Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Sea Grant

Biennial RFP Informational Webinar #2

December 14, 2022

WHOI Sea Grant's mission is to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal and marine resources by developing and sharing science-based knowledge to create a sustainable economy and environment for the diverse communities of Massachusetts.

Webinar Details

- This informational webinar will be recorded for our note-taking purposes but not posted on the web

- The slides will be posted on our website, along with a summary of the audience questions and answers

- Please feel free to ask questions at any time. We ask that you ask your questions one of three ways:
  - Enter questions in the chat window
  - Use the raise hand function in the participant window and unmute when called on
  - Unmute and ask your question directly
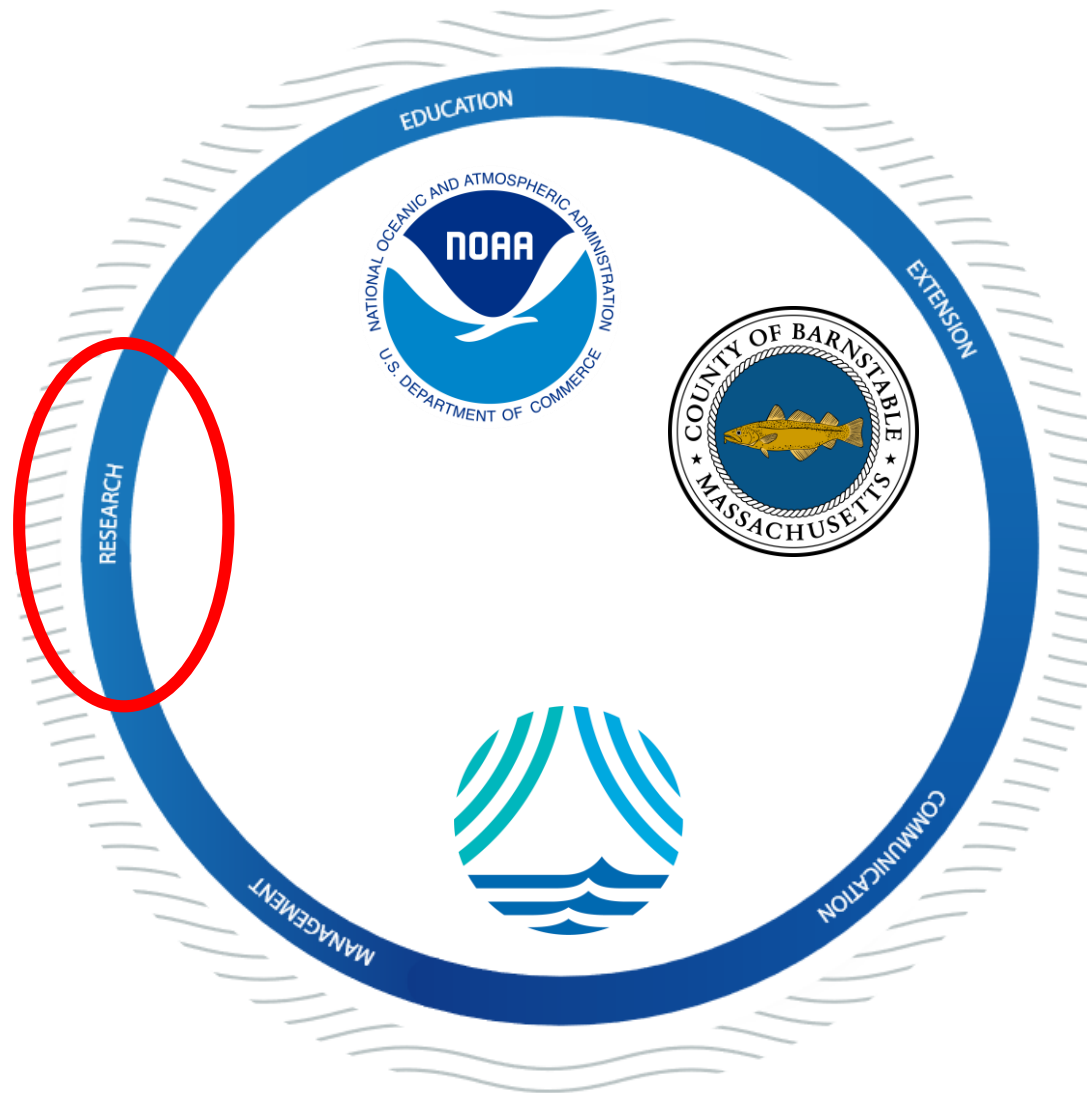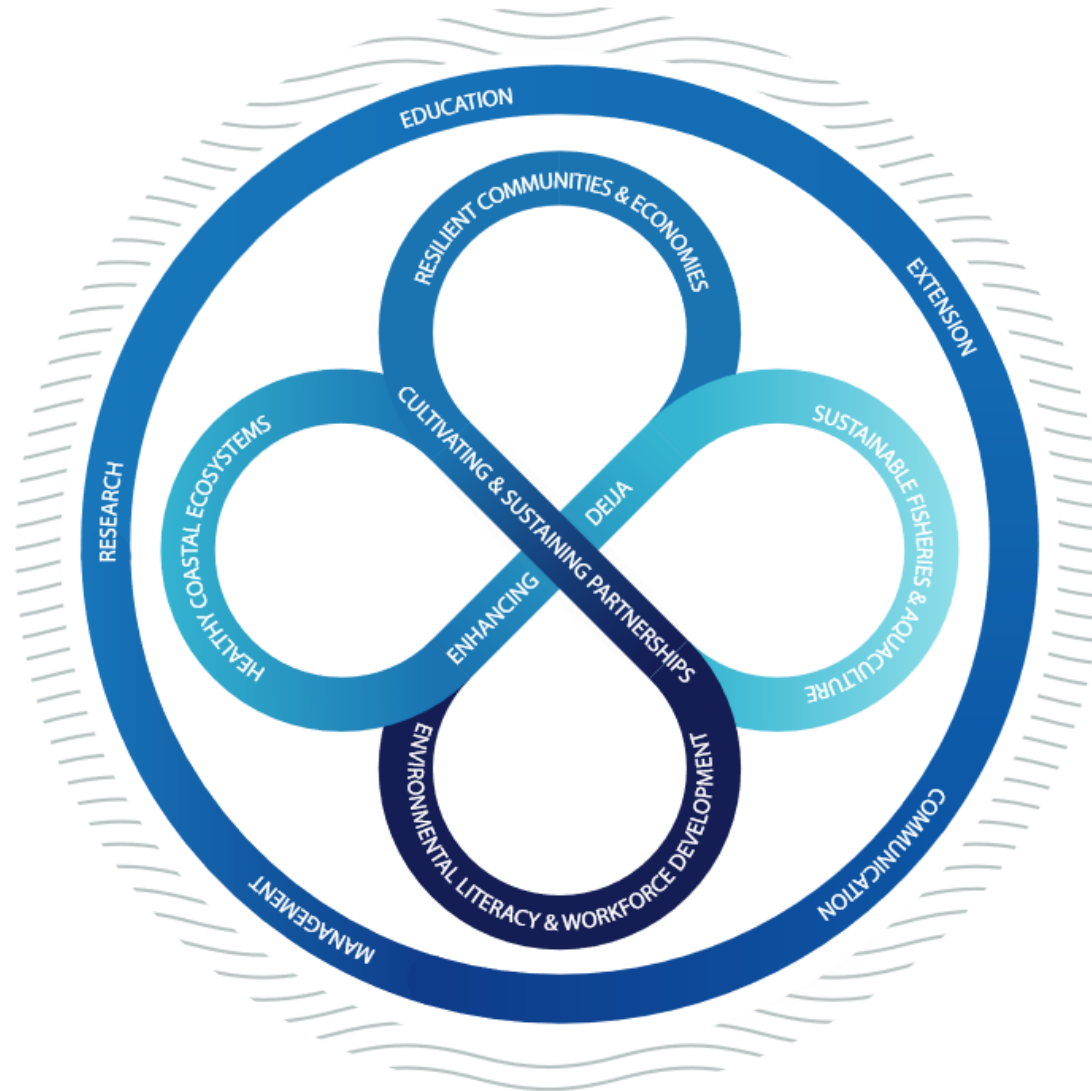
Sea Grant Program Overview
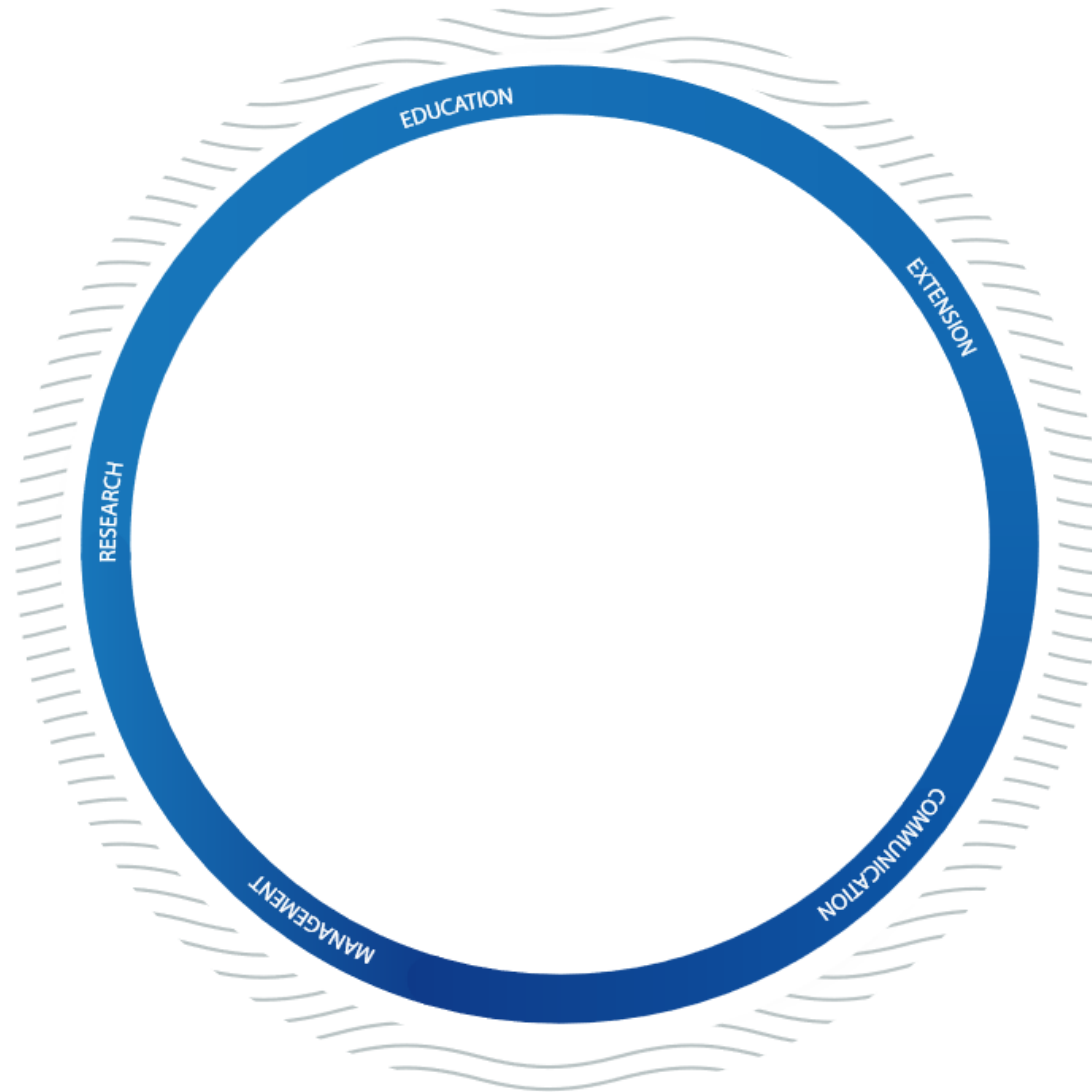
Sea Grant Program Overview

Sea Grant Program Overview

Sea Grant Focus Areas

RFP Priority Areas

Focus Area Priorities

Healthy Coastal Ecosystems

Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

Resilient Communities and Economies

Cross-cutting Themes

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Accessibility

Climate Change

Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development

RFP Priority Areas

Other emerging themes are also acceptable to submit to WHOI Sea Grant. Proposal submissions on topics other than the listed priority areas, but still within the focus areas, are welcomed.

As you are developing research project ideas, we strongly suggest you consider potential management applications of the results of your research, and craft a research project around critical management needs of coastal communities in Massachusetts.

RFP details

- Lead PIs must be staff or faculty at any public or private research or higher educational institution within the state of Massachusetts.

- Researchers are eligible to submit only one pre-proposal as lead PI, but may serve as a co-PI on other proposals.

- Approximately $500,000 per year will be available to support 4-6 research projects during the 2024-2025 funding cycle.

- Sea Grant proposals require a match of $1 of non-federal funds for every $2 of federal funds requested.

- **NEW: Projects may request up to $250,000 over the two-year projects**

- **NEW: Project Narratives are a maximum of 10 pages**

- **NEW: Proposed research must occur primarily within Massachusetts and/or Massachusetts state waters and adjacent federal waters**

Questions?

Engagement Plan
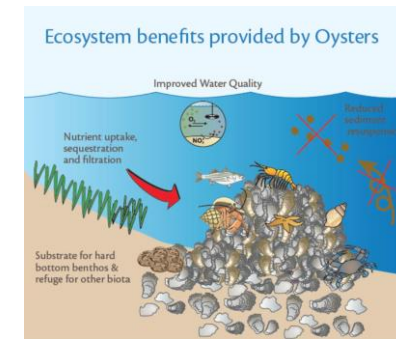
Ecosystem benefits provided by Oysters

- Proposals must include a plan for disseminating findings and/or products to relevant stakeholders (non-academic). *If this is new to you, contact us with your idea and we can help put you in touch with relevant parties.*

- PIs are encouraged to work with WHOI SG's staff to identify and contact communities, individuals and organizations that will benefit from project outcomes. *We are happy to help!*

- Helpful tips for developing an engagement plan can be found on our website.

- The concept of Research to Application is important!
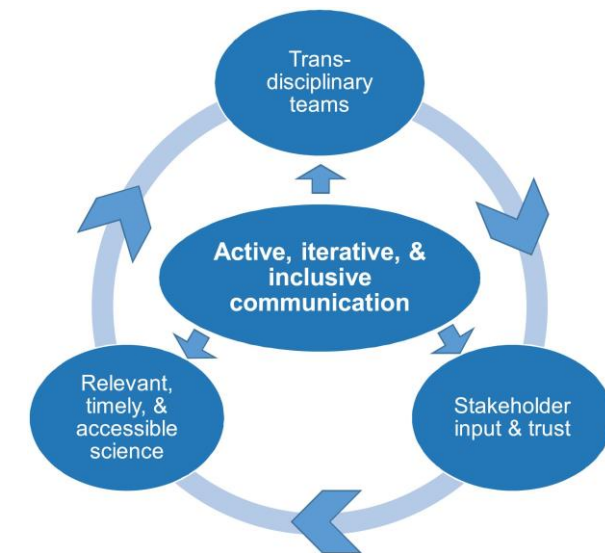
Jones et al. 2021 Frontiers in Marine Sciences

Engagement Plan

Ecosystem benefits provided by Oysters

FAQs for Developing an Engagement Plan for a WHOI Sea Grant Research Project

What is outreach and engagement?
Outreach and engagement are terms that describe elements of communicating your research results to relevant interested parties that include communities, organizations, and individuals.

Who should you engage with?
Any individuals who use Massachusetts' coastal resources - interested parties could include K-12 students, parents and/or teachers, coastal managers, members of coastal industries or business owners, or the general public, among others.

What are the key elements of an engagement plan?
Engagement plans should provide detailed strategies for working with and communicating the results of your research to relevant interested parties. A well crafted engagement plan will ensure that your research results have a clear path for use by relevant communities in Massachusetts.

Are there resources available for helping me develop my engagement plan?
We **strongly encourage** all PIs to reach out to WHOI Sea Grant extension and education staff as you are developing your proposal. WHOI Sea Grant extension and education staff:

Engagement Plan
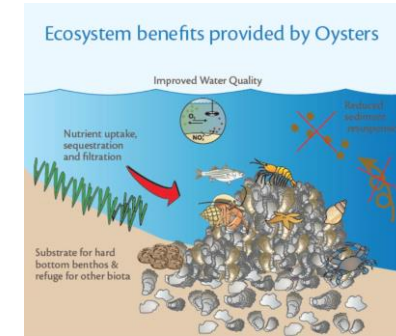
- Proposals must include a plan for disseminating findings and/or products to relevant stakeholders (non-academic). *If this is new to you, contact us with your idea and we can help put you in touch with relevant parties.*

- PIs are encouraged to work with WHOI SG's staff to identify and contact communities, individuals and organizations that will benefit from project outcomes. *We are happy to help!*

- Helpful tips for developing an engagement plan can be found on our website.

- The concept of Research to Application is important!

- Examples may include:
  - Partnering with a state agency or industry member
  - Presenting your research to industry or management organizations
  - Developing decision-support tools
  - Development of MA-standards-based K-12 curricula
  - Inclusion of students or community members, including those from underserved communities or populations.
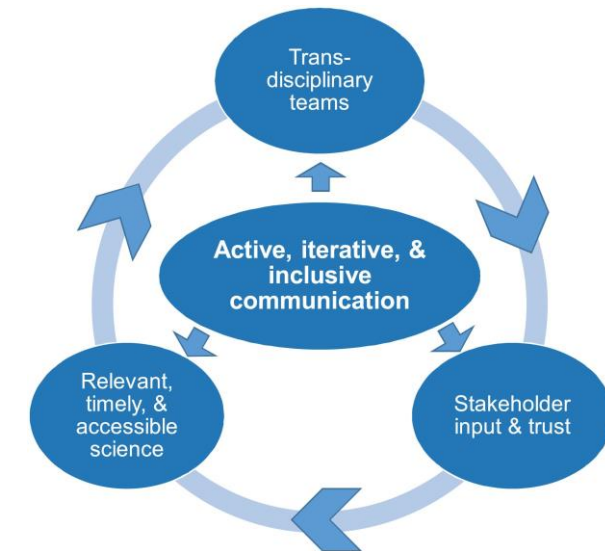
Jones et al. 2021 Frontiers in Marine Sciences

WHOI Sea Grant Engagement
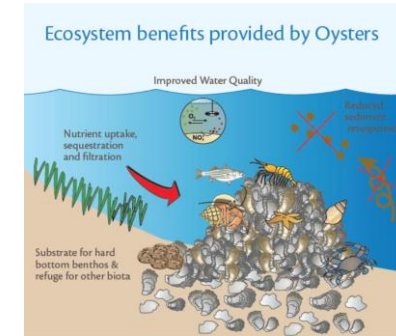
- Funded investigators will be paired with a member of our staff and will be expected to maintain an informal line of communication with the staff member during the course of the study period. Check-in conversations are expected to occur every ~6 months.

- Annual research meeting with Sea Grant staff to summarize results as a means to align research and outreach efforts.

- Symposium at the end of your 2-year project (please budget a one-day trip to Woods Hole).

DEIJA
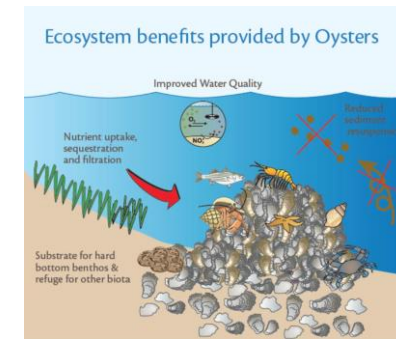
- WHOI Sea Grant is committed to building inclusive research, extension, communication and education programs that serve people with unique backgrounds, circumstances, needs, perspectives and ways of thinking.

- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Accessibility (DEIJA) should be incorporated into you project's activities. This is included in the evaluation criteria!

- Resources compiled by the Sea Grant Network are available if you are looking for help in incorporating DEIJA goals into your project.

DEIJA

https://seagrant.noaa.gov/insideseagrant/Implementation/Network-Visioning/DiversityInclusion

Inside Sea Grant

Funding Opportunities   Knauss Fellowship   Planning   Implementation   Reporting and Evaluation   **Network Resources**
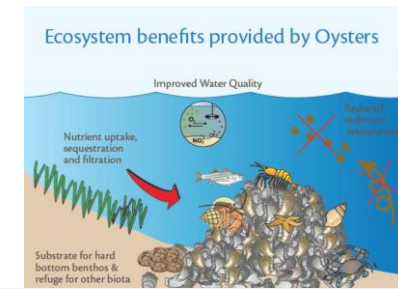
Sea Grant Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice

Community of Practice and Resources page

This open web page is intended to provide resources and additional information for the group of Sea Grant professionals working to advance the program's focused efforts on diversity, equity and inclusion. Additional and related resources are available through Sea Grant's vision and road map for Traditional and Local Knowledge (PDF).

Reaching Outward and Looking Inward: Building Sea Grant Resilience from the lens of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (pdf)

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Current Conditions and Best Practices across the National Sea Grant Network (pdf)

Summary of JEDI Discussions, Sea Grant Week 2020 (PDF)

Addressing Racism and Injustice in Science

- Reclaiming STEM Statement on Black Lives Matter
- Talking about Race in Earth and Space Sciences
- Scaffolded Anti-Racist Resources
- Decolonizing Science Reading List
- Reading Towards Abolition
- Standing up to racism – CNN-Sesame St Town Hall
- Environmental Justice and COVID
- Geoscientists of Color
- No Progress on Diversity in 40 Years
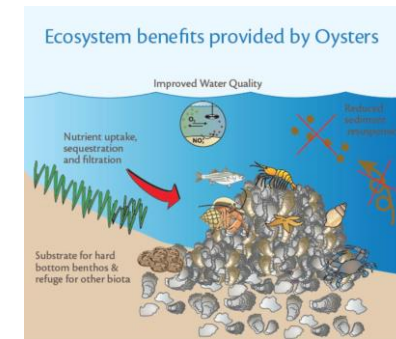
Woods Hole Sea Grant

DEIJA

- WHOI 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.
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Accessibility (DEIJA) should be incorporated into you project's activities. This is included in the evaluation criteria!
- Resources compiled by the Sea Grant Network are available if you are looking for help in incorporating DEIJA goals into your project.
- Some examples might include:
  - choosing research topics that in partnership with and that address the needs of disadvantaged communities
  - partnering with organizations that serve underrepresented or underserved groups
  - working with high school or undergraduate students from underrepresented or underserved groups

Questions?

Proposal Review Process

Pre-proposals:

- Reviewed by a panel of experts including WHOI SG staff and members of WHOI SG's advisory board

- Reviewed for:
  - Relevance to research themes, priority research areas, and strategic plan goals (50%)
  - Technical merit and project feasibility (25%)
  - Strength of engagement plan (25%)

Proposal Review Process

Full proposals:

- Reviewed by external mail technical experts. A panel is convened to interpret the technical reviews and rank proposals.
- Evaluated for:
  - Rationale and innovativeness (20%)
  - Scientific merit, project objectives, methods and feasibility (30%)
  - Qualification and/or Promise of the research team and results from prior work funded by Woods Hole Sea Grant (if applicable) (10%)
  - Relevance to the Sea Grant Focus Areas, priority research areas, and strategic plan goals (10%)
  - Potential impact to interested parties in Massachusetts, and strength of engagement plan (30%)

Please pay attention to the evaluation criteria details as you prepare your proposals!

Key Dates

- **Wednesday, January 25, 2023:** Preliminary proposals due to Woods Hole Sea Grant office by 4:30 p.m. Submit pre-proposal in pdf format to seagrant-research@whoi.edu.

- **No later than early-March**: Principal Investigators receive recommendations regarding development of full proposals.

- **Friday, April 28, 2023:** Full proposals due in Woods Hole Sea Grant office by 4:30 p.m. Submit full proposals to seagrant-research@whoi.edu.

- **Early September 2023:** Applicants informed of decisions.

- **February 1, 2024:** Anticipated 2024-2025 awards begin.

Questions?