-PIs, the other Sea Grant program(s) that will receive the pre-proposal, the lead PI, and an indication that all co-PIs have spoken with their Sea Grant directors about the proposal.
4. Each co-PI must submit an individual budget with their preliminary proposal as well as a total aggregate budget for the project that indicates the funding request from the other Sea Grant program(s).
5. Each Sea Grant program will conduct a review of the preliminary proposal and will inform the other Sea Grant programs of the outcome of the review.
6. If each Sea Grant program supports the preliminary proposal and invites it back for full proposal submission, then the programs will negotiate with the co-PIs and the lead Sea Grant institution to determine an appropriate level of funding commitment for their portion of the award if it reviews well and is selected for funding.
7. If any of the Sea Grant programs do not support the preliminary proposal for full proposal submission, then the decision to submit a full proposal to an individual Sea Grant program is left to the PI and the director of that Sea Grant program.
8. If invited back as a regional proposal, the full proposal will be reviewed by the Sea Grant program that is host to the lead PI.
9. Copies of the full proposal must be sent to the other Sea Grant programs that are involved with the regional project. Full proposals must be submitted to all programs involved on the earliest due date among those Sea Grant programs as indicated in their RFPs.

Although efforts have been made to synchronize due dates and notification dates between the Sea Grant programs in the Northeast, there are unavoidable differences in the schedules. It is critical that submitters be familiar with, and comply with, the due dates of their host Sea Grant programs.

NOTE ON THE SUBMISSION OF FULL PROPOSALS

Full Proposal Guidelines will be available through your campus Research Office, or from the Connecticut Sea Grant Office or website (above). These guidelines will be published on or before April 6, 2007, when investigators are notified as to the status of preliminary proposals. Please be aware that CTSG is required to submit all final proposals electronically through the Grants.gov system. Hence, it is important that investigators follow forthcoming full proposal guidelines carefully, and are prepared to submit proposals to CTSG in the required electronic formats. For those investigators invited to submit full proposals, the deadline is **Friday, June 1, 2007 at 4:30 p.m. EDT**.

Because proposals cannot be changed once selected for inclusion in the CTSG Omnibus (e.g., for funding), **CTSG requires that all full proposals be reviewed and approved by the appropriate University (or institutional) sponsored programs office prior to submission to our office.** If you have questions regarding this requirement, please contact Robert J. Johnston, Associate Director.

RELATED FUNDING SOURCES

Requests for smaller grants, typically less than \$3,000 but in rare cases as much as \$5,000, may be made at any time via the CTSG development fund and regional/multiprogram initiative. Contact the CTSG office for further details. Other calls based on Sea Grant National Strategic Investment initiatives will be announced as they become available. Announcements regarding the John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowships and other such opportunities will be made in due course.

Other funding sources for activities addressing Connecticut coastal and marine resources include small and large grants from the EPA Long Island Sound Study (<http://www.longislandsoundstudy.net> or <http://www.nfwf.org/programs/longisland/index.cfm>) and grants from the CT DEP Long Island Sound Fund (<http://dep.state.ct.us/olisp/licplate/licplate.htm>). While addressing complementary topics, these programs are not formally associated with Connecticut Sea Grant.