

**CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST STATEMENT
FOR REVIEWERS AND TECHNICAL PANELISTS**

1. As a reviewer or technical panelist you are asked to review a research proposal or proposals for federal and/or matching funding. Your designation as a reviewer or panelist requires that you be aware of potential conflicts of interest. Per [NOAA policy](#), the term "conflict of interest" means any financial or other interest which conflicts with the service of the individual in the review because it (1) could significantly impair the individual's objectivity or (2) could create an unfair competitive advantage for any person or organization. Please read the examples of potentially biasing affiliations or relationships listed on the [next page](#).
2. If your designation gives you access to information not generally available to the public, you must not use that information for your personal benefit or make it available for the personal benefit of any other individual or organization. This is to be distinguished from the entirely appropriate general benefit of learning more about Sea Grant or becoming better acquainted with the state of a given discipline.
3. Sea Grant receives proposals in confidence and protects the confidentiality of their contents. For this reason, you must not copy, quote or otherwise disclose or use material from any proposal you review.

CERTIFICATION

I have read the list of affiliations and relationships on the [next page](#) that could prevent my participation in matters involving such individuals or institutions. To the best of my knowledge, I have no affiliation or relationships that would prevent my objectively executing the responsibilities of review. I also will not divulge any confidential information I may become aware of during my review.

EXAMPLES OF POTENTIALLY BIASING AFFILIATIONS OR RELATIONSHIPS

1. Your affiliations with applicant institution(s).

You may have a conflict if you have/hold -

- Current employment at the institution as professor adjunct professor, visiting professor, or similar position. (This includes other campuses of a multi-campus institution, but a waiver may be available. If you are in a multi-campus institution, let the program director who solicited your review know.)
- Other current employment with the institution such as consulting or an advisory arrangement, or you are being considered for employment with the institution.
- Formal or informal re-employment arrangement with the institution.
- Ownership of the institution's securities or other evidences of debt.
- Current membership on a visiting committee or similar body at the institution. (This is a conflict only for proposals or applications that originate from the department, school, or facility that the visiting committee or similar body advises.)
- Any office, governing board membership, or relevant committee chairperson in the institution. (Ordinary membership in a professional society or association is not considered an office.)
- Current enrollment as a student. (Only a conflict for proposals or applications that originate from the department or school in which one is a student.)
- Received and retained an honorarium or award from the institution within the last 12 months.

2. Your relationships with an investigator, project director, or other person who has a personal interest in the proposal or other application.

- Known family or marriage relationship. (Conflict only if the relationship is with a principal investigator or project director.)
- Business or professional partnership.
- Employment at same institution within the last 12 months.
- Past or present association as thesis advisory or thesis student.
- Your collaboration on a project or on a book, article, report, or paper within the last 48 months.

3. Your other affiliations or relationships.

- Interests of the following persons are to be treated as if they were yours: any affiliation or relationship of your spouse, of your minor child, or a relative living in your immediate household or of anyone who is legally your partner that you are aware of, that would be covered by items 1 or 2 above (except for receipt by your spouse or relative of an honorarium or award.)
- Other relationship, such as close personal friendship, that might tend to affect your judgements or be seen as doing so by a reasonable person familiar with the relationship.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF REVIEWS AND REVIEWER IDENTITIES

Sea Grant policy is that reviews and reviewer identities will not be disclosed except that copies of reviews (without the name and affiliation of the reviewer) will be sent to the principal investigator. Sea Grant considers reviews and reviewer identities to be exempt from disclosure, but cannot guarantee that it will not be forced to release them under terms of the Freedom of Information Act, or other laws. It may release a listing of all reviewers used within a specified period.