Sea Grant
ALASKA

Announcement of Funding Opportunity for 2026–2028

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 1966. 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 supports 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 2026–2028 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 $1 million will be available for 2026-2028 projects and graduate student support. Based on review, approximately 10–15 applicants who submit pre-proposals will be encouraged to submit a full proposal. Project duration is no more than two years, with project budgets averaging roughly $50,000 per year ($100,000 total), not including graduate student funding. Two years of graduate student support will be provided *in addition* to the project budget for each funded project. Student support will include an annual stipend (estimated at $42,000/yr for PhD and $37,000/yr for MS students), 12-18 credits of tuition & fees annually, and health insurance, all of which does not need to be included in the proposal budget. Even though the student is not included in the budget, the role of the student should be well described in the project narrative. The funded student must be enrolled at a university within Alaska. Sea Grant funds are subject to annual federal appropriations, and 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: November 22, 2024 with update January 28, 2025

I. 2026-2028 Proposal selection schedule and notable updates to the RFP

Schedule	
5 Feb 2025	**Deadline:** Preliminary proposals due via eSeaGrant by 5pm Alaska time
21 Mar 2025	Pre-proposal reviews shared, encouraged to submit full proposals
15 May 2025	**Deadline:** Full proposals due via eSeaGrant by 5pm Alaska time
Summer 2025	Proposals undergo peer and panel review
23 Sept 2025	Final selection of projects
1 Feb 2026	Earliest start date possible

Notable updates from the 2024-2026 RFP

- Engagement plan should address how the project incorporates the four R's (see pg. 3).
- To increase engagement with the broad Alaska Sea Grant program, researchers are invited to join an in-person meeting. The research project budget must include travel support for the PI and graduate research fellow to attend an Alaska Sea Grant program meeting in the first year of the project (see pg. 11).

II. Alaska Sea Grant research priorities and principles

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, community organizations, and user groups are encouraged. If a proposed research project addresses regional issues beyond Alaska, engages investigators outside of Alaska, and/or involves other Sea Grant programs, please consult with Alaska Sea Grant to explore joint submission 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, align with the four focus areas identified in the Alaska Sea Grant 2024–2027 Strategic Plan, and address the four engagement principles of Relationship, Responsibility, Reciprocity, and Redistribution, described below.

Focus Areas

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 local and statewide concerns

and interests 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 the sustainability of fisheries resources. Note that 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 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.

Engagement principles: the four R's
Alaska Sea Grant supports research engagement that embodies the four R's of Relationship, Responsibility, Reciprocity, and Redistribution described by Harris & Wasilewsky, 2004 (https://doi.org/10.1002/sres.631). Applicants are expected to describe how they will apply these best practices in their work.

*Research is conducted in Relationship***:** Researchers foster trust and open communication with communities and/or partners throughout the research process. Communities and partners are provided the opportunity to define research objectives, and the research is aligned with their interests and priorities. Research is respectful and recognizes the unique cultural context, values, and perspectives of those involved.

Research is conducted Responsibly: Researchers uphold high ethical standards throughout the research process, including considering potential impacts on communities and taking steps to mitigate any harm. Researchers recognize their positionality and how their identity and viewpoints influence their research and engagement. Researchers promote the sovereignty of communities involved in the research, including autonomy over research and data.

*Research is conducted in Reciprocity***:** Researchers invest in communities and partners in tangible ways, and recognize their partners investment in the research. Researchers share findings and provide benefits from the research. Researchers engage with community members and partners to seek input and guidance, acknowledging their knowledge and perspective. Researchers work with younger generations to engage them on the topic and build their critical thinking skills.

*Research is conducted with Redistribution***:** Communities and partners mutually benefit from the research, whether financially through a distributed project budget, or through other means. Outcomes of the research are shared and contribute to the well-being of those involved.

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, extension, and administrative activities. The omnibus period for this call runs from February 1, 2026, through January 31, 2028. Project start and end dates align with this time period. 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. Each year's match budget must be 50 percent of the request budget for that year.

Examples of cost share sources include non-federal salaries, wages and benefits of those working on the project; expendable supplies and equipment; ship time; and donated time from volunteers or elders, supplies, use of facilities, 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 or individuals are encouraged to contact the Alaska Sea Grant director to discuss if they have difficulty identifying matching funds.

Investigator eligibility

Alaska Sea Grant supports a diversity of academic partnerships. Project Principal Investigators (PIs) must be affiliated with an Alaska-based university, two- or four-year college, museum, research laboratory, nonprofit organization, or Tribal entity. 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. One of the PIs or co-PIs needs to have academic status and authority to supervise a graduate student, if one is planned on the project. 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 submission 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.

While Alaska Sea Grant 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 research project budget; rather, they should be included as unfunded collaborators as they are funded through the Alaska Sea Grant outreach budget and matching funds.

Student and post-doctoral fellow 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.

Research projects seeking to support graduate students may request a Sea Grant graduate research fellow during submission in eSeaGrant. Sea Grant graduate research fellows must be in full-time status enrolled at an Alaska university during the funding period and working toward an advanced degree related to the project topic. To justify inclusion of a fellowship, the project should provide the fellow with the basis for a thesis. Graduate student support (stipend, health insurance, tuition & fees) should not be included in the project budget. For projects that are selected for funding, Alaska Sea Grant will provide two years of graduate student support.

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 using best practices. Successful proposals will include meaningful collaboration with communities, industry, agencies, or other interested parties. The engagement plan should clearly describe how the proposed research addresses Relationships, Responsibility, Reciprocity, and Redistribution (the four Rs, described above in research priorities and principles).

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. The engagement plan should describe these partners and engagement with them in the conceptual stage of research planning.

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 agents and specialists are embedded in coastal communities and regions where research may take place and have experience working closely with coastal communities. They may be able to assist in developing research questions

and projects relevant to coastal communities and marine users. Applicants interested in using Alaska Sea Grant outreach, communication, or education resources are encouraged to discuss with Alaska Sea Grant Associate Director Molly Cain (mrcain@alaska.edu) during project conceptualization. For assistance in identifying potential partnerships with the Alaska Sea Grant faculty and staff, applicants can also reach out to Associate Director Cain for guidance. While Alaska Sea Grant 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 research project budget; rather, they are funded through the Alaska Sea Grant outreach, education, or communication budget and matching funds. For more information and resources on incorporating engagement into your research, see https://alaskaseagrant.org/research/engagement/.

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 institution. Project funds will not be awarded without appropriate approvals.

IV. Preliminary proposal guidance

Preliminary proposals must be submitted via eSeaGrant by **5:00 pm AKST on February 5, 2025**. Preliminary proposals received after the deadline will not be considered; the system will shut down automatically and lock out further submissions. **Please be sure to allow ample time for online proposal completion and submission.** The PI must register in the eSeaGrant system (https://eseagrant.alaska.edu) to begin the proposal well ahead of the proposal deadline. During registration, the PI may identify others (co-PIs, students, proposal preparation offices) who can complete the online submission.

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

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

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 but may be included.

Demographics questions: PIs and co-PIs will be asked several demographics questions via Google forms linked within eSeaGrant. Submission of the requested information is voluntary and is not a precondition of the award. Any individual not wishing to submit some or all the information should check the box provided for this purpose or skip the question. This form will not be duplicated, and it will not be a part of the review process. Data will be confidential.

Keywords: Identify 3–5 keywords or phrases

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

Intent to include Sea Grant research fellow Identify the institution, academic department, and degree (MS or PhD) for the student support requested.

Suggested reviewers: Submit the names, institutional affiliation, and email addresses of five suitable peer reviewers who could review a full proposal during summer 2025. 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 document 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 and 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 focus area(s)
c) clear statement of the objectives
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 and engage Alaskan coastal communities. Identify how any communities or partners, 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. Provide a cohesive strategy to ensure that users across the greater geographic region, beyond those who actively participate in the proposed work, will learn about the project's outcomes. Describe your target audiences and participant groups; the outreach, communications or education approaches to be used; and anticipated outcomes. Describe how the project supports the four R's: Relationship, Responsibility, Reciprocity, and Redistribution.

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 AKDT on May 15, 2025**. Full proposals received after the deadline will not be considered; the system will shut down automatically and lock out further submissions. Only investigators who submit preliminary proposals are eligible to submit full proposals.

During the online submission, please review and update information provided during the pre-proposal submission.

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

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 limit 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 but may be included.

Keywords: Identify 3–5 keywords or phrases

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

Intent to include Sea Grant research fellow Identify the institution, academic department, and degree (MS or PhD) for the student support requested.

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. This section will be filled out in eSeaGrant.

> **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 focus areas. 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 research and engagement 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: 12-page limit including all figures and tables, 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. References do not contribute to the suggested page limit. Be sure to include all the following items in the narrative pdf.

Project background: Explain the specific opportunities and challenges this project seeks to address and justify its importance. Describe how the research need was identified and any consultation that went into developing this project.

Project objectives: Provide a list of clearly defined objectives. For each objective, provide a concise statement explaining how it is aligned with the focus areas of Alaska Sea Grant.

Project details: Provide an explanation of the methods you will use to address your project objectives. Explicitly explain how this project will be conducted. 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 graduate student involvement and how this student work will contribute to the student's thesis.

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 the extent of collaboration are encouraged (see Letters of collaboration below).

Anticipated outcomes and results: What are the expected outcomes and results related to the creation of scientific knowledge? Who is expected to use or otherwise benefit from your results, and how? Provide a list of expected outcomes and deliverables that will result from your project(s). Explain how these outcomes will be directly and beneficially applied to the current and future needs of communities and local interested parties.

Project timeline: Provide a timeline for accomplishing the proposed work covering the entire project duration. Include approximate dates for key milestones related to the proposed work, including the accomplishment of anticipated outcomes and release of results.

Works cited (not included in page limit): 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. Engagement plan (Upload PDF: 2-page limit): Alaska Sea Grant encourages applicants to clearly identify how this research will have broader societal impacts and engage Alaskan coastal communities. Identify how any communities or partners, 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. Provide a cohesive strategy to ensure that users across the greater geographic region, beyond those who actively participate in the proposed work, will learn about the project's outcomes. Describe your target audiences and participant groups; the outreach, communications or education approaches to be used; and anticipated outcomes. Describe how the project supports the four R's: Relationship, Responsibility, Reciprocity, and Redistribution.

4. Budget spreadsheet and budget narrative (Upload spreadsheet and PDF): A completed budget spreadsheet and narrative are required for full proposals and should be uploaded in eSeaGrant. Please use the Sea Grant 90-4 budget spreadsheet (an updated version will be available on eSeaGrant). Budget narrative guidance provided by NOAA Grants Management Division can be found at NOAA Grants Management Division's Budget Narrative Guidance. The budget narrative should provide sufficient detail for reviewers to understand the amount requested in each category for each year of the project. All salaries must be detailed on a monthly or hourly basis with appropriate institutional fringe benefits or other charges detailed separately. All subawards will require full project documentation (narrative and budget) and official approvals from subawardee organizations or institutions.

Budget guidelines: Budgets should cover two years. Salary, benefits, and tuition support for graduate students *should NOT* be included in the project budget and will be provided outside of the project budget. 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. Federal agencies and personnel may not request salaries, travel, or indirect costs.

The year 1 budget should include travel to an Alaska Sea Grant program meeting for two individuals (PI and the graduate student). As a placeholder, budget for travel to Kodiak, Alaska and three nights of lodging.

5. Current and pending research support (Upload PDF): 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. You may use our current and pending support template or a different format.

6. Letters of collaboration (Upload PDF): 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 management plan (Upload PDF: 2-page limit): Full proposals are required to include a data management plan that clearly outlines the means by which qualifying data will be made available in accordance with the NOAA Data Sharing Directive. Briefly, this directive requires that 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.

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. You may use the Alaska Sea Grant data management plan template or your own. 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 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 management plan.

If no environmental data are to be collected or created, then the data management 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. The Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire, guidance on how to complete the questionnaire, and examples of

[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.

completed questionnaires can be found under NEPA Compliance: https://seagrant.noaa.gov/insideseagrant/Implementation.

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 rank highly in the evaluation criteria. 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). These reviewers certify no conflict of interest.

3. Alaska Sea Grant convenes a scientific and technical review panel composed 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 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. 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.

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 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, 2026.

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

Criteria	Weighting Pre Proposal	Weighting Full Proposal	Elements
Relevance	40%	25%	Importance, relevance and applicability of proposed project to Alaska Sea Grant focus area(s); application to problems or opportunities with societal relevance; and contribution to student support
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. Engagement plan addresses Relationships, Responsibility, Reciprocity, and Redistribution.
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. The budget is appropriately distributed amongst project partners.

VII. Reporting requirements

Principal investigators are required to provide Alaska Sea Grant with progress, completion, and post-completion project reports, submitted annually within eSeaGrant. 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.

Annual reports are Alaska Sea Grant's primary mechanism for evaluating project progress, and tracking publications, theses, and application of results. Further, the reports form the basis for information entered into a national database that is used to evaluate the productivity of the National Sea Grant College Program and set national priorities and funding levels. Qualitative reporting components include project updates, highlights, and accomplishments. Programs are also required to report on national performance measures and metrics, number values used to track the amount of something accomplished or number of individuals involved, and evaluate the effectiveness of activities and programs and benefits to partners. Alaska Sea Grant is evaluated, in part, on the basis of these reports, and the results of those evaluations may affect the resources available for funding research in future years.

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." Our For Funded Researchers webpage includes detailed guidance on reporting funding sources, acknowledgements, and project and award numbers.

VIII. Contact information

To discuss proposal ideas or issues contact Alaska Sea Grant Associate Director Molly Cain (mrcain@alaska.edu, 907-474-6383).

For *eSeaGrant* technical issues or questions contact Alaska Sea Grant Communications and Technology Specialist Dave Partee (dave.partee@alaska.edu, 907-474-2432)