

(E) Delinquent Federal Debts—No award of Federal funds shall be made to an applicant who has an outstanding delinquent Federal debt until either:

(1) The delinquent account is paid in full,

(2) A negotiated repayment schedule is established and at least one payment is received, or

(3) Other arrangements satisfactory to DOC are made.

(F) Name Check Review—All non-profit and for-profit applicants are subject to a name check review process. Name checks are intended to reveal if any key individuals associated with the applicant have been convicted of or are presently facing criminal charges such as fraud, theft, perjury, or other matters which significantly reflect on the applicant's management honesty or financial integrity.

(G) False Statements—A false statement on an application is grounds for denial or termination of funds and grounds for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment as provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

(H) Intergovernmental Review—Applications for support from the National Sea Grant College Program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.

(I) Purchase of American-Made Equipment and Products—Applicants are hereby notified that they will be encouraged to the greatest extent practicable, to purchase American-made equipment and products with funding provided under this program.

#### Classification

Prior notice and an opportunity for public comments are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act or any other law for this notice concerning grants, benefits, and contracts. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required for purposes of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

This action has been determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

This notice contains collection of information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Sea Grant Budget Form and Standard Forms 424, 424a and 424b have been approved under control numbers 0648-0362, 0348-0043, 0348-0044, and 0348-0040 with average responses estimated to take 15, 45, 180, and 15 minutes, respectively. These estimates include the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send

comments on these estimates or any other aspect of these collections to National Sea Grant College Program, R/SG, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (Attention: Francis S. Schuler) and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 (Attention: NOAA Desk Officer). Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Dated: February 25, 1999.

**Louisa Koch,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 990125029-9029-01]

RIN 0648-ZA55

##### Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship National Sea Grant College Federal Fellows Program

**AGENCY:** Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces that applications may be submitted for a Fellowship program which was initiated by the National Sea Grant College Program Office (NSGCPO), in fulfilling its broad educational responsibilities, to provide educational experience in the policies and processes of the Legislative and Executive Branches of the Federal Government to graduate students in marine related fields. The Fellowship program accepts applications once a year during the month of September. All applicants must submit an application to one of the Sea Grant College Programs in their state. If there is no program in the applicant's state they should apply through the closest state Sea Grant College Program.

**DATES:** Deadlines vary from state to state, but are generally due in early August. Contact your state Sea Grant

College Program for specific deadlines (see list below).

**ADDRESSES:** Applications should be addressed to the Sea Grant College Program in your state or the closest state. Contact your state Sea Grant College program for the mailing address from the list below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Information and brochures can be obtained from Dr. Sharon H. Walker, Acting Director (until September 1, 1999), or from Dr. Shirley J. Fiske, Director (after September 1), National Sea Grant Federal Fellows Program, National Sea Grant College Program, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, telephone (301) 713-2431 extension 148 or call your nearest Sea Grant program:

University of Alaska—(907) 474-7086

University of California—(619) 534-4440

University of Connecticut—(860) 405-9128

University of Delaware—(302) 831-2841

University of Florida—(352) 392-5870

University of Georgia—(706) 542-6009

University of Hawaii—(808) 956-7031

University of Illinois—(765) 494-3593

Louisiana State University—(504) 388-6710

University of Maine—(207) 581-1436

University of Maryland—(301) 405-6209

Massachusetts Institute of Technology—(617) 253-7131

University of Michigan—(734) 763-1437

University of Minnesota—(218) 726-8106

Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium—(228) 875-9341

University of New Hampshire—(603) 862-0122

New Jersey Marine Science Consortium—(732) 872-1300

State University of New York—(516) 632-6905

University of North Carolina—(919) 515-2454

The Ohio State University—(614) 292-8949

Oregon State University—(541) 737-2714

University of Puerto Rico—(787) 832-3585

Purdue University—(765) 494-3593

University of Rhode Island—(401) 874-6800

South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium—(843) 727-2078

University of Southern California—(213) 740-1961

Texas A&M University—(409) 845-3854

Virginia Graduate Marine Science Consortium—(804) 924-5965

University of Washington—(206) 543-6600

University of Wisconsin—(608) 262-0905  
 Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute—  
 (508) 289-2557

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship National Sea Grant College Federal Fellows Program**

*Purpose of the Fellowship Program*

In 1979, the National Sea Grant College Program Office (NSGCPO), in fulfilling its broad educational responsibilities, initiated a program to provide educational experience in the policies and processes of the Legislative and Executive Branches of the Federal Government to graduate students in marine related fields. The U.S. Congress recognized the value of this program and in 1987, Public Law 100-200 stipulated that the Sea Grant Federal Fellows Program was to be a formal part of the National Sea Grant College Program Act. The recipients are designated Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellows pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1127(b).

**Announcement**

Fellows program announcements are sent annually to all participating Sea Grant institutions and campuses by the state Sea Grant Director upon receipt of notice from the National Sea Grant College Program Office (NSGCPO). A brochure describing the program is also available from the NSGCPO for distribution by both that office and the state Sea Grant programs.

**Eligibility**

Any student who, on September 24, 1999, is in a master's, doctoral or professional program in a marine related field from any accredited institution of higher education in the United States may apply to the NSGCPO through the state or closest state Sea Grant program. NOAA makes financial assistance funds available to the National Sea Grant Colleges to implement the fellowship program. The National Sea Grant College Program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under number 11.417: Sea Grant Support.

**Deadlines**

Applications should be obtained from the state Sea Grant Director and the signed applications must be submitted by the date set in each state Sea Grant program's announcement (usually early to mid-September). State Sea Grant programs may elect and forward to the National Office no more than four (4) finalists according to a selection criteria comparable to that used by the National

Office in the national competition. Applications are to be submitted to the NSGCPO by the sponsoring state Sea Grant Director, no later than close of business on September 24th of any given year. The competitive selection process and subsequent notification will be completed by October 24th of any given year.

**Stipend and Expenses**

For FY 2000 a Fellow will receive an award of \$36,000 which is distributed between salary (stipend) and living expenses in accordance with University guidelines. Other expenses covered are travel, moving costs, health insurance and institutional overhead.

**Application**

An application will include:

Personal and academic resume or curriculum vitae.

Personal education and career goal statement which emphasizes expectations from the experience in the way of career development (not to exceed 2 pages).

No more than two letters of recommendation with at least one being from the student's major professor.

A letter of endorsement from the sponsoring state Sea Grant Director.

Copy of undergraduate and graduate student transcripts. No thesis papers, publications or other additional supporting documents are desired.

It is our intent that all applicants be evaluated only on their ability, therefore letters of endorsements from members of Congress, friends, relatives or others will not be considered.

Placement preference in the Executive or Legislative Branches of the Government may be stated, and will be honored to the extent possible.

**Selection Criteria**

The selection criteria will include:

Strength of academic performance.  
 Communications skills (both written and oral).

Diversity of academic background.

Work experience.

Support of major professor.

Support of Sea Grant Director.

Ability to work with people.

**Selection**

Applicants will be individually reviewed and ranked, according to the criteria outlined above, by a panel including representation from (1) the Sea Grant Association, (2) the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, and (3) the current and possibly last past group of Fellows. The individuals representative of these groups will be chosen on a year by year basis according to availability, timing, and other exigencies. Relative weights for the

evaluation criteria are equal. The Federal Fellowship Director of the National Sea Grant Office will then group the top-ranked applicants into two categories, legislative and executive, based upon the applicant's stated preference and/or judgment of the panel based upon material submitted. The number of fellows assigned to the Congress will be limited to 10.

**Federal Policies and Procedures**

Fellows receive funds directly from the National Sea Grant Colleges, and are considered to be subrecipients of Federal assistance subject to all Federal laws and Federal and Commerce Department policies, regulations, and procedures applicable to Federal financial assistance awards.

**Past Performance**

Unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding.

**Pre-Award Activities**

If applicants incur any costs prior to an award being made, they do so solely at their own risk of not being reimbursed by the Government. Notwithstanding any verbal or written assurance that may have been received, there is no obligation on the part of Department of Commerce to cover pre-award costs.

**No Obligation for Future Funding**

If an applicant is selected for funding, Department of Commerce has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of Department of Commerce.

**Delinquent Federal Debts**

No award of Federal funds shall be made to a Fellows applicant who has an outstanding delinquent Federal debt or fine until either:

- i. The delinquent account is paid in full,
- ii. A negotiated repayment schedule is established and at least one payment is received, or
- iii. Other arrangements satisfactory to Department of Commerce are made.

**Name Check Review**

All non-profit and for-profit applicants are subject to a name check review process. Name checks are intended to reveal if any key individuals associated with the applicant have been convicted of or are presently facing criminal charges such as fraud, theft, perjury, or other matters which

significantly reflect on the applicant's management honesty or financial integrity.

### Primary Application Certifications

All primary applicants must submit a completed Form CD-511, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters: Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying," and the following explanations are hereby provided:

#### *i. Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension*

Prospective participants (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, Section 105) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, "Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;

#### *ii. Drug-Free Workplace*

Grantees (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, Section 605) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, Subpart F, "Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;

#### *iii. Anti-Lobbying*

Persons (as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Section 105) are subject to the lobbying provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1352, "Limitation on use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracting and financial transactions," and the lobbying section of the certification form prescribed above applies to applications/bids for grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts for more than \$100,000, and loans and loan guarantees for more than \$150,000; and

#### *iv Anti-Lobbying Disclosures*

Any applicant that has paid or will pay for lobbying using any funds must submit an SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," as required under 15 CFR Part 28, Appendix B.

### Lower Tier Certifications

Recipients shall require applicants/bidders for subgrants, contracts, subcontracts, or other lower tier covered transactions at any tier under the award to submit, if applicable, a completed Form CD-513, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transactions and Lobbying" and disclosure form, SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities." Form CD-512 is intended for the use of recipients and should not be transmitted to Department of Commerce. SF-LLL

submitted by any tier recipient or subrecipient should be submitted to Department of Commerce in accordance with the instructions contained in the award document.

### False Statements

A false statement on an application is grounds for denial or termination of funds and grounds for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment as provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

### Intergovernmental Review

Applications under this program are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

### Classification

Prior notice and an opportunity for public comments are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act or any other law for this notice concerning grants, benefits, and contracts. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required for purposes of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

This action has been determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

This document contains collection of information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The "Application for Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowships" has been approved by OMB under control number 0648-0362 with average responses estimated to take two hours. This estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments on this estimate or any other aspect of this collection to National Sea Grant College Program, R/SG, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (Attention: Francis S. Schuler) and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 (Attention: NOAA Desk Officer). Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Dated: February 25, 1999.

**Louisa Koch,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 99-5115 Filed 3-4-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 990125030-9030-01]

RIN 0648-ZA56

### National Oyster Disease Research Program and Gulf Oyster Industry Initiative: Request for Proposals for FY 1999

**AGENCY:** National Sea Grant College Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of request for proposals.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that the National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) is entertaining preliminary proposals and subsequently full proposals to participate in innovative research, outreach and demonstration projects in two separate competitions: one to continue the National Oyster Disease Research Program (ODRP) and one to continue the Gulf Oyster Industry Program (GOIP). In FY 1999 and 2000, Sea Grant expects to make available about \$1,475,000 per year to support the National Oyster Disease Research Program through projects that focus on diseases that are impacting the oyster populations of the US, and about \$930,000 per year to support the Gulf Oyster Industry Program through projects that focus on the oyster industry problems of the Gulf Coast with special emphasis on the human health considerations within that industry. Matching funds equivalent to a minimum of 50% of the Federal request must be provided for each project. Successful projects will be selected through national competitions.

**DATES:** Preliminary proposals must be submitted before 5 pm (local time) on April 5, 1999 to the nearest state Sea Grant College Program or the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO). After evaluation at the NSGO, some proposers will be encouraged to prepare full proposals, which must be submitted before 5 pm (local time) on May 27, 1999 to the nearest state Sea Grant College Program or the NSGO.