Announcement of Funding Opportunity for 2022–2024

Established at the University of Alaska in 1970, Alaska Sea Grant is one of 34 programs within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Sea Grant College Program, authorized by Congress in 1968. We are funded by federal and state appropriations, as well as project-specific funds from local governments, federal and state agencies, community organizations and industry. Alaska Sea Grant and its Marine Advisory Program support research, education, and extension activities that enhance the ability of Alaskans to understand, conserve, and sustainably use our rich and diverse marine and coastal resources.

Alaska Sea Grant invites proposals for research projects for the 2022–2024 biennium. Investigators throughout the state of Alaska are invited to apply for one- to two-year research projects that contribute to Alaska Sea Grant and state priority information needs, and advance knowledge in one of four focus areas: healthy coastal ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, resilient communities and economies, and environmental literacy and workforce development.

Applicants are required to submit both a preliminary proposal and a full proposal through eSeaGrant, the Alaska Sea Grant online proposal submission system (https://eseagrant.alaska.edu/).

We anticipate that approximately $700,000 will be available for project funding. Based on review of preliminary proposals, approximately 10–15 invitations to submit full proposals may be issued. Project duration is no more than two years, with project budgets averaging roughly $100,000, **not including** graduate student funding. For each funded project, two years of graduate student support will be provided *in addition* to the project budget. Because Sea Grant funds are subject to annual federal appropriations, all awards are subject to the availability of funds.

This document provides information and guidance for project development and submission of preliminary and full proposals.

Release date: December 18, 2020

I. 2022–2024 Proposal selection schedule

March 1, 2021	**Deadline:** Preliminary proposals due via eSeaGrant by 5pm Alaska time
April 2, 2021	Invitations issued to submit full proposals
May 28, 2021	**Deadline:** Full proposals due via eSeaGrant by 5pm Alaska time
Summer 2021	Proposals undergo peer and panel review
October 2021	Final selection of projects
February 1, 2022	Earliest possible start date

II. Program summary and priorities

Alaska Sea Grant encourages applications from researchers in the natural, social, and education sciences. Alaska Sea Grant is especially interested in supporting collaborative projects, synthesis projects, interdisciplinary partnerships, and early career investigators. Partnerships among academic and research institutions, agencies, local government, industry, and user groups are encouraged. For research projects that address regional issues beyond Alaska, engage investigators outside of Alaska, and involve other Sea Grant programs, please consult with Alaska Sea Grant to explore joint submittal and funding procedures.

Successful proposals address problems and opportunities facing marine and coastal users, managers, and educators using scientific, traditional, or local knowledge approaches. Past research projects are described on the Alaska Sea Grant website at https://seagrant.uaf.edu/research/project-directory.php.

Proposed research projects must identify priorities to be addressed, and align with the critical program areas and goals identified in the Alaska Sea Grant 2018–2023 Strategic Plan (https://alaskaseagrant.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Alaska-Sea-Grant-Strategic-Plan-2018-2023.pdf) with four interrelated themes:

1. Healthy Coastal Ecosystems
Alaska's diverse and productive marine and coastal ecosystems face unprecedented challenges from human activities and a changing climate. Alaska Sea Grant focuses on increasing the shared body of knowledge about these ecosystems, particularly to address concerns and interests of stakeholders, and to support planning, management and mitigation.

2. Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture
Alaska fisheries and aquaculture provide food, jobs, and economic and cultural value. Alaska Sea Grant focuses on facilitating the sustainable use of safe and high-quality seafood and other marine resources, and on the sustainability of fisheries resources. National Sea Grant may provide Alaska Sea Grant additional funding for highly ranked aquaculture proposals received through this competition.

3. Resilient Communities and Economies
Alaska's coastal communities depend on coastal resources amid a time of environmental change. Alaska Sea Grant focuses on increasing the resilience and well-being of coastal communities

through diversification, growth, and strengthening of coastal economic sectors and maritime businesses; increasing capacity of Alaska's coastal communities to adapt and respond to coastal hazards; and lowering the human risk of maritime activities.

4. Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development
Alaska has a diverse and far-flung population with varying degrees of access to educational resources. Alaska Sea Grant focuses on increasing effective environmental literacy communication and instruction, and increasing awareness of and opportunities for careers in Alaska's maritime sectors.

III. Proposal award, investigator eligibility, and other project information

Award information
Alaska Sea Grant's research awards are from four-year federal omnibus grants that integrate research, education, public engagement, and administrative activities. The omnibus period for this call runs from February 1, 2022, through January 31, 2024. This request for proposals covers this period, and projects will be conducted primarily in calendar years 2022 and 2023. Projects may be scheduled to begin on or after February 1, 2022, and may be one or two years in duration, with an end date on or before January 31, 2024. Project awards are contingent on the availability of funds to Alaska Sea Grant and National Sea Grant.

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

Examples of cost share sources include non-federal salaries, wages and benefits of those working on the project; expendable supplies and equipment; ship time; time from volunteers or elders; and donated supplies, facility use, space, or equipment. Foundation, state, and local grants, and other state funds are eligible sources of cost share funds with documented approval from those sources. While cost share of more than 50 percent is not encouraged, identification of leveraged resources that contribute to a project will be a positive factor in evaluating project costs.

Organizations that have difficulty identifying matching funds are encouraged to contact the Alaska Sea Grant director to discuss this issue.

Investigator eligibility
Project Principal Investigators (PIs) must be affiliated with a university, two- or four-year college, museum, research laboratory, or other nonprofit or tribal entity in Alaska. Project Co-Principal Investigators (co-PIs) may be affiliated with the above-listed Alaska institutions, research or education institutions outside of Alaska, state and federal agencies, and for-profit and foreign organizations. Individuals from federal agencies and for-profit and foreign organizations

are prohibited from requesting salary or travel support. Alaska Sea Grant welcomes proposals for cooperative projects involving research institutions and the private sector.

Alaska Sea Grant discourages PIs from submitting more than two preliminary proposals. If a PI submits multiple preliminary proposals that are encouraged for development as a full proposal, they will be limited to submittal of a single project as PI to the full proposal stage. There is no limit on the number of proposals in which an investigator may serve as co-PI.

PIs who have received Alaska Sea Grant funds previously and have not completed all reporting requirements are ineligible for future funding until reports have been submitted and approved.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion
Sea Grant champions diversity, equity, and inclusion by recruiting, retaining, and preparing a diverse workforce, and proactively engaging and serving the diverse populations of coastal communities. Sea Grant is committed to building inclusive research, extension, communication, and education programs that serve people with unique backgrounds, circumstances, needs, perspectives, and ways of thinking. Alaska Sea Grant encourages proposals that include diverse participants with regards to age, race, ethnicity, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, culture, religion, citizenship type, marital status, education level, job classification, veteran status, income, and socioeconomic status.

Student support
Student education and involvement is a vital component of Alaska Sea Grant projects and only in exceptional cases will research projects be funded that lack significant involvement of students or post-doctorates. Project budgets may include support for undergraduate students and postdoctoral researchers. Graduate student support (stipend, health insurance, tuition & fees) **should not** be included in the project budget and should be identified as described below.

Sea Grant graduate research fellowships
Research projects seeking to support graduate students may request a Sea Grant graduate research fellow. Sea Grant graduate research fellows must be full-time registered graduate students working toward an advanced degree related to marine or coastal sciences. To justify inclusion of a fellowship, the project should provide the fellow with the basis for a thesis. For projects that are selected for funding, Alaska Sea Grant will offer up to two years of a graduate student fellowship, graduate student health insurance, and 24–36 credits of tuition and fees. The graduate student fellowship is $30,000 per year for MS students, and $34,000 per year for PhD students. If an investigator is interested in applying for a fellow, that interest should be identified by filling out the Sea Grant research fellow request information in the preliminary proposal section of eSeaGrant.

Engagement plan
In addition to supporting research projects that are scientifically excellent and societally relevant, Alaska Sea Grant is committed to projects that engage and inform relevant communities and user groups.

Each proposal must provide an engagement plan that describes how broader audiences will engage with and use the project results. This plan should explain how the project will translate

and communicate scientific information into knowledge for building resilience and benefiting local economies and community well-being.

Connections with engagement audiences is important in the development of project objectives and to determine how they will benefit from project outcomes. PIs are encouraged to identify and contact user groups, industry, and government agencies that will benefit from project results in the beginning and conceptual stages of the project.

Engagement activities may include, but are not limited to, use of project results in education or resource management settings; technical training or assistance; development of publications, presentations, and other outreach products for specific audiences (beyond scientific audiences) or user groups; and involvement in teaching, participatory science, or community-based networks. For more information, see https://alaskaseagrant.org/research/engagement/.

PIs are encouraged to work with Alaska Sea Grant outreach, communications, and education staff and faculty (https://alaskaseagrant.org/about/directory/). Alaska Sea Grant has resources for development and production of publications and other outreach or education products, coordination of meetings and workshops, release of information to news media, and development of websites. Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program faculty are either embedded in coastal communities and regions where research may take place, or are specialists who have experience working closely with coastal communities and can assist in developing research questions and projects relevant to coastal communities and marine users. Applicants needing assistance with any of these issues are encouraged to discuss potential partnerships with appropriate Alaska Sea Grant staff during conceptualization of the project.

While Alaska Sea Grant and its Marine Advisory Program faculty and staff may participate as part of a project team, the cost of their time should not be included in the federal portion of the project budget; rather, they are funded through the Alaska Sea Grant outreach budget and matching funds.

Conflicts of interest, human subjects, and animal care
All projects undertaken through Alaska Sea Grant must be conducted in full compliance with applicable federal and state laws pertaining to conflicts of interest.

For projects that involve research on vertebrate animals or human subjects, it is the PI's responsibility to identify and ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state, and institutional requirements. PIs must identify use of vertebrate animals or human subjects in full proposal submissions. University of Alaska Fairbanks PIs should contact the Office of Research Integrity (https://www.uaf.edu/ori) if their research includes vertebrate animals or human subjects. Other investigators should contact the relevant divisions at their institutions. Project funds will not be awarded without appropriate approvals.

IV. Preliminary proposal guidance

Preliminary proposals must be submitted via eSeaGrant by **5:00 pm on March 1, 2021**. Preliminary proposals received after the deadline will not be considered. **Please be sure to allow ample time for online proposal completion and submission.** Register in the eSeaGrant system (https://eseagrant.alaska.edu) well ahead of the proposal deadline.

During the online submission, be prepared to provide the following information:

Investigators: Names, affiliations, address, phone, and email of the principal investigator and co-principal investigators who will significantly contribute to the project. Do not include collaborators or others who will not dedicate time to the project (directly or in-kind).

Curriculum vitae (2-page maximum PDF per investigator) must be uploaded for each individual who will serve as PI or co-investigator in the project. The vitae can include up to 10 relevant publications. Graduate student vitae are not required.

Project title: Exact title as it appears in the rest of the application. Please keep title succinct.

Keywords: Identify 3–5 keywords or phrases

Project period: Initiation and completion dates. Proposals should request a start date of February 1, 2022, or later and a completion date of January 31, 2024, or earlier. Normal project duration is no more than two years.

Focus area alignment and Sea Grant classification: Identify relevant Alaska Sea Grant critical program areas and two Sea Grant classification codes.

Graduate student research fellow request: Identify the student name (if known, not required), institution, academic department, degree sought (MS or PhD), and the semesters for which student support is requested.

Suggested reviewers: Submit the names, institutional affiliation and email addresses of at least ten (10) suitable peer reviewers who could review a full proposal during summer 2021. These potential reviewers must not have collaborated with any of the project personnel in the past 48 months. You may also indicate any reviewers who may be biased against your project.

Preliminary proposal components
Please prepare a single 4 page PDF with the following sections. The entirety must be single-spaced, with 1-inch margins and 12 point font.

1. *Project narrative* (up to two pages, including any tables, figures, and references)
The project narrative should be written for a nonspecialist, scientifically literate audience. Required elements include:
  a) statement of need for the project
  b) description of relevance to the Alaska Sea Grant Strategic Plan
  c) clear statement of the hypothesis(es)

d) brief description of methods and approach
e) a formal discussion of the role of the graduate student
f) a discrete statement of the intended outcomes

2. *Engagement plan* (up to one page): Alaska Sea Grant encourages applicants to clearly identify how this research will have broader societal impacts on Alaskan coastal communities, including stakeholders from underrepresented or underserved communities. Identify how stakeholders, as appropriate for the project, will be involved in and/or benefit from the results of the project. Describe your target audiences and participant groups; the outreach, communications or education approaches to be used; and anticipated outcomes. Identify any Alaska Sea Grant staff or faculty who were consulted and contributed to the plan.

3. *Results of previous Sea Grant support* (up to one page): Include all projects receiving funding from any Sea Grant program during the previous five years. The following information should be provided:
1. Alaska Sea Grant award number, amount, and period of support
2. title of the project
3. major accomplishments of the project, including outreach
4. any publications resulting from the project
5. current status of any funded students

V. Full proposal guidance

Full proposals must be submitted via eSeaGrant by **5:00 pm on May 28, 2021**. Full proposals received after the deadline will not be considered. Only investigators who submit preliminary proposals are eligible to submit full proposals.

During the online submission, please review and update information provided during the preproposal submission.

Investigators: Names, affiliations, address, phone, and email of the principal investigator and co-principal investigators who will significantly contribute to the project. Do not include collaborators or others who will not dedicate time to the project (directly or in-kind).

Curriculum vitae (2-page maximum PDF per investigator) must be uploaded for each individual who will serve as PI or co-investigator in the project. The vitae can include up to 10 relevant publications. Graduate student vitae are not required.

Project title: Exact title as it appears in the rest of the application. Please keep title succinct.

Keywords: Identify 3–5 keywords or phrases

Project period: Initiation and completion dates. Proposals should request a start date of February 1, 2022, or later and a completion date of January 31, 2024, or earlier. Normal project duration is no more than two years.

Focus area alignment and Sea Grant classification: Identify relevant Alaska Sea Grant critical program areas and two Sea Grant classification codes.

Graduate student research fellow request: Identify the student name (if known, not required), institution, academic department, degree sought (MS or PhD), and the semesters for which student support is requested.

Suggested reviewers: Submit the names, institutional affiliation and email addresses of at least ten (10) suitable peer reviewers who could review a full proposal during summer 2021. These potential reviewers must not have collaborated with any of the project personnel in the past 48 months. You may also indicate any reviewers who may be biased against your project.

Full proposal components:
1. Project summary: Used during the proposal review process, the project summary should provide a clear and concise description of the project in terms that are understandable by individuals who are not experts in your field.

> **Objectives** (*2,000-character limit, including spaces*) — Briefly and clearly state the short-term and long-term objectives of the proposed work related to Alaska Sea Grant goals and strategies. Incorporate both the scientific and societal purposes of the project in these objectives.

> **Methodology** (*2,000-character limit, including spaces)* — Succinctly describe the methods and approach to be used in accomplishing the objectives.

> **Rationale** (*2,000-character limit, including spaces*) — Concisely state the problem or opportunity addressed. Indicate why the project is important, appropriate for Alaska Sea Grant support, and why the proposed approach is necessary. Identify the expected outcomes of the project and potential project users.

2. Project narrative (Upload PDF: 17-page limit including all figures, tables and references, 1-inch margins, single spaced, and 12 pt font): The proposal narrative provides a scientifically rigorous description of the project that can be understood by specialists from other disciplines and, as much as possible, by well-informed readers. Be sure to include all the following items.

Project title: Exact title as it appears in the rest of the application.

Investigators: Names and affiliations of the principal and co-principal investigators.

Project partners: Provide brief details of project partners, including benefactors, constituent groups, stakeholders, industry, or agency personnel. Describe partner contributions, including resource sharing, collaboration, and data management. Discuss how partners will benefit and how they will use the anticipated results, outcomes, or products. Highlight if the work proposed is in conjunction with other projects or proposals, or will coordinate with other known efforts. Letters confirming extent of collaboration are encouraged (see Letters of collaboration below).

Description and need: Discuss the problem or need being addressed and how the project will address Alaska Sea Grant's goals and strategic plan. Describe how research need was identified and any consultation that went into developing this project. Describe the expected output or product, and describe the expected long-term impacts.

Objectives and approach: The narrative should include a concise statement of the objectives of the project, hypotheses to be addressed, and a description of project activities. Explain the conceptual approach for achieving objectives and the methods to be used. Describe how the project activities will be evaluated for effectiveness in meeting stated project goals and objectives as well as the goals of Alaska Sea Grant.

Available resources: Briefly state the qualifications of all investigators, institutional capabilities, and key partnerships within the user community that will contribute to the proposed work. Clearly describe the role of a graduate student involvement and how this student work will contribute to the student's thesis.

Outcomes/expected results: Describe anticipated results and how they are expected to solve a problem, provide a community benefit, or take advantage of an opportunity. Be clear as to the direct and/or indirect implications of your work for industry, management, policy, or other benefits: Who is expected to use or otherwise benefit from your results, and how?

Alaska Sea Grant is required to comply with the National Sea Grant reporting requirements for documentation of tangible outcomes and impacts of funded research projects. Proposals should describe specific anticipated outcomes and/or products as explicitly and quantitatively as possible. PIs are encouraged to partner with Alaska Sea Grant in recording, publicizing, and celebrating success. All PIs are expected to assist Alaska Sea Grant staff in identifying and documenting outcomes and impacts.

Engagement plan: Alaska Sea Grant encourages applicants to clearly identify how this research will have broader societal impacts on Alaskan coastal communities, including stakeholders from underrepresented or underserved communities. Identify how stakeholders, as appropriate for the project, were consulted in the development of the project and how they will be involved in and/or benefit from the results of the project. Describe your target audiences and participant groups; the outreach, communications or education approaches to be used; and anticipated outcomes. Identify any Alaska Sea Grant staff who were consulted and contributed to the plan.

References cited: Complete bibliographic references in a standard format are required for all citations used in the proposal text. Articles not cited should not be included.

3. Budget spreadsheet and budget narrative: The budget spreadsheet should provide sufficient detail for reviewers to understand the amount requested in each category. The budget narrative should provide sufficient detail to justify the amount requested in each category. All salaries must be detailed on a monthly or hourly basis with appropriate institutional fringe benefits or other charges detailed separately. Detailed budget instructions are provided in eSeaGrant. All subawards will require full project documentation (narrative and budget) and official approvals from subawardee organizations or institutions.

Budget guidelines: Budgets may be for one or two years. Graduate student salary, benefits, and tuition support for graduate students *should not* be included in the project budget and will be managed post-award by Alaska Sea Grant. The graduate student role, however, should be clearly described in the Available Resources section of the Project Narrative. Minimal funds may be requested for essential faculty or technician salary. Additional support for postdoctoral researchers or early-career faculty may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Federal agencies and personnel may not request salaries, travel, or indirect costs.

4. Project timeline: Details of project activities and key milestones. An optional Alaska Sea Grant timeline template is available in eSeaGrant.

5. Current and pending research projects: For all PIs, list on a separate page all current and pending outside support. Include project title, the dollar amount, source and period of funding, and the PI's time commitment in each project. An optional template is available in eSeaGrant.

6. Letters of collaboration: Appropriate and relevant letters of collaboration may be uploaded as a single PDF. Letters should describe collaborative contributions; how project results will benefit a community, industry, or agency; and/or how benefits will be derived from new products, methods, technology, or other outcomes.

7. Data sharing plan (2-page limit): An optional Alaska Sea Grant template is available in eSeaGrant. Environmental data[1] and information collected or created under Alaska Sea Grant grants or subawards must be made discoverable by and accessible to the general public in a timely fashion (typically within two years), free of charge or at no more than the cost of reproduction, unless an exemption is granted by National Sea Grant. Data should be available in at least one machine-readable format, preferably a widely used or open-standard format, and should also be accompanied by machine-readable documentation (metadata), preferably based on widely used or international standards.

Full proposals are required to include a data sharing plan that clearly outlines the means by which qualifying data will be made available in accordance with the above data policy (elaborated fully in the NOAA Data Sharing Directive https://nosc.noaa.gov/EDMC/PD.DSP.php). The written plan should be succinct, must not exceed two pages in length, and is not counted in the page limits for the rest of the proposal. An optional template will be distributed with instructions for the full proposal.

A typical plan should include descriptions of the types of environmental data and information expected to be created during the course of the project, the tentative date by which data will be

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[1] **Environmental data** are defined as recorded and derived observations and measurements of the physical, chemical, biological, geological, and geophysical properties and conditions of the oceans, atmosphere, space environment, sun, and solid earth, as well as correlative data such as socioeconomic data, related documentation, and metadata. Digital audio or video recordings of environmental phenomena (such as animal sounds or undersea video) are included in this definition. Numerical model outputs are included in this definition, particularly if they are used to support the conclusion of a peer-reviewed publication. Data collected in a laboratory or other controlled environment, such as measurements of animals and chemical processes, are included in this definition. Personally identifiable information regarding human subjects must be properly protected or removed.

shared, the standards to be used for data/metadata format and content, methods for providing data access, approximate total volume of data to be collected, and prior experience in making such data accessible. The costs of data preparation, accessibility, or archiving may be included in the proposal budget. Accepted submission of data to the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) is one way to satisfy data sharing requirements; however, NCEI is not obligated to accept all submissions and may charge a fee, particularly for large or unusual datasets.

Proposal submitters are hereby advised that the final pre-publication manuscripts of scholarly articles produced entirely or primarily with Alaska Sea Grant funding will be required to be submitted to Alaska Sea Grant after acceptance, and no later than upon publication. Alaska Sea Grant will submit these manuscripts to the National Sea Grant Library, where they will be made publicly available one year after publication by the journal. Attestation to these terms should be included in the data sharing plan.

If no environmental data are to be collected or created, then the data sharing plan should include a statement to that effect.

8. NEPA questionnaire: Please answer all of the questions and provide any supplementary material, including permits, requested in the required form.

VI. Review process and selection criteria

A multistep process is followed for selecting Alaska Sea Grant competitive projects.

1. The call for preliminary proposals is widely distributed across the state. Alaska Sea Grant convenes a review panel to score preliminary proposals based on evaluation criteria (Table 1). The preliminary proposal panel consists of Alaska Sea Grant Advisory Committee members and disciplinary experts; all individuals who certify no conflict of interest. Full proposals are encouraged for those projects that rate highly in the evaluation criteria, considering the amount of funding that may be available. Those that do not rate highly are discouraged to submit full proposals. While not all proposals are encouraged, anyone who submits a preliminary proposal is eligible to submit a full proposal.

2. Submitted and complete full proposals are distributed to external reviewers for written evaluation and comments, based on evaluation criteria (Table 1).

3. Alaska Sea Grant convenes a scientific and technical review panel comprised of a broad selection of disciplinary experts, all individuals who certify no conflict of interest and have no association with Alaska Sea Grant. Panel members are provided with copies of each proposal and external reviews. Select panel members draft a written evaluation and/or a panel summary of each proposal. The panel discusses each proposal individually and ranks proposals into three categories: highly competitive, competitive, and not competitive. Anonymous written reviews, panel summary, panel ranking category (highly competitive, competitive, and not competitive), and Alaska Sea Grant's funding recommendation will be provided to proposal PIs after approval by National Sea Grant.

4. Alaska Sea Grant reviews all information available and makes final decisions on projects for inclusion in the Alaska Sea Grant omnibus grant to National Sea Grant. The Alaska Sea Grant Director has final discretion to select projects based on panel recommendations, diversity and balance of proposals, availability of funding, and programmatic objectives, needs and priorities. Proposals that are selected for inclusion in the omnibus may be returned to applicants for revision prior to submission to National Sea Grant.

5. Alaska Sea Grant submits a letter of intent to National Sea Grant, describing the proposed projects and the rationale for their selection. Once the letter is approved, final proposals are submitted as part of the Alaska Sea Grant 2022–2024 omnibus proposal to the National Sea Grant, NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce. Contingent on the availability of funds received from National Sea Grant and satisfaction of any permitting, animal care and human subjects' requirements, projects will be funded and implemented on or after February 1, 2022.

Table 1. Evaluation criteria. Evaluation criteria are similar for preliminary and full proposals, with differences at each stage with respect to relative weighting.

Criteria	Pre Proposal Weighting	Full Proposal Weighting	Elements
Relevance	40%	25%	Importance, relevance and applicability of proposed project to Alaska Sea Grant strategic plan; application to problems or opportunities with societal relevance; and contribution to student and postdoctoral support at all levels.
Technical and scientific merit	35%	35%	The degree to which the activity advances scientific or educational goals and whether the approach is technically sound and innovative; uses appropriate methods; includes clearly stated measurable objectives and mechanisms to evaluate success; and achieves anticipated results in the time proposed.
Engagement plan	15%	15%	Effective plan for ensuring that targeted groups contribute to and benefit from project outcomes through outreach, communications and education activities. The degree to which Alaska Sea Grant staff and potential users of the results have been and will be included in project planning and implementation.
Qualification of applicants	10%	10%	Applicants possess the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project, with consideration to career stage and past performance.
Project costs	n/a	15%	Budget costs are realistic and commensurate with the project needs and timeframe, reasonable given the availability of program funds, and effectively leverage other resources to achieve project objectives.

VII. Reporting requirements

All NOAA programs are required to report annually on their performance to NOAA leadership, OMB, and Congress. Thus, a part of the proposal evaluation will be based on outcomes and impacts of the research. The definition of "impacts" from National Sea Grant:

> Impacts are higher order, usually long-term results of a program's activities that have significant scientific, economic or social benefits. Impacts may involve behavioral, policy, or economic changes. Seminal contributions to science are considered impacts especially if the research findings lead to major progress in a particular field, implementation of new technologies, or have a substantive bearing on an economic or societal issue. While breakthroughs do occur, it is important to realize that impacts are developed over the long term—both in the scientific arena and through sustained, integrated efforts by Sea Grant programs themselves.

Reporting requirements include submission of an annual report, a final report, and possible participation in Sea Grant–related meetings. Additional assistance may be requested in periodic updates and presentations for Alaska Sea Grant outreach, education, and special reporting efforts. By accepting grants from Alaska Sea Grant, investigators agree to these requirements. Failure to submit timely reports may result in freezing of remaining grant funds and denial of future funding opportunities.

Federal funding sources shall be identified in all outreach materials, conference presentations and posters, and scholarly publications. An acknowledgements section shall be included in the body of the publication stating the relevant project and award numbers. In addition, funding sources shall be reported during the publication submission process using the FundRef mechanism (http://www.crossref.org/fundref/), with funding acknowledgement to "Alaska Sea Grant, University of Alaska Fairbanks."

VIII. Contact information

Investigators are encouraged to discuss proposal ideas or issues with the Alaska Sea Grant director:
Ginny Eckert, Director, (907) 796-5450, ginny.eckert@alaska.edu

eSeaGrant technical issues or questions:
Dave Partee, Communications and Technology Specialist, (907) 474-2432, dave.partee@alaska.edu