

RFP Informational Webinar Q&A Summary

- 1) I work with fishing vessels in Massachusetts and I am unsure exactly where they will fish at this time. Are projects completed in collaboration with MA-based commercial or recreational fishers acceptable for the research location requirement (e.g. Research must occur primarily within Massachusetts and/or Massachusetts state waters and adjacent federal waters)?
 - a. Yes. If you are working with MA-based fishing industry members, they might fish in both state and federal waters. That would be perfectly acceptable as long as your work is occurring primarily regionally in MA state or adjacent federal waters.
- 2) What is the difference between WHOI Sea Grant and MIT Sea Grant? Does that mean that I can choose which program to submit a proposal to based on which is a better fit for my project?
 - a. There are two Sea Grant programs found in Massachusetts – WHOI Sea Grant and MIT Sea Grant. WHOI Sea Grant and MIT Sea Grant are separate entities, with different programmatic goals and types of projects that we support though our competitive research programs. You should feel free to apply to either program’s funding opportunities, or both. We would encourage you to apply for funding from whichever program is most appropriate based on your research project idea.
- 3) Are there any restrictions on the methodology we use in the proposed research? For example, is there a preference of quantitative over qualitative methods?
 - a. No, there are no restrictions to the types of methods you might use for your research project. We encourage you to consider the most appropriate method to answer the research question you are proposing to address.
- 4) Can Barnstable County be funded as part of a research project?
 - a. WHOI Sea Grant staff who are also Barnstable County staff cannot receive financial support as part of a WHOI Sea Grant funded research project. Other Barnstable County staff (not affiliated with WHOI Sea Grant) are eligible to receive support from WHOI Sea Grant.
- 5) Are there any restrictions on how the budget can be allocated between entities participating in a project?
 - a. There are no restrictions on how you allocate your budget. We do not prescribe how you should allocate your budget and we encourage you to prepare your budget based on the relative level of effort needed by each entity participating in your project.
- 6) Is there a preference towards allocation of budget and/or effort/activities towards research and/or management activities? For example, should our project be ~50% basic science and ~50% management related activities?
 - a. WHOI Sea Grant has no restrictions on how you allocate your time and budget for your project, and we do not prescribe your project activities. Note that this is a competitive research program, and as such, WHOI Sea Grant is looking to fund research projects and science that is relevant to management questions and issues – your research can be informed by basic science or informed by a management need, but it should be a research-focused project that addresses a management need.
- 7) Can I submit a project developing and piloting new technology for restoration techniques?
 - a. Yes, a research project focusing on technology development is an acceptable project to submit to WHOI Sea Grant.

- 8) Do we need a complete budget for the pre-proposal submission?
 - a. You need to have institutional permission to submit your pre-proposal to WHOI Sea Grant, but you do not need to have a finalized at the time of submission of your pre-proposal. We do expect that your project budget will not change dramatically between pre-proposal and full-proposal submission.
- 9) Does the 10-page narrative limit include everything (i.e. budgets, CVs, etc)?
 - a. No. The 10-page limit on the narrative includes only the description of your project and the figures. References, budget documents, CVs, current and pending, etc. are not included in the 10-page limit.
- 10) After pre-proposal submission, will project teams receive feedback from the review panel?
 - a. Yes, you will be provided feedback from our pre-proposal review panel along with the encouragement or not-encouragement of submission of full proposals.
- 11) Would mentoring a Woods Hole Partnership in Education Program intern be considered as a contribution to DEIJA goals?
 - a. Yes. We encourage you to reach out to the directors of that program as mentoring a student is not guaranteed to potential mentors. You may want to discuss with the directors how PEP can be incorporated into your project directly.
- 12) How should we fit all the content requested for the pre-proposals into two pages?
 - a. Please be concise, for pre-proposals we are looking for high-level summaries of your proposed work. For budgets, you should provide us with the annual and total ask, but you don't need to include a budget justification as part of your pre-proposal submission.
- 13) Is the \$250,000 budget cap referring to the federal request?
 - a. Yes, the \$250,000 budget cap is for the federal request from Sea Grant. You would also need to provide an additional \$125,000 in non-federal match.