

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 2024- 2026 Research Competition



University of Guam Sea Grant Institutional Program

Full Proposals Due: Friday, May 12, 2023 by 5:00 p.m. CHST

Late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Individual Requests: Two-year projects, not to exceed \$50,000/year

Project Period: February 1, 2024 to January 31, 2026

Funding levels are set based on the NOAA Sea Grant Program congressional appropriations and are subject to change and rescission.

I. Research Program

The University of Guam Sea Grant Institutional Program (UOGSG) requests proposals to fund research in Guam, CNMI and the Freely Associated States for two-year projects. Projects should be directly relevant to the goals of the [UOGSG Strategic Plan \(2024-2027\)](#). Research projects within this region focused in these areas will be considered: 1) healthy coastal ecosystems; 2) sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, 3) resilient communities and economies; and 4) environmental literacy and workforce development.

Faculty from universities and colleges, state, local, and regional governments and organizations, and individuals in Guam and US-Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI) are encouraged to apply. Funding, pending availability, begins February 1, 2024 and ends January 31, 2026. UOGSG anticipates funding 2-3 projects. **Funding requests may not exceed \$50,000/year.**

Important notes for Principal Investigators (PIs)

Funding of all proposals is contingent upon UOGSG's allocation from NOAA in the FY2024 and FY2025 federal budgets. Modification in the number of and funding for individual proposals may be made based upon the final program budget.

PIs must provide a strong rationale for how their proposed research will affect policy and/or management decisions and how that information will be communicated outside of academia. UOGSG staff can assist with these efforts.

A Data Management and Sharing Plan and abbreviated environmental compliance questionnaire is required in the full proposal. PIs should consider data management funding needs as they develop their budgets, and understand their role and responsibility in obtaining all necessary permits prior to commencing field work.

UOG Sea Grant seeks research proposals that support the goals and objectives of the program, including the cross-cutting principles to cultivate partnerships and enhance diversity and inclusion while working within the framework of at least one these areas: 1) Healthy Coastal Ecosystems, 2) Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development, 3) Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, and 3) Resilient Communities and Economies. Research projects utilizing field and lab experiments, models, and socioeconomic studies should be designed to provide information to inform policy decisions and best management practices for UOG and its communities.

Projects must demonstrate a direct connection with users beyond academia, such as resource managers, industry stakeholders, citizen scientists, communities, and/or informal and formal learners. To that end, proposals must include a well-defined outreach plan for engaging and disseminating information to targeted audiences. **PIs are encouraged to engage and**

collaborate with extension specialists, end users, and other outreach specialists to develop a comprehensive outreach plan in the full proposal.

Proposals should be relevant to at least one of the UOGSG focus areas and goals listed below:

Healthy Coastal Ecosystems

Goal 1: Habitat, ecosystems, and the services they provide are protected, enhanced, and/or restored.

Goal 2: Land, water, and living resources are managed by applying sound science, tools, and services to sustain ecosystems.

Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development

Goal 1: An environmentally literate public that is informed by lifelong formal and informal opportunities that reflect the range of diversity of our communities.

Goal 2: A diverse and skilled workforce is engaged and enabled to address critical local, regional, and national needs.

Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

Goal 1: Fisheries, aquaculture and other coastal and freshwater natural resources supply food, jobs, and economic and cultural benefits.

Goal 2: Natural resources are sustained to support fishing communities and industries, including commercial, recreational and subsistence fisheries and aquaculture.

Resilient Communities and Economies

Goal 1: Coastal communities and economies are resilient to changing environmental conditions.

Goal 2: Water resources are sustained and protected to meet existing and emerging needs of the communities, economies and ecosystems that depend on them

The UOGSG will focus research priorities on areas that stakeholders are most interested in which are land-based sources of pollution, climate change, ecological resilience, fisheries and aquaculture. These research priorities should be question-driven (**sample questions below**) in order to have a better understanding of issues affecting the region, and to inform science and management. Additionally, solution-based research outcomes are encouraged.

Healthy Coastal Ecosystems

Rationale: Intensified development along the coast and related human activities are leading to the degradation of water quality and quantity, watershed health, coral reefs, fisheries, resilience, and a host of other challenges that must be understood and addressed in order to restore and maintain the healthy ecosystems. Ecosystem-based management, reduction and mitigation of anthropogenic impacts, and regional habitat restoration are some of the avenues we have identified to address these challenges. We seek research proposals that aim to protect, enhance, and/or restore habitats, ecosystems, and the services they provide, as well as proposals that aim to apply sound science, tools, and services to manage land, water, and living resources.

Examples of questions/topics

Land Based Sources of Pollution (Focus on 1-3 priority watersheds in the region)

- What is the extent of watershed pollution on coral reefs in the region?
- What solutions are applicable for watershed restoration?
- Along the water quality gradient, what are the expected ecological responses?
- What strategies can enhance resilient ecosystems and watersheds in the context of changing conditions?
- What can be learned from contemporary efforts to apply local knowledge and resource management practices to restoring social and ecological systems?
- How can sustainable energy, water, and waste management policies and practices contribute to achieving healthy coastal communities that function within the carrying capacity of their ecosystems?

Climate Change/Resilience:

- What are the tangible impacts of climate change on Guam, CNMI and Freely Associated States (FAS) coral reefs to date?
- How do climate change impacts integrate with local stressors to determine resilience?
- How can land-use policies be optimized to reduce human populations' vulnerability to coastal natural hazards and climate change impacts (e.g., sea-level rise, ocean acidification, and increased sea surface temperatures)?
- What new technologies, planning tools and guidelines, or model policies can be used by local governments to increase resilience to coastal natural hazards?
- What are the socio-economic costs and benefits of implementing different adaptation and resilience actions, including managed retreat?
- How can we enhance real-time storm surge models and products to better predict impacts from storms at local or regional scales?
- How does the built environment (e.g., buildings, infrastructure, and transportation networks) impact ecosystem health, public health, and the economy?

Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development

Rationale: With more than half of the US population living along or near the coast, it is increasingly important that communities and their federal, state, and local decision-makers understand the issues and trade-offs related to managing our coasts. Fundamentally, we must build social, human, and natural capital to address the multidisciplinary challenges and opportunities that we face. Sea Grant can play a role in a wide range of educational activities: the design and execution of K-12 and adult education curricula and programming; teacher training; creation and application of usable knowledge for decision-makers; and recruitment of advanced education programs to build the future generation of marine science professionals.

Examples of questions/topics:

- How can we increase the environmental literacy of the general public with respect to changing conditions and adaptive management?
- How can we increase effective ocean literacy instruction for K-12 students by formal and informal educators?
- How can Guam grow a skilled and diverse workforce that is able to address critical local, regional, and national needs related to our oceans and coasts?
- What types of outreach and communication are most effective in increasing awareness, understanding, and stewardship of ocean resources?
- How can citizen science be used in collaboration with ocean and coastal research?
- What are the best ways to grow, recruit, and retain from diverse populations for career paths that support the needs of coastal communities

Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

Fisheries on Guam have a cultural and economic importance that dates back thousands of years. However, modern fisheries face dynamic challenges due to overfishing, habitat deterioration, and increased competition among coastal users. Further, as diseases and pollution become more prevalent, seafood safety is becoming a growing concern. Coastal resources continue to represent an important component of food security in the Mariana Islands, thus research to aid in sustainable fishing is paramount. Aquaculture offers new ways to meet the expanding demand for seafood, but it also raises environmental and other issues that must be addressed before its full potential can be achieved. Traditional aquaculture methods are also being reinvigorated and restored. Sea Grant has a critical role to play in expanding our understanding of the nature of these difficulties, as well as in employing its research, teaching, and outreach capabilities to support informed decision-making that will result in a long-term supply of healthy seafood.

Example questions/topics for **sustainable fisheries**:

- What local stressors are most influential to reef health around the region?
- Can we identify the spatial influence of fishing and pollution and quantify the proportional impact they are having for reefs?

- What is the status of target fish stocks commercially harvested across Micronesia?
- What forms of management are best suited to deal with coral-reef fisheries and have community-based support?
- What are the essential roles coral-reef fishes have for protecting ecosystem health and resilience?
- What forms of ecosystem-based fisheries management can best address both stock status and ecosystem targets?
- What is the status of MPA networks and other existing forms of fisheries management across Micronesia?
- What are the best approaches to conserve the ocean's assets in the context of blue economies?
- How can recreational fisheries be more sustainably managed?

Examples of questions/topics for **aquaculture**:

- How can aquaculture contribute to coral reef restoration efforts and other large-scale ocean and coastal restoration?
- How can indigenous (cultural) and non-indigenous practices and methods of aquaculture inform and improve current practices in fisheries, aquaculture, aquaponics, and hydroponics?
- How can emerging systems or technologies be developed that will advance aquaculture in Guam and the Pacific region?
- How can we effectively culture organisms (seaweed, coral, sponges, bivalves and others) for commercial production and/or use in restoration?
- How might ocean acidification and other environmental stressors affect emerging or established aquaculture in Guam and the Pacific region?
- Are there local native species that have potential for commercial aquaculture production?
- What are emerging candidates for herbivorous food fish species (both fresh and saltwater) that rely completely on plant-based diets?
- What are marketing and palatability strategies to promote diversified herbivorous fish species in the local marketplace?
- What are some renewable energy solutions for sustainable aquaculture in the Pacific region?
- What are the protocols and roadblocks (cultural, commercial, legal, etc) to implementation of new technologies in aquaculture production?
- What are the local and federal policy and laws to initiate new technologies?
- What are approaches to capture marine-based economic opportunities
- Sustainably increase ocean productivity
- What can we learn from indigenous methods in ecosystem management, agroforestry, capture fisheries, and fishponds to transform practices in fisheries, aquaculture, aquaponics, and hydroponics?
- What is needed in local and federal policy or structure to facilitate the advancement of sustainable aquaculture?

Resilient Communities and Economies

Rationale: Sea-level rise, increased number and intensity of coastal storms, and other climate-related changes are placing more people and property at risk along the Nation's coasts than ever before. These circumstances have major implications for ecosystem stability and for human safety and the economic vitality of coastal communities in the coming decades. We seek research proposals that aim to prepare coastal communities to use their knowledge of changing conditions and risks to become resilient to extreme events, economic disruptions, and other threats to community well-being. Also of interest are proposals that can address how to sustain and protect water resources to meet existing and emerging needs of the communities, economies, and ecosystems that depend on them.

Examples of questions/topics:

- How can land-use policies be optimized to reduce human populations' vulnerability to coastal natural hazards and climate change impacts (e.g., sea-level rise, ocean acidification, and increased sea surface temperatures)?
- What new technologies, planning tools and guidelines, or model policies can be used by local governments to increase resilience to coastal natural hazards?
- What are the socio-economic costs and benefits of implementing different adaptation and resilience actions, including managed retreat?
- How can we enhance real-time storm surge models and products to better predict impacts from storms at local or regional scales? How does the built environment (e.g., buildings, infrastructure, and transportation networks) impact ecosystem health, public health, and the economy?

Research priorities can be found in these documents: 1) [UOGSG Strategic Plan 2024-2027](#); 2) the [UOGSG Listening Session \(2016\)](#) and [2022](#); and 3) [10-Year NOAA Sea Grant Aquaculture Vision](#).

II. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION PROCESS

Proposal text may not exceed 10 pages, which includes rationale, goals/objectives, research methods/approach, deliverables, and outreach plan. Additionally, the proposal package MUST include the following required elements (which do not count towards 10 page limit); 2-page CV for all PIs, references cited, applicable permits or permissions, abbreviated environmental compliance questionnaire, data sharing plan, and letters of support.

FULL PROPOSAL FORMAT

PROJECT TITLE: (Make this succinct while also reflecting the anticipated application, opportunity or need to be addressed, or problem to be solved. It should clearly relate to a University of Guam Sea Grant priority).

PRIORITY FOCUS AREA(S). Identify the priority that your project addresses.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S): (Provide name, department, and institution)

CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S): (Provide faculty name, academic department, and institution)

PROPOSED BUDGET: Year 1: \$_____ ; Year 2:\$_____ ; Total Request:\$_____

RATIONALE

Summarize the opportunity or problem addressed and its relation to Sea Grant’s interest in supporting the improved understanding, management and use of marine and coastal resources of the Territory of Guam, CNMI, and the Micronesia region. Include an adequate, but brief literature review. *Proposed research must be hypothesis driven.* If the project is centered on a monitoring activity, it is essential to demonstrate how the project will lead to testable hypotheses or models. Explain how the data collected will be applicable to the problem or opportunity, and identify potential users of the results of your research.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Describe the overall goal of your project. State your hypothesis. Identify specific objectives that proceed from hypotheses. Objectives should lead to measurable outcomes at project completion. Narrative goals must match project summary goals. Do not include explanatory information here, such information should be included in either the Rationale or Research Methods/Approach section, as appropriate.

RESEARCH METHODS AND APPROACH

Describe your experimental design(s) and/or research protocol fully and clearly, including special equipment, procedures or assays, etc. that may be used to accomplish your goals/objectives. Be concise, but specific enough to satisfy reviewers that your methods have been validated and will enable you to achieve your goals. Identify pitfalls and limitations in your approach and methodology and how you will address them. Where appropriate, speak to the statistical power relative to your proposed sample size. Include an explanation of how the data will be analyzed using appropriate statistical procedures. Describe the overall project design. How will the problem be tackled with rigorous research? How will the efficacy of new tools, technologies, policies or products be evaluated? Identify specific methodology and major aspects such as replication, sampling, surveys, modeling approaches, statistical methods, etc.

DELIVERABLES

PIs are required to track their progress and report semi-annually on information, products, and services rendered as a result of their work. Project deliverables include academic products (publications, presentations, graduate students supported, models), outreach products (public presentations, news stories related to the work, websites, fact sheets, maps), workshops, tools, etc. Some of these deliverables will be tracked as performance measures. Please see list of the [performance measures](#).

OUTREACH PLAN: An essential component of the UOGSG mission is to fund research that meets the needs of many audiences whom we serve. Our mission is to develop and share science-based knowledge to benefit the environment and economies of Guam and its region. Our audience is business, state, and local leaders and the communities they serve. To that end, we require investigators to develop an outreach plan as part of the proposal that describes how the project will

engage with constituencies that may benefit from the research and describe the ways the proposed work will help solve problems and advance public understanding on Guam and its region. We strongly encourage proposals to include funding to support outreach efforts.

The outreach plan should include a clear communication strategy that supports the research effort. It should:

- Describe the outputs (i.e., products) and outcomes (e.g., resulting knowledge, skills, actions, consequences) of the proposed study that will be applicable to your outreach effort.
- Describe the target non-academic end users for the products/outcomes.
- Describe the outreach mechanisms to be used to reach both academic and non-academic end users.
- Present a timeframe for developing and implementing this outreach plan.
- Describe the intended impact of these outreach efforts with particular emphasis on how the impacts align with the UOGSG focus areas and goals.

BUDGET AND BUDGET JUSTIFICATION: A detailed budget for each year is required using the [Sea Grant 90-4 budget form](#). A budget justification is also required and should briefly describe the type, quantity, and need for each requested budget item per year as reflected on the 90-4 budget form. Here is a [budget justification guidance and example](#).

ALLOWABLE COSTS: Typical allowable costs include salaries, wages, fringe benefits, equipment, expendable supplies and equipment, publication costs, and travel expenses related to technical training or data collection. Note that conference attendance or presenting does *not* count as an outreach activity unless it explicitly targets a lay audience of coastal users. All other miscellaneous costs must include a budget justification.

UNALLOWABLE COSTS: Boats, promotional items, entertainment costs or food, indirect costs for UOG researchers. Additionally, the Sea Grant Act at 33 U.S.C. § 1124(d)(2) states: “No payment under any grant or contract under this section may be applied to: (A) the purchase or rental of any land; or (B) the purchase, rental, construction, preservation, or repair of any building, dock, or vessel; except that payment under any such grant or contract may be applied to the short-term rental of buildings or facilities for meetings which are in direct support of any Sea Grant program or project and may, if approved by the Secretary, be applied to the purchase, rental, construction, preservation, or repair of non-self-propelled habitats, buoys, platforms, and other similar devices or structures, or to the rental of any research vessel which is used in direct support of activities under any Sea Grant program or project.”

END-USER PARTICIPATION AND DELIVERY OF RESULTS: Identify the specific end-users that will participate in your project. Describe their specific confirmed role. Describe the specific approach that will be taken to transfer the new information, tools, technologies, policies or products to end-users. This may involve coordinating the project with a state or local resource management agency, a governmental organization and/or private industry sector. The proposed project must develop linkages with the agency, industry or community for the dissemination and practical application of results. If there is a clear opportunity to involve a University of Guam Sea Grant Extension Associate in the project, this is encouraged but not required. If you take this opportunity, be sure to include funds in the budget for their time, travel and supplies that are directed towards the project.

EXPECTED RESULTS, APPLICATIONS AND BENEFITS: Describe the expected outcomes of the project, and who will benefit from the results of this study and how. If the objectives are attained, how would the problem to be solved create new commercial opportunities, improve technological and economic efficiency, improve management decisions, etc.? What Guam, regional or national impact is envisioned? We recognize that some research initiatives take considerably longer than two years to provide a solution to an identified problem. We want to know that your project is moving the level of understanding or utility of tools or models in a direction toward issue resolution.

COMPLIANCE WITH NOAA DATA SHARING GUIDELINES:

NOAA Data Sharing Requirement:

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, except where limited by law, regulation, policy or by security requirements.

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

To comply with these requirements, proposers must complete a Data Management Plan for making environmental data and results accessible and interpretable within two years of collection. Storing data on local servers or external drives without public access or noting that data will be available "upon request to the PI " are no longer sufficient options. Note you will be required to list data sets created and how to access them when reporting on your project. If funding is required for archiving data, please include this in the project budget. Funds may be budgeted in the proposal for this task. See [data management forms](#).

Process for Providing Data and Information: Upon completion of the UOG Sea Grant funded project, the PI must provide UOG Sea Grant with electronic files containing all data and information collected during the project, the PI must make metadata available upon request and must provide a plan for how they intend to store it. Files can be provided in the most appropriate format depending on the type of data (e.g., Excel spreadsheets for field observations or results of controlled experiments, source code for newly developed or enhanced models, shape files for spatial information, responses from surveys, etc.). UOG Sea Grant will hold these data on a secure server, and only after two years have passed will we provide the data to third parties who provide us with a written request for those specific data and information. (not counted toward the page limit).

ABBREVIATED ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE

An [abbreviated environmental compliance questionnaire](#) must be submitted. Funding cannot be issued to successful applicants until the PI has obtained approval(s) from the following as applicable: Relevant state and federal permits for all field activities. It is the PIs responsibility to obtain all necessary state and federal permits, and provide copies of all permits before work can commence. Depending on the nature of the activity proposed, other approvals and certifications may also be applicable. (not counted toward the page limit).

LITERATURE CITATIONS: Provide highly relevant references with complete bibliographic information

for all references. (not counted toward the page limit).

REVIEWERS / CONFLICTS: Please provide the names, addresses, telephone, and email of four (4) potential reviewers outside Guam, CNMI and FAS that are knowledgeable and competent in your field of inquiry. **Pls must indicate if particular persons may have a conflict of interest** in reviewing your proposal and in those cases, provide an explanation. This is to ensure investigators do not have a conflict of interest with potential reviewers. (not counted toward the page limit).

CURRICULUM VITAE (CV): The principal investigator, co-principal investigators and other collaborators to the project must each provide a two-page max CV. Include professional positions from current to past, education from most recent to past, and other information you consider relevant to defining a level of expertise that is aligned with the project being proposed. (not counted toward the page limit).

LIST OF CURRENT AND PENDING PROJECTS: Provide a list of current and pending projects including unpublished manuscripts. This will be helpful for reviewers to assess your capabilities to complete the project. (not counted toward the page limit).

LAYMAN'S PARAGRAPH: Please provide a layman's summary of your proposed research goals, methods, and expected results. Should your project be awarded funding, this paragraph may be used on the UOG Sea Grant website. (not counted toward the page limit).

LETTERS OF SUPPORT: A minimum of two (2) letters of support from potential collaborators or partnering organizations is required. (not counted toward the page limit).

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: An **optional** question to collect demographics information using the demographics question approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is provided [here](#). UOGSG will not provide collected demographics information to reviewers for any purpose, including evaluation, and will not consider demographics information during selection. Demographics data will be aggregated and used by Sea Grant programs to assess diversity of applicants and the reach of our programming over time.

SUBMISSION: To submit, email proposal and all required documents in .pdf format to research.seagrant@triton.uog.edu, indicate on the subject line: **UOGSG Research RFP 2024-2026**. Applications will be accepted on or before **Friday, May 12, 2023** by **5:00 pm CHST**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

III. EVALUATION AND REVIEW INFORMATION

Proposal Review Process

Proposals submitted for funding under the UOGSG research competition are subject to a 3-tier review. All proposal packages will go through an initial review to be assessed for completeness and adherence to submission guidelines. UOGSG reserves the right to reject application packages for missing, incomplete, or improperly formatted documents. After the initial assessment, a second review will commence with the External Written Peer Review committee followed by a Panel Review.

The External Written Peer Reviewers and Review Panelists will each score and rank proposals according to the criteria below.

After reviews are completed, the director will consider rankings, panel recommendations, program priorities, diversity of applicants, and past performance, to make final recommendations for funding to NOAA.

The Review Panel may have further questions about the proposals, and may be contacted to provide additional information. The applicant should respond by the deadline given in the request. The Review Panel will then forward responses and recommendations to the Director of UOGSG for final selection.

Reviewers may not necessarily be familiar with the applicant's specific academic discipline and/or reside in Guam or the immediate region. As such, applicants should provide enough background information for an educated layperson to understand the proposal and its relevance to Guam and/or Micronesia.

EXTERNAL WRITTEN PEER REVIEW

All proposals will be reviewed for technical merit by external peer reviewers. PIs must provide the names of at least four possible reviewers who are located outside of Guam. Each proposal will go through a minimum of two peer reviews, and three maximum.

PANEL REVIEW

A panel composed of researchers, managers and outreach professionals from the region will convene to discuss the merits of all of the proposals and make final recommendations for funding. The panel will use the external peer reviews in their decisions, along with an understanding of the research and outreach needs in the region. Depending on funding constraints and reviewers' comments, UOG Sea Grant may ask PIs to revise their proposed budgets and scope of work. The panel will provide a numerical score and recommend if it is fundable or not.

IV. EVALUATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals are peer-reviewed by subject matter experts followed by a second external panel review. Results from both reviews and funding availability will determine which and how many proposals are recommended for funding. Reviewers are chosen for their areas of expertise and both the written peer-review and technical review panel will use several criteria for evaluating research proposals:

- 1) Scientific/Technical merit
- 2) Relevance to UOG Sea Grant's priorities
- 3) Qualifications of the PI(s)
- 4) Outreach and extension plan
- 5) Project costs

Program Contact

For questions about this RFP, please contact UOGSG Associate Director, Ms. Fran Castro, email: francastro@uog.edu. *Email inquiries only.*

V. AWARD INFORMATION

A. Project Award Period

The project budget award period is twenty (24) months from February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2026. No-cost extensions may be allowed on a case-by-case basis, contingent on awardee performance and compliance with grant guidelines.

B. Funding Instrument

Successful application selection notifications are anticipated by August, 2022. Awardees will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with UOGSG and execute funding through respective academic units/institutions or as a subcontractor for UOGSG.

C. Reporting Requirements

PIs are expected to submit progress reports which include information about publications, presentations, graduate students supported, news stories related to the work, and accomplishments made throughout the year. Progress reporting occurs on July 31 and December 31 of each year. Reports include progress on tasks as per the proposed work plan and a minimum of 5 photos or supplementary documentation per reporting period. Failure to comply with reporting requirements and meeting deadlines will result in termination of grant support.

D. Acknowledgment of Sea Grant Funding

Any materials or activities funded in part or whole by this grant must acknowledge University of Guam Sea Grant. Selected recipients will receive official language on their MOAs.

VI. REQUIREMENTS

A. Eligible Applicants

Researchers at institutions of higher education and organizations or agencies that conduct research in Guam, CNMI and the Freely Associated States are eligible to respond to this RFP.

B. Cost Sharing or Match Requirements

There are no cost sharing or match requirements, but the application and budget form requests that if you have any leveraged funding, show it. Leveraging is *not* factored into the scoring process.

C. Proposal Package Format Requirements

Proposal text may not exceed 10 pages, which includes rationale, goals/objectives, research methods/approach, deliverables, and outreach plan. Additionally, the proposal package **MUST** include the following required elements (which do not count towards the 10-page limit); 2-page CV for all PIs, references cited, applicable permits or permissions, NEPA questionnaire, data sharing plan, and letters of support.

Complete the application using 1-inch margins, 11-point Arial, Times or Times New Roman font, and page numbers on the bottom right corner.

D. Submission Date and Time

All proposals are due on **Friday, May 12, 2023** by **5:00 pm**. Chamorro Standard Time (CHST).

VII. STATEMENT OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, JUSTICE AND ACCESSIBILITY

Sea Grant embraces individuals of all ages, races, ethnicities, national origins, gender identities, sexual orientations, disabilities, cultures, religions, citizenship types, marital statuses, education levels, job classifications, veteran status types, and income, and socioeconomic status types. Sea Grant is committed to increasing equity, inclusion, and access to strengthen the diversity of the Sea Grant researchers that we support and of the communities we serve. The UOG Sea Grant program encourages applicants to clearly identify how this research will have broader societal impacts on the Guam community including stakeholders from underrepresented or underserved communities.