

# California Sea Grant College Program

## Call for Preliminary Proposals - 2013



The California Sea Grant College Program is now soliciting preliminary proposals for projects to begin February 1, 2013. Faculty and academic staff from universities and scientists from research institutions throughout California are invited to apply.

California Sea Grant continues to focus on the following integrated themes:

Healthy Coastal and Marine Ecosystems  
Resilient Coastal Communities  
New Technologies and Products  
Safe and Sustainable Seafood Supply  
Effective Response to Climate Change

**Applications are due by  
11:59 pm Pacific Time, March 15, 2012**

[https://eseagrant.ucsd.edu/RFP/proposals/cpanel\\_login.php](https://eseagrant.ucsd.edu/RFP/proposals/cpanel_login.php)

OUR ALTERNATING YEAR POLICY: Effective last year, CA Sea Grant is managing its core research proposals and awards under an “alternating year plan.”

(1) For proposals submitted in odd-numbered years (as was true for last year’s call), we solicit proposals for “Standard Core Awards” at levels of funding up to a maximum of \$125,000/year (we expect the “average” award size will be approximately \$100,000/year), plus one graduate trainee. We strongly encourage Standard Core Awards of 2 years duration, although proposers may argue the need for 3-year awards if circumstances and the quality/importance of the research are exceptional.

(2) For proposals submitted in even-numbered years (in effect this year, for FY2013 funding consideration), we solicit requests for comparatively small, 1-year awards. These smaller awards will be issued as Special Focus Awards (that will be targeted toward specific Strategic Focus Areas identified in each year’s call for proposals). The Focus Areas targeted for Special Focus Awards will come from those identified in the California and National Sea Grant Strategic Plans that are deemed to deserve special attention that year (e.g., due to underinvestment), or from especially important and timely topics. Special Focus Awards will be of 1-year duration and will provide funding up to \$40,000, plus optionally up to \$10,000 extra dedicated to an explicit specific outreach or communication component to the program.

CURRENT CALL: This year we are soliciting applications for 1-year Special Focus Awards only. We will use these 1-year long projects to accomplish two separate goals:

First, we wish to increase our investments in research that falls under our Strategic Focus Area “Resilient Coastal Communities.” (<http://www.csgc.ucsd.edu/BOOKSTORE/Resources/SP10-13.pdf>) Accordingly we invite applications for research that addresses either of two objectives:

- a. Study and quantify the cumulative impacts of population growth, coastal development, and increased beach use on marine/coastal natural resources or harbor communities
- b. Study and quantify the economic values of coastal resources and communities.

In either case quantification should include expression in terms of monetary value. We are interested in the valuation of coastal/marine natural resources and communities due to implications for management. For work that addresses either objective, it would be beneficial for the proposer to describe how specifically targeted groups will learn about and benefit from research outcomes through outreach, communications or education activities.

Second, we will consider for Special Focus Awards applications from “new” faculty-level scientists (i.e., those holding their first faculty position (anywhere) who started work in that position no earlier than July 1, 2009). If you have questions about your eligibility for these awards, please contact the California Sea Grant Director (Jim Eckman, 858-534-4440, [jeckman@ucsd.edu](mailto:jeckman@ucsd.edu)) or Assistant Director (Shauna Oh, 858-822-2708, [shaunaoh@ucsd.edu](mailto:shaunaoh@ucsd.edu)). “New faculty” may propose research falling under any area of relevance to California Sea Grant. These applicants are encouraged to look at the full 2010–2013 Strategic Plans for more information on California Sea Grant and National Sea Grant research priorities, and then focus on the specific issue(s) of interest to them.

**California Sea Grant Strategic Plan:**

<http://www.csgc.ucsd.edu/BOOKSTORE/Resources/SP10-13.pdf>

**National Sea Grant Strategic Plan:**

[http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/other/admininfo/documents/0209\\_stratplan.pdf](http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/other/admininfo/documents/0209_stratplan.pdf)

A potential applicant is welcome to contact California Sea Grant personnel to receive more specific feedback concerning particular research issues.

**PROPOSAL PROCESSING SCHEDULE:**

March 15, 2012 (11:59 pm Pacific time) – Pre-proposals due  
March–April 2012 – Review of pre-proposals  
Early May, 2012 – Pre-proposal applicants notified of recommendations  
June 14, 2012 (11:59 pm Pacific time) – Full proposals due  
June–August 2012 – Peer review and project selection  
September 2012 – Notice of funding decision  
February 1, 2013 – Projects begin

## Preliminary Proposal Guidelines

The California Sea Grant College Program emphasizes innovative research on ocean and coastal resources and processes. Research with a strong theoretical basis that encompasses clear, testable hypotheses is desirable. In contrast, low priority is given to survey or inventory studies. Research that has national or international application, and that addresses important regional issues, problems, and opportunities is appropriate.

For 1-year, Special Focus Awards, project extramural budgets may not exceed \$40,000 (or, up to \$50,000 if additional funds are devoted to an explicit outreach or communication component of the project). Within this \$40,000 limit the inclusion of an educational component is also welcomed (and may include K-12 students, undergraduates, graduates students, or post-doctoral researchers). Requests for all educational costs (including graduate tuition, fees and stipends) must be included in the total Sea Grant funds requested.

Regarding an optional outreach component: Applicants are free to devise and describe an “outreach” component appropriate to their research project.

Regarding an optional communications component: Applicants are free to devise and describe a “communications” component appropriate to their research project. For example, funds might be requested for designing and printing brochures, creating a web page to communicate information specific to the project, or purchasing advertising space. Applicants optionally may elect to contact the Sea Grant Communications Director (Marsha Gear - [mgear@ucsd.edu](mailto:mgear@ucsd.edu), 858-534-0581) for information on how the results of their work might be communicated to the broader public.

Potential applicants are encouraged to check the “Research” section of our website at <http://www.csgc.ucsd.edu> for examples of projects currently funded.

This year, we are using the eSeagrant system for submission of pre-proposals. Applicants should check the on-line submission “portal” ([https://eseagrant.ucsd.edu/RFP/proposals/cpanel\\_login.php](https://eseagrant.ucsd.edu/RFP/proposals/cpanel_login.php)) for required information, download the pdf template ([http://csgc.ucsd.edu/FUNDING/PROP\\_PDFs/CORE/PrelimProjNarrative2013\\_fillable.pdf](http://csgc.ucsd.edu/FUNDING/PROP_PDFs/CORE/PrelimProjNarrative2013_fillable.pdf)), which must be used to prepare the preliminary proposal, and enter information into this file in advance for uploading via the eSeagrant system. We are imposing strict character limits on the size of the preliminary proposal file, and any larger pdf file substituted in place of our character-limited file will not be reviewed. The file character limits are as follows:

- 1) Main Project Narrative (10,000 characters maximum including spaces) – the Narrative must lead with a brief Project Summary or Abstract. Thereafter the format is flexible, but we recommend you list project goals or objectives, provide a brief background justifying the project, briefly describe methods and state the likely value of project outcomes (to science, specific communities, regulators or the general public). We encourage the use of headers to delimit appropriate sections of the narrative.
- 2) (Optional) Outreach or Communications Program Description (2,500 characters maximum including spaces) – this section should be entered only if you will be requesting up to \$10K above the \$40K project limit to devote to an explicit outreach or communication program. Describe plans for outreach or communications here.

California Sea Grant scientific staff plus outside panelists selected for disciplinary expertise review all preliminary proposals. Prospective investigators who submit preliminary proposals that are deemed promising and most likely to contribute to California Sea Grant objectives will be encouraged to submit full proposals.

The procedure for selection of new California Sea Grant projects involves the following four steps:

1. Evaluation of preliminary proposals.
2. Submission and evaluation of formal proposals.
3. Final adjustments, if necessary, to conform to budget allocation.
4. Inclusion of recommended individual proposals in the California Sea Grant College Program Omnibus Proposal.

Please note that although California Sea Grant allows multiple submissions of preliminary proposals by an investigator, only one preliminary proposal will be allowed to advance to the formal proposal stage.

Please refer to the section “California Sea Grant Proposal Review Process” (below) for more information.

The National Sea Grant College Program is a partnership between the nation’s universities and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, and is authorized by the United States Congress. California Sea Grant is the largest of 32 university-based programs nationwide that form the core of the National Sea Grant network. The network, in cooperation with federal and state agencies, and/or marine industries, involves some 300 universities and colleges.

## **Traineeships**

Sea Grant graduate student research traineeship stipends, if requested, should be included in project costs. A Sea Grant Research Trainee is a full-time registered graduate student who is working toward an advanced degree related to marine or coastal sciences. Typically, the project provides the trainee with the basis of a thesis. The traineeship stipend will be set to the amount paid a 12-month, 50%-time graduate stipend at the host university's approved graduate student researcher rate, not to exceed \$25,500 per year. The traineeship stipend does not cover graduate student tuition and fees. Tuition and fees, if requested, should be included in project costs. The traineeship stipend is not subject to indirect cost per Federal Regulation 15CFR917.10.

## **Matching Funds**

A special aspect of the Sea Grant Program is the matching funds requirement. According to the 1976 legislation, a project leader is required to match each \$2 received in NOAA/Sea Grant funds with \$1 from nonfederal sources.

Examples of allowable items for matching Sea Grant federal funds include existing salaries and benefits of investigators and others paid from nonfederal sources, costs of using expendable supplies and equipment already in inventory, costs of ship time supplied by non-federal sources, industry participation, and donated supplies, service, space, or equipment. For further information regarding matching funds, visit <http://www.ucop.edu/raohome/> and select "OMB Circular A-110" from the menu options. You may also contact the Sea Grant Business Officer, Catherine Hughes ([c4hughes@ucsd.edu](mailto:c4hughes@ucsd.edu)), with questions about various sources and types of match. However, your institution remains the final approver for all match included in the proposal.

## **Submission of Preliminary Proposals**

Preliminary proposals must be submitted using the eSeagrant system ([https://eseagrant.ucsd.edu/RFP/proposals/cpanel\\_login.php](https://eseagrant.ucsd.edu/RFP/proposals/cpanel_login.php)) by 11:59 pm Pacific Time on March 15, 2012. If you have technical problems with completion and submission of your pre-proposal, please contact Roberto Chavez, California Sea Grant's Programmer/Analyst, at (858) 534-4441 or [rachavez@ucsd.edu](mailto:rachavez@ucsd.edu). Upon submission of the pre-proposal you should receive a reply via email indicating we have received the preliminary proposal. If you do not receive an email reply within 24 hours, please contact us via telephone ASAP to confirm the status of your preliminary proposal submission.

**Proposal Questions?**

Carol Bailey-Sumber  
Proposal/Grants Specialist  
[sgproposal@ucsd.edu](mailto:sgproposal@ucsd.edu)  
(858) 534-7855

**Web Submission Questions?**

Roberto Chavez, Programmer  
[webadmin@seamail.ucsd.edu](mailto:webadmin@seamail.ucsd.edu)  
(858) 534-4441

**Budget Questions?**

Catherine Hughes, Business & Fiscal Officer  
[sgbudget@ucsd.edu](mailto:sgbudget@ucsd.edu)  
(858) 534-4440

**California Sea Grant Management Team**

James Eckman, Director  
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**California Sea Grant Extension Advisors**

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Areas of Expertise: Aquatic Invasive Species, Invertebrate Fisheries, Shellfish Aquaculture

Monique Myers, Advisor  
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[mrmyers@ucsd.edu](mailto:mrmyers@ucsd.edu)

Areas of Expertise: Sustainable Coastal Communities, Climate Change, Wetlands

Paul Olin, Advisor  
Santa Rosa  
(707) 565-6449  
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Areas of Expertise: Aquaculture & Watersheds/Water Quality, Endangered Salmon Recovery

Carrie Pomeroy, Advisor  
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Areas of Expertise: Fisheries Social Science, Management & Policy

Susan Schlosser, Advisor  
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Areas of Expertise: Aquaculture, Ecosystem-based Management, Intertidal Coastal Habitats

Richard Starr, Extension Director & Advisor  
Moss Landing  
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[r1starr@ucsd.edu](mailto:r1starr@ucsd.edu)

Areas of Expertise: Fisheries & Marine Ecology

Pamela Tom, Advisor  
Davis  
(530) 752-3837  
[ptom@ucsd.edu](mailto:ptom@ucsd.edu)

Areas of Expertise: Seafood Quality & Safety

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**If your area is not represented in the above list, and you wish to speak to an advisor, please call the Contracts and Grants Specialist at (858) 534-7855 for guidance.**

## California Sea Grant College Program Proposal Review Process

The California Sea Grant College Program solicits proposals for a variety of funding opportunities. The process described below is for submission to the core research competition. In addition to the core competition, the program administers National Sea Grant College Program competitions that include a variety of fellowships, National Strategic Investments, and special one-time funding opportunities; the process described below does not pertain to these other special competitions.

Each year a call for preliminary project proposals is widely distributed throughout California. For Standard Core Awards, approximately 25% of preliminary proposals advance to the full proposal stage, of which approximately one third will be approved for funding. These ratios may vary for Special Focus Awards (this year's competition), but the expectation is to aim for similar percentages.

California Sea Grant scientific staff plus outside panelists selected for disciplinary expertise review all preliminary proposals. At this stage, screening is based on the project's innovative approach, uniqueness of the idea, importance, quality of science, and appropriateness to Sea Grant. Each pre-proposal is considered on its own merits without regard for campus or institutional affiliation. In addition, the Resources Agency Sea Grant Advisory Panel (RASGAP) (see <http://resources.ca.gov/ocean/rasgap.html>) also will review preliminary proposals. Input from RASGAP is directed toward identifying research priorities based on state need. Full proposals are encouraged on those topics that rate highest based on scientific value and state need according to both panels.

Full proposals are distributed to external merit reviewers. The California Sea Grant Committee meets to evaluate full proposals with the benefit of the written merit reviews. Criteria for selection at this step include: (1) rationale; (2) scientific merit and impact or outreach quality; (3) innovativeness; (4) programmatic justification; (5) practical impact and user relationships; (6) relationship to Sea Grant priorities; (7) qualifications and past record of investigators or past record of program components; and (8) strength of outreach program including educational activities. Merit reviews, user collaboration, expected impact (scientific and practical), and letters of support from potential users help determine whether these criteria are met. The RASGAP also meets again to evaluate full proposals and provide advice to Sea Grant.

When all the input is received from the external merit reviewers, the California Sea Grant Committee, and RASGAP, the California Sea Grant Management Team and Director of California Sea Grant make the final recommendations regarding approval of proposals for funding. The National Sea Grant Office then approves those recommendations.

New and continuing proposals are compiled by the California Sea Grant College Program into an institutional proposal containing: project and program summaries, budget pages, full proposal narratives, curricula vitae, and letters of support. The institutional proposal, called the California Sea Grant College Program Omnibus, is submitted to the National Sea Grant College Program for funding and implementation on February 1 of the following year.

Discouraged preliminary proposals may still be submitted as formal proposals. That choice is up to the proposers. However, discouragement represents the collective opinion of California Sea Grant and its advisors that any proposal submitted, based on that preproposal, has a low probability of being funded.

If you have any questions, or desire more information about this process, please do not hesitate to call the California Sea Grant office at (858) 534-4440.