

# Ohio Sea Grant College Program

*Call for Research Pre-proposals: 1 February 2018 – 31 January 2020*

The Ohio Sea Grant College Program is requesting pre-proposals for one- or two-year research projects on Great Lakes issues with particular significance to Ohio and Lake Erie. Our preference is to support a diversity of projects; therefore, proposals should not exceed **\$60,000 per year**, including indirect costs (projects of up to two years in duration are acceptable). Approximately \$360,000 is available in each project year (1 February 2018 to 31 January 2019 and 1 February 2019 to 31 January 2020). The application and use, as well as the sociological and economic impact of research results, are important considerations for Sea Grant funding. Projects including a social science component are highly encouraged. Finally, collaboration with industry and/or state, regional, and federal agencies is strongly encouraged and rewarded.

**PRE-PROPOSAL DEADLINE:** Ohio Sea Grant must receive a PDF version on its web page [ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/submit](http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/submit) by **5:00pm Thursday 11 May, 2017**.

**PROPOSAL DEADLINE:** Ohio Sea Grant must receive a PDF version on its web page [ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/submit](http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/submit) by **5:00pm Thursday 3 August, 2017**.

## Ohio Sea Grant's Strategic Plan and Funding Priorities

Ohio Sea Grant is one of 33 state Sea Grant programs that are part of the parent National Sea Grant College Program (NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce). Ohio Sea Grant has four main research foci: 1) Healthy Coastal Ecosystems, 2) Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, 3) Resilient Communities and Economies, and 4) Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development. Any proposal that addresses: 1) Ohio Sea Grant's main priorities (listed below), 2) Ohio's state agency priorities (listed below), or 3) Ohio Sea Grant's strategic plan ([ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research](http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research)) will be considered.

This year Ohio Sea Grant's main priorities for funding include:

- Crude Oil Transport (e.g., risk, economic evaluation of transport methods, outreach and education materials for risk evaluation, spill and emergency preparedness)
- Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (e.g., impacts to biota, ability of both wastewater and water treatment facilities to address these issues, concentrations within receiving waterbodies)
- Tourism and Coastal Economic Development (e.g., market and nonmarket value of the Lake Erie watershed)
- Aquaculture (e.g., research and extension efforts that support improvements in nutrition, reproduction, larval rearing, and genomics that seek to address questions, barriers, or hurdles impeding the advancement of aquaculture initiatives)
- Sensor Technology Development (e.g., nutrient and toxin sensors)
- Environmental Economics
- Environmental Education Curriculum to compliment the Lake Erie Literacy Principles

Ohio Sea Grant works with Ohio's state agencies (Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Ohio Department of Agriculture) to align our research portfolio with the needs of the state. Below are specific priorities related to agency needs. Research that

directly addresses these funding priorities is also encouraged, but not required. **Any harmful algal bloom related research projects that are not specifically addressed in the priorities below are encouraged to apply for Ohio Department of Higher Education - Harmful Algal Bloom Research Initiative funding (request for proposals to be released by the end of April).**

### **AGENCY PRIORITIES:**

- Impacts of climate change and/or nutrient dynamics on recruitment of economically important sportfish.
  - Evaluate influence of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia on the distribution and behavior of Lake Erie fish assemblages.
  - Understand how climate change may impact population dynamics and ecology of cool and cold-water fish species (e.g., walleye, lake trout, lake whitefish, lake herring) in Lake Erie.
- Understanding of yellow perch spawning and recruitment, especially relative to the dynamics that seem to produce such different hatches in each basin.
- Evaluating near-shore, “nature-based” shoreline practices for erosion reduction.
- Evaluating coastal emergent vegetation restoration in light of lake level change and variability.
- Development of market strategies and associated cost/benefit economics for beneficial reuse of dredged material.
- Evaluate tax revenue implications to local governments and school districts if a conservation land tax abatement program is implemented. Can land tax abatement provide relief to landowners who place land into a long-term conservation that improves water quality?
- Understanding of the effect of cover crops to wildlife, and to provide information to landowners about the best ways to use cover crops to get water quality benefits without detrimental effects to wildlife.
- Development and tracking social indicators regarding agricultural BMPs for production/yields, water quality improvements, Lake Erie water quality, etc.

### **FUNDING SCHEDULE AND SUMMARY**

- **Thursday, 11 May 2017 by 5:00p.m.** – Applicants should submit a PDF version of their pre-proposal by accessing [ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/submit](http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/submit), selecting “2018-2020 Large Grant pre-proposal”, and uploading one PDF file.
- **Friday, 9 June 2017** – Applicants will be notified of the status of their pre-proposal (encouraged or discouraged from submitting a full proposal).
- **Thursday, 15 June 2017 at 1:00p.m.** – Ohio Sea Grant will host a webinar for investigators to discuss the full proposal process, ask questions and explore possible opportunities for collaboration.
- **Thursday, 3 August 2017 by 5:00p.m.** – Applicants should submit a PDF version of their full proposal by accessing [ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/submit](http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/submit), selecting “2018-2020 Large Grant full proposal”, and uploading one PDF file.
- **Thursday, 21 September 2017** – Applicants receive copies of external peer reviews.
- **Thursday, 28 September 2017** – Deadline for Ohio Sea Grant to receive comments (one copy) from investigators wishing to respond to peer reviews.
- **Friday, 13 October 2017** – Applicants will be notified as to whether their proposal will be included in the omnibus proposal submitted by Ohio Sea Grant to the National Sea Grant Program.

**PRE-PROPOSALS:** The pre-proposal process allows investigators to outline projects and receive feedback without spending the time required to prepare a full proposal. Successfully completing the pre-proposal process (i.e., being asked to submit a full proposal) does not, however, guarantee funding.

A PDF version of the pre-proposal (with all pieces of the pre-proposal in one PDF document) must be submitted to Ohio Sea Grant by **5 p.m. on Thursday, 11 May 2017**. Applicants should submit by accessing [ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/submit](http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/submit), selecting “2018-2020 Large Grant pre-proposal” and uploading files. **Pre-proposals should include, in one single PDF document, the following:**

- A cover page of your own design that includes the project title, and the name, affiliation, address, telephone numbers, and email address of each investigator; this cover page must be signed by the Principal Investigator;
- A maximum of three pages of summary narrative (form 90-2) explaining the objectives, methodology, and rationale for the proposed project (11pt., Times New Roman font preferred); 90-2 is available on our website at ([ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/funding](http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/funding));
- A Sea Grant budget form (form 90-4) for each year of the project (max 2 years) and a summary budget combining both years; 90-4 is available on our website at ([ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/funding](http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/funding));
- A two-page vita for each investigator;
- Letters of support from partners in management agencies and/or industry are encouraged, but not required at the pre-proposal stage (a minimum of two will be required at the full proposal stage).

Progress/completion reports for Sea Grant projects are submitted annually. **Reporting on all previous grants must be current before an investigator’s pre-proposal will be accepted.** Submitting electronic reprints to our office of resultant publications is a part of investigators’ reporting requirements.

A new federal (NOAA) requirement that asks principal investigators to make all data associated with each funded project, including a thorough description of the data, available to outside requests within two years of project completion. Additional details about this requirement and Data Management Plan form will be included in the full proposal instructions.

The initiation date for new projects in this two-year submission can be 1 February 2018 or 1 February 2019. While projects can be approved for more than one year, funding is approved annually and is dependent upon federal appropriations. Contact the Ohio Sea Grant office if you have any questions regarding this process.

**FULL PROPOSALS:** Detailed guidelines for preparing full proposals will be emailed 9 June 2017. Full proposals will be due by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 3 August 2017 and will require the following sections:

- Summary form (90-2)
- Budget forms (90-4) and justification
- Proposal (15-pages max): introduction/background/rationale, objectives, methodology, timeline/project schedule, role of personnel, deliverables, education/outreach component, and literature cited
- Data Management Plan
- A two-page vita for each investigator/project member

- A minimum of two support letters from interested agencies, municipalities, industry, constituencies, collaborators, etc.

**REVIEW PROCESS:** A panel of science and outreach experts will review all pre-proposals. Full proposals will be encouraged from those investigators receiving high reviews. Those pre-proposals that are discouraged are not prohibited from submitting full proposals. The number of pre-proposals selected is based on the quality of the pre-proposals and an estimate of funding that will be available. The first investigator listed on each pre-proposal will be contacted with the results of the review by Friday, 9 June 2017.

**NATIONAL SEA GRANT REVIEW:** The staff of the National Sea Grant College Program will review all full proposals, external reviews, and investigator's comments obtained by Ohio Sea Grant and will ascertain that the 33 state Sea Grant programs are not duplicating research. The National Sea Grant College Program Funding decisions should be made by early 2018.

## Instructions for the Research Summary Form (90-2)

The 90-2 summary form is intended to provide a brief but concise description of the project in a form useful to a variety of readers. Prepare only one summary form for the proposal, no matter how many years are proposed. **This form should not exceed three pages.**

**KEYWORDS** are required on the summary form and should identify the project scientifically and geographically.

**OBJECTIVES** should state what the investigator(s) intends to do. Measurable objectives are preferred. The heading "Objectives" should be interpreted as "The objectives of this proposal are," and each objective should begin with the word "To" followed by a verb. Quantifiable and hypothesis-based objectives are well received.

**METHODOLOGY** should outline the steps and approaches to be taken. Specific questions that an interested person would ask should be answered under methodology—which heavy metals, which pollutants, which pathogens, what species of fish, what kind of model, location, etc? The methodology should be specific enough to allow peer reviewers to accurately evaluate your proposal.

**RATIONALE** should be a concise statement of why this is an appropriate Sea Grant project. That is, what problem or opportunity is being addressed and why is it important. The project need not promise to fully solve a problem but it should be shown as a logical step toward a solution. Include the potential end users (management agencies, private sector, etc.) of the project information to be developed if they have been identified. Collaboration with industry and/or state, regional, and federal agencies is strongly encouraged and rewarded. ***An outreach component is required of all Sea Grant-funded research.*** We take this component into consideration when reviewing proposals, so please develop a strong outreach component to your proposal. Outreach that engages stakeholders, K-12 students, state agencies, and the general public is preferred. Feel free to reach out to Ohio Sea Grant staff to help you develop an outreach plan (contact information listed at end of RFP).

## Instructions for the Budget Form (90-4)

Prepare a budget form for each year of funding proposed and a cumulative form for all years combined. The budget must have the approval of appropriate university administrators (i.e., sponsored program officer) at the full proposal stage, but NOT for the pre-proposal. The investigator is expected to adhere to the budget category amounts as they appear in the approved budget. Any proposed changes to the budget categories that collectively exceed 10% of the total budget will require prior written authorization.

Funds spent in excess of the approved total budgeted amount will be the responsibility of the PI and associated awarded unit. Again, Sponsored Program Officer approval is not needed at the pre-proposal stage; however, please provide the name and contact information for the Sponsored Program Officer you work with at your University.

**SENIOR PERSONNEL:** The first Principal Investigator listed is responsible for the research outlined in the proposal and will receive correspondence regarding the project. Associates (faculty or staff) are professional persons who are full-time but who do not share the responsibility of the project. Sea Grant's mission is to increase understanding and wise use of the nation's ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. Sea Grant fulfills this mission by promoting educational excellence, responsive research and training, and broad, prompt dissemination of knowledge and technical information. Ohio Sea Grant takes the educational component of this mission very seriously and prefers projects requesting student support rather than investigator salary, when possible. Historically, about 80% of our funded projects have provided no federal Sea Grant support to the principal investigator. However, we allow up to \$5,000, including benefits, to go to investigator salary annually.

**OTHER PERSONNEL:** Professionals are non-faculty and non-staff associated with the project. Research associates are professional persons participating in the project who are part-time employees or persons retained solely for the project or staff members of participating organizations. Research associate/graduate students are part- or full-time students who hold at least a bachelor's degree or equivalent, are enrolled in a program leading to an advanced or professional degree, and are integral to the project as research assistants. Professional school students are students enrolled in medical, legal, and other professional schools. Pre-bachelor students may be employed as aides or helpers on a Sea Grant project either on salary as part-time employees or on an hourly basis. Pre-baccalaureates are undergraduate students enrolled either part or full-time in a course leading to a degree, including an Associate Degree in the case of students in two-year programs or a certificate in the case of some vocational students. Secretarial/Clerical is a category for office personnel (Research projects can no longer request federal funds for positions in this personnel category.) Technical/Shop is a category for technicians, shop personnel, and other persons with special but nonprofessional skills. Other persons are all others not included in the previous categories.

**FRINGE BENEFITS:** are those customarily paid by the grantee institution following its usual practices in the payment of such benefits. This amount is provided in total, not for each person included in the proposal. Include the fringe benefit rates for each person in the proposal. (At Ohio State, check with OSURF for the current fringe benefit rates for faculty, off-quarter and overload faculty, postdoctoral researchers, postdoctoral fellows, A&P, civil service, staff overtime, enrolled students, and for non-enrolled students.)

**PERMANENT EQUIPMENT (Capitalized Assets):** included here as a total figure. Capitalized assets are defined as moveable equipment with a useful life of one or more years with an original cost or value of \$5,000 or more.

**EXPENDABLE SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT:** should be justified in the body of the budget justification. Only the total is shown on the budget form.

**TRAVEL:** State the justification for travel and the basis for the cost of the travel in the body of the proposal. Identify destination and include all costs involved. Per Diem for travel must be based on the regulations of the proposing institution and included in the travel budget. Domestic travel includes North America and travel to all U.S. Possessions or Trusts, including Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Trust Territories, Guam, and Samoa. All travel anywhere outside the U.S., its possessions, and Canada is considered international and will require prior approval.

**PUBLICATION AND DOCUMENTATION COSTS:** This space should be blank. Ohio Sea Grant has a policy of supporting half of the costs of publications and reprints from our Communications Program. The other half must be shared by the home department, college, or university of the principal investigator. Our Communicator should be informed of anticipated publications and the page and reprint charges in advance to assure that appropriate acknowledgements are provided.

**OTHER COSTS:** List such items as consultants, computer time, reimbursement of participating organizations outside the proposing institution (subcontracts), equipment rental and maintenance, telephone and other communication costs, etc. Note that "facilities rental" and other costs not allowable under the Federal portion of the grant may be listed as "other costs" under grantee "match".

**INDIRECT COSTS:** The basis for computing indirect costs as determined by the investigator's institution should be stated in the body of the proposal and, in brief, on the budget form. A copy of the University's Indirect Cost Rate Agreement will be required at the full proposal stage. By special agreement with The Ohio State University, investigators not at OSU are not charged OSU's indirect cost rate charge, but charge indirect costs at the rate determined by their own institution. Indirect costs apply to the grantee share as well as to Sea Grant funds. Indirect costs should be calculated on everything except permanent equipment and graduate students' tuition on grantee share.

**MATCHING FUNDS:** Sea Grant requires at least \$1 of non-federal matching support for every \$2 of federal support requested.

Matching non-federal support may include:

- salaries, wages, and benefits of those working on the project;
- expendable supplies and equipment;
- donated supplies, space, or equipment; and
- unclaimed indirect costs.



**THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY**



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