Introduction
Alaska Sea Grant (ASG) is a partnership between the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program and the universities and colleges in Alaska. 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 pre-proposals for research projects for the 2016–2018 biennium. We seek creative and innovative research proposals in the natural and social sciences that address one of the three following focus areas.

- Healthy Coastal Ecosystems
- Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Resilient Communities and Economies

Detailed information on each of the focus areas is available in the Alaska Sea Grant 2014–2017 Strategic Plan (http://seagrant.uaf.edu/research/rfp/2014-2017strategic-plan.php). We anticipate that approximately $500,000 per year will be available for this solicitation. Pre-proposals must be submitted by 5:00 pm Friday 30 January 2015. Based on review of the pre-proposals, approximately 10–15 invitations to submit full proposals will be issued by 2 March 2015. Full proposals, by invitation only, must be submitted by 5:00 pm 1 May 2015 with final funding recommendations by 30 September 2015.

Normal project duration is no more than two years, with project budgets averaging $100,000 for a two year award (not including graduate student funding). Because Sea Grant funds are subject to annual federal appropriations, all awards are subject to the availability of funds.

Pre-proposals will be ranked on the basis of:

- Scientific/intellectual merit and relevance of the research.
- Anticipated impacts, defined as tangible direct or indirect benefits to Alaska communities, policy makers, or stakeholders. For further guidance on possible impacts, see Considerations for Impact Reporting, http://seagrant.uaf.edu/research/rfp/impacts.php.
- Potential for significant engagement and outreach to communities or stakeholders. Proposals must include outreach activities that engage relevant stakeholders or communities. Alaska Sea Grant encourages investigators to consider themselves partners with Alaska Sea Grant in serving the needs of Alaska’s communities. For this reason, staff members are available to discuss all aspects of pre-proposals prior to submission.
In addition, favorable consideration will be given to proposals that

- Increase their impact through critical linkages, such as the linkage of ecosystem research to broader sociocultural or management issues.
- Include graduate students who will become the next generation of scientists and managers.
- Make efficient use of funds through leveraging, partnerships, or new uses of existing data or techniques.
- Include meaningful collaboration with industry, agencies, communities, or other stakeholders.

**Full proposals** will be evaluated using the above criteria and peer-reviewed. Reviewers are asked to provide both positive and negative comments on the validity and significance of the science being proposed; its potential applicability to important problems; and the quality of the approach, methodologies, facilities, and investigators. The proposal evaluation criteria are established by the National Sea Grant Program, specifically:

1. **Rationale:** the degree to which the proposed activity addresses an important issue, problem, or opportunity in development, use, or management of marine or coastal resources.

2. **Scientific or professional merit:** the degree to which the activity will advance the state of the science or discipline through use and extension of state-of-the-art methods.

3. **Innovativeness:** the degree to which new approaches to solving problems and exploiting opportunities in resource management or development, or in public outreach on such issues, will be employed; alternatively, the degree to which the activity will focus on new types of important or potentially important resources and issues.

4. **Qualifications and past record of investigators:** degree to which investigators are qualified by education, training, and/or experience to execute the proposed activity; record of achievement with previous funding.

**Eligibility**

Applications will be accepted from investigators at universities; federal, state, local, and tribal government entities, and nonprofit organizations. Alaska Sea Grant encourages participation from the broad research community and welcomes proposals from investigators new to the Alaska Sea Grant research program.

**PI Responsibilities**

Alaska Sea Grant encourages investigators to consider themselves as partners with Sea Grant, both in serving the needs of Alaska’s communities and in reporting and publicizing their achievements. The future of our program depends on increasingly detailed documentation of the impacts and outcomes of our research and other activities. Thoughtful and timely reporting by PIs is essential to the success of this process. Projects involving vertebrate animals or human subjects, including interviews, must undergo University of Alaska Fairbanks institutional review.

**Contact Information**

Alaska Sea Grant staff members are available to discuss all aspects of proposals prior to submission:

*Project scope, topic relevance to Alaska Sea Grant, questions about impacts:*
Paula Cullenberg, Director, (907) 274-9692, paula.cullenberg@alaska.edu
Ginny Eckert, Associate Director for Research, (907) 796-5450, ginny.eckert@alaska.edu
Outreach/engagement
Paula Cullenberg, Director and Marine Advisory Program Leader, (907) 274-9692, paula.cullenberg@alaska.edu
Torie Baker, Associate Leader, Marine Advisory Program, (907) 424-7542, torie.baker@alaska.edu
Marilyn Sigman, Marine Education Specialist, (907) 274-9612, marilyn.sigman@alaska.edu
Deborah Mercy, Communications Coordinator, (907) 274-9698, mailto:deborah.mercy@alaska.edu
Marine Advisory Program Agents, a full list available at http://seagrant.uaf.edu/about/contact.html

Program information, budget issues, and forms
Michele Frandsen, Research Coordinator, (907) 474-7088, michele.frandsen@alaska.edu

Developing and reporting impacts
Paula Cullenberg, Director, (907) 274-9692, paula.cullenberg@alaska.edu
Ginny Eckert, Associate Director for Research, (907) 796-5450, ginny.eckert@alaska.edu
Michele Frandsen, Research Coordinator, (907) 474-7088, michele.frandsen@alaska.edu

Required Elements for Pre-Proposals
Due 5:00 pm 30 January 2015

During the online submission process, please provide the following information using the online form at http://seagrant.uaf.edu/research/rfp/2016/preproposal-2016.php

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

**Project period:** Initiation and completion dates. Proposals should request a start date of 1 February 2016, or later. Normal project duration is no more than two years.

**Investigators:** Names, affiliations, and amount of effort for each investigator 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).

**Project funding anticipated:** Categorize the project funding (excluding graduate student support: stipend, tuition, and health insurance) anticipated, in the following categories:
- $0 to $50K per two years
- $50K to $100K per two years
- $100K to $150K per two years
- greater than $150K per two years

**Graduate student funding anticipated:**
- MS or PhD student
- Start and end date of student funding

**Summary:** A concise summary of the proposed research, written for a nonspecialist, scientifically literate audience. Maximum 300 words.

**Suggested reviewers:** Submit the names, institutional affiliation and e-mail addresses of at least four suitable peer reviewers who could review a full proposal. These potential reviewers must reside outside of Alaska and must not have collaborated with any of the PIs in the past 48 months. You may also indicate any reviewers who may be biased against your project.

**Formatting Requirements**
A single PDF document with the following sections must be single-spaced, with 1-inch margins and 12 point Times New Roman font. Failure to comply with any of the formatting specifications above may result in automatic dismissal of your application without further review.
1. **Project Narrative** (up to two pages, including any tables and figures): A concise statement of project activities. It should outline and/or discuss relevance to the Alaska Sea Grant Strategic Plan, objectives, hypotheses, methods, expected outcomes, project partners and a project timeline. The project description should be written for a nonspecialist, scientifically literate audience.

2. **Statement of Need and Outreach Plan** (up to one page): Submit a concise summary of the need for the project and how regional or other stakeholders will benefit and/or engage in the project. The Outreach Plan should discuss plans for engaging local residents, users, or other stakeholders, as appropriate for the project; description of how success for outreach activities will be evaluated; and plans for how results will be disseminated and/or translated to a tangible benefit for Alaska.


Alaska Sea Grant has resources for development and production of publications, videos, and other outreach or education products; coordination of meetings and workshops; release of information to news media; and development of websites. ASG Marine Advisory Program agents and specialists have broad experience in working with coastal communities. Applicants needing assistance with any of these issues are encouraged to discuss potential partnerships with appropriate ASG staff. Contact information is above.

3. **Results of Previous Sea Grant Support** (up to one page per project): Include all projects receiving funding from any Sea Grant program during the previous five years. The following information should be provided:
   1. ASG 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
Required Elements for Full Proposals
NOTE: Full Proposals may only be submitted by invitation
Due 5:00 pm Friday 1 May 2015

Instructions for submission will be provided with an invitation for a full proposal.

1. **Project Summary Form** (NOAA form 90-2, 1-page limit)
2. **Project Synopsis** (1-page limit)
3. **Project Narrative** (15-page limit, including tables and figures)
4. **References Cited** (no page limit)
5. **Budget Spreadsheet and Budget Narrative** (including NOAA form 90-4)
6. **Project Schedule and Budget Projection** (NOAA form 90-6)
7. **Vitae of Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-Principal Investigators** (2-page limit per investigator)
8. **Current and Pending Research Projects**
9. **Results of Previous Sea Grant Support** (no more than one page per project)
10. **Data Sharing Plan** (2-page limit)
11. **Suggested Reviewers** (4 suitable out-of-state peer reviewers)
12. **NEPA Questionnaire**

**Formatting Requirements**
The document must be single-spaced, with 1-inch margins and 12 point Times New Roman font. Failure to comply with any of the formatting specifications above may result in automatic dismissal of your application without further review.

1. **Project Summary Form** (NOAA form 90-2): The project summary should include
   - **Project title:** Exact title as it appears in the rest of the application. Please keep title succinct.
   - **Project period:** Initiation and completion dates. Proposals should request a start date of 1 February 2016, or later.
   - **Investigators:** Names, affiliations, and amount of effort of each investigator who will significantly contribute to the project. Start with the principal investigator. Do not include collaborators or others who are not dedicating time to the project (directly or as match).
   - **Funding request:** Total Sea Grant funds requested for this project (not including graduate student support).
   - **Related projects:** List project number and name for any related projects funded by Alaska Sea Grant (either currently or in the past).
   - **Keywords:** Keywords are used by many people (not all are scientifically oriented) in searches of National Sea Grant and Alaska Sea Grant databases.
   - **Objectives:** Briefly describe the objectives of the work to be performed.
   - **Methodology:** Briefly describe the methodological approaches
   - **Rationale:** Why is this project important?
Benefits: Who will benefit from this project? How will these benefits be achieved?

2. Synopsis (1-page limit): This page will provide key details on your project. If the project is selected for funding, this information will be used to generate the Alaska Sea Grant project description on the website, which is publicly available. Include the following headers and follow the guidance below. Responses may be similar to those provided on the project summary form (90-2).

Summary: Provide a 300-word (or less) synopsis written for a lay audience.

The issue: Describe the big picture of why your research project is important.

Why is this an Alaska Sea Grant project? Explain how this project relates to the 2014–2017 Alaska Sea Grant Strategic Plan.

Anticipated benefits of the research: Describe how benefits will be achieved and who will receive these benefits.

Research collaborators: List organizations (not individuals) associated with this project.

3. Project narrative (15-page limit including all figures and tables): 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 lay readers. It should include all the following items. Letters of support or collaboration do not count toward the page limit.

Description and need: Discuss the problem or need being addressed and how the project will address ASG’s goals and strategic plan. Describe the expected output or product, and describe the expected long-term impact(s).

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 ASG.

Coordination with 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 allowed (see Letters of Support below).

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. Describe any graduate student involvement and clearly identify graduate students who would be funded by Alaska Sea Grant, including start and end dates of fellowship funding and whether students would qualify for in-state or out-of-state tuition.

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?
ASG 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 ASG in recording, publicizing, and celebrating success. All PIs are expected to assist ASG staff in identifying and documenting outcomes and impacts.

**Outreach component:** Submit a concise summary of the need for the project and how regional or other stakeholders will benefit and/or engage in the project. The Outreach Plan should discuss plans for engaging local residents, users, or other stakeholders, as appropriate for the project; description of how success for outreach activities will be evaluated; and plans for how results will be disseminated and/or translated to a tangible benefit for Alaska.


Alaska Sea Grant has resources for development and production of publications, videos, and other outreach or education products; coordination of meetings and workshops; release of information to news media; and development of websites. ASG Marine Advisory Program agents and specialists have broad experience in working with coastal communities. Applicants needing assistance with any of these issues are encouraged to discuss potential partnerships with appropriate ASG staff. Contact information is above.

**Letters of support:** Appropriate and relevant letters of support may be included in an Appendix. 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.

4. **References cited** (no 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.

5. **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. NOAA summary budget form 90-4 must be included.

**Budget guidelines:** Budgets may be for one or two years. 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 may not request salaries, travel, or indirect costs.

6. **Project schedule and budget projection** (NOAA form 90-6): Project start date will be no earlier than 1 February 2016.

7. **Vitae of principal investigators (PI) and key associate investigators** (2-page maximum per investigator): A vita must be provided for each individual who will serve as PI or co-investigator in the project. Vitae should list up to 10 relevant publications. Graduate student vitae are not required, but may
be included for senior students and/or those playing a dominant role in the project. Each PI must list name and current institution for all thesis or postdoctoral advisees, as well as PI’s graduate and postgraduate advisors. Include a list of all collaborators within the past four years if not included in the publication list. This information is used to help identify potential conflicts in the selection of reviewers.

8. 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 involvement in each project.

9. Results of previous Sea Grant support: No more than one page per project; include all projects receiving funding from any Sea Grant program during the previous five years. If the PI or co-PI has received Alaska Sea Grant funding in the past five years, information on the prior award(s) is required. If no Sea Grant support in the last five years, then please indicate “No previous Sea Grant support.”

The following information should be provided:

1. ASG 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

10. Data sharing plan: Data and information collected and/or created under NOAA grants and cooperative agreements must be made visible, accessible, and independently understandable to general users, free of charge or at minimal cost, in a timely manner (typically no later than two years after the data are collected or created), except where limited by law, regulation, policy, or by security requirements.

The requirement has two basic parts: (1) environmental data generated by a grant project must be made available after a reasonable period of exclusive use, and (2) the grant application must describe the plan to make the data available.

Full proposals are required to include a data sharing plan that clearly outlines the means by which qualifying data will be made available. 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.

The selection of method(s) for data sharing is the responsibility of the lead PI, and will depend on the nature of the project and the type(s) of data. Acceptable archive types include but are not limited to the following:

Data archives: online sites that acquire, maintain, document, distribute, and possibly manipulate data. NOAA facilities that archive data and make the data openly available should be considered. In Alaska, PIs are encouraged to use the AOOS web portal when appropriate.

Data enclave: controlled, secure environment in which eligible researchers can perform analyses using data resources.

Publishing: articles in scientific publications, provided full data sets are included.
Researcher-managed archive: investigator commits to maintaining a system that responds to data requests. This approach should only be considered when no more permanent alternative is available. For more information, please see the Data Management Plan FAQs, http://seagrant.uaf.edu/research/rfp/2014/data-sharing-FAQs.pdf [PDF; 116 KB], or contact Michele Frandsen, Research Coordinator, (907) 474-7088, michele.frandsen@alaska.edu.

11. Suggested reviewers: Submit the names of at least four suitable peer reviewers. These potential reviewers must reside outside of Alaska and must not have collaborated with any of the PIs in the past 48 months. You may also indicate any reviewers who may be biased against your project.

12. NEPA Questionnaire: Please answer all of the questions and provide any supplementary material requested in the required form.

Submission Instructions
Please submit online, following instructions provided in the invitation for a full proposal.

Reporting Requirements and Review Schedule
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 upon outcomes and impacts of the research. The definition of “impacts” from the National Sea Grant Office:

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 ASG 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.

2016–2018 Proposal selection schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 January 2015</td>
<td><strong>Deadline:</strong> Pre-proposals due via online submission by 5 pm Alaska time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 March 2015</td>
<td>Invitations issued to submit full proposals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 May 2015</td>
<td><strong>Deadline:</strong> Full-proposals due via online submission by 5 pm Alaska time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring/summer 2015</td>
<td>Proposals undergo peer and panel review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2015</td>
<td>Final selection of projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 September 2015</td>
<td>Recommendations for funding submitted to National Sea Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 February 2016</td>
<td>Funding available. Earliest start date possible</td>
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Forms

NOAA Project Summary form 90-2 (Word file)
NOAA Budget Form 90-4 (Excel file)
Budget Narrative Instructions (Word file)
Sample Budget Spreadsheet (Excel file)
NOAA Project Schedule form 90-6 (Word file)
Current and Pending Support (Excel file)
NEPA Questionnaire (PDF)

Links to forms will be provided in the invitation for a full proposal.

Questions?
If you have any questions about this RFP, the required forms, or other information you feel might be missing, please contact Michele Frandsen at 907-474-7088 or michele.frandsen@alaska.edu.