

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Federal Agency Name(s): Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce

Funding Opportunity Title: NOAA Sea Grant Aquaculture Research Program 2010

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-OAR-SG-2010-2002488

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.417, Sea Grant Support

Dates: Proposals are due on 5:00 p.m. EDT on May 25, 2010. State Sea Grant Programs must forward applications unchanged to Grants.gov by 5:00 p.m. EDT on June 8, 2010. The anticipated start date for projects is October 1, 2010. Note: there is a separate Federal Funding announcement for the NOAA Sea Grant Aquaculture Research Extension Enhancement Program 2010 (Funding Opportunity Number NOAA-OAR-SG-2010-2002491).

Funding Opportunity Description: NOAA Sea Grant will make available up to \$6,000,000 for a national competition to fund aquaculture research projects for FY 2010 to FY 2011, as part of the overall plan to support the development of environmentally and economically sustainable ocean, coastal or Great Lakes aquaculture. This Federal Funding Opportunity includes information on application and criteria for aquaculture research projects requesting a total of \$50,000 to \$400,000 in federal funding for up to a two-year period. Matching funds are required. Given the anticipated amount of funding and the anticipated number and quality of proposals submitted, approximately 15 projects of average federal funding \$400,000 are anticipated. Some projects selected in this competition may be awarded in FY 2011 and funded with FY 2011 funds.

## FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

### I. Funding Opportunity Description

#### A. Program Objective

The NOAA National Sea Grant College Program was established by Congress to promote responsible use and conservation of the nation's ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. Sea Grant carries out NOAA's mission of stewardship of our country's oceans and atmospheres through a broadly based network of universities. Sea Grant aquaculture-related activities are integrated with the rest of NOAA via the NOAA Aquaculture Program, which includes activities of Sea Grant, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Ocean Service, and the National Environmental Satellite Data Information Service. NOAA recognizes the role of other Departments such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Interior and state and regional management partners in aquaculture and coordinates with other Department representatives at the regional level and at the national level through the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture.

This aquaculture research competition is designed to support the development of environmentally and economically sustainable ocean, coastal, or Great Lakes aquaculture by funding research, outreach and management. Proposed projects must support the goals stated in Sea Grant's National Strategic Plan (2009-2013) Focus Area of Safe and Sustainable Seafood Supply: a sustainable supply of safe seafood to meet public demand; a healthy domestic seafood industry that produces, processes, and markets seafood responsibly and efficiently; and informed consumers who understand the importance of ecosystem health and sustainable harvesting practices to the future of our domestic fisheries, who appreciate the health benefits of seafood consumption, and who understand how to evaluate the safety of the seafood products they buy. Sea Grant's National Strategic Plan is available at [http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/other/admininfo/documents/0209\\_stratplan.pdf](http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/other/admininfo/documents/0209_stratplan.pdf) . These goals are consistent with those of the NOAA Aquaculture Program.

This opportunity supports NOAA's mission support goal of: Ecosystems - Protect, Restore, and Manage Use of Coastal and Ocean Resources through Ecosystem-Based Management.

Projects supported under this funding opportunity are required to contribute to achieving one or more of the following performance measures and targets, which have been set by NOAA or component NOAA programs, including Sea Grant:

- 1) Number of resource managers and seafood businesses (aquaculturists, processors, and seafood marketers) who adopt and implement responsible production and processing

techniques and practices;

2) Economic (market and non-market) and societal benefits (jobs created and retained) derived from the discovery and/or application of new aquaculture production and management models or techniques that lead to increased sustainability and productivity;

3) Number of coastal communities that adopt/implement sustainable - economic and environmental - aquaculture development practices and policies as a result of Sea Grant activities;

4) Number of producers, distributors and consumers of seafood who modify their practices using knowledge gained in fishery sustainability, seafood safety and the health benefits of seafood.

## B. Program Priorities

Given the anticipated amount of funding and the anticipated number and quality of proposals submitted, we expect that approximately 15 proposals will be funded. The following are program priorities for this competition:

a) Projects supporting commercial production or stock enhancement of ocean, coastal or Great Lakes animals or plants that address the following three topics:

i) Research on technical aspects of innovative mitigation or 'smart design' approaches to aquaculture, such as integrated multi-trophic aquaculture or other ways to design aquaculture production in an ecosystem management context;

ii) Development of planning tools or approaches to aid site selection for new or expanded aquaculture facilities in the context of coastal and marine spatial planning efforts, including planning and zoning tools for coastal managers; and

iii) Research on the social and economic issues associated with current and new marine aquaculture.

b) Involve multiple partners (e.g., industry, academia, community collaboration, Sea Grant Programs, state and federal agencies), extension and other outreach, and projects that demonstrate resource leveraging.

c) Align with State Sea Grant Strategic Plans. It is a programmatic priority that at least 75% of available funds will align with these Plans, depending on the number and quality of proposals received. It is a further programmatic priority that the remaining available funds, if any, support projects that align with the National Sea Grant Strategic Plan, or a Sea Grant Regional Research and Information Plan. Projects that do not align with any of these Plans

are also eligible, but given the anticipated amount of funding and the anticipated number and quality of proposals submitted, we expect that only proposals that align with either an individual State Sea Grant Strategic Plan, the National Sea Grant Strategic Plan, or a Sea Grant Regional Research and Information Plan will be selected.

d) Have impacts that can be applied to the regional scale, rather than those that only address local issues.

e) Directly or indirectly support the achievement of one or more of the national performance measures listed in section I.A., above. "Direct support" means the proposal includes one or more of the above performance measures, with targets, in its work plan. "Indirect support" means the proposal includes well-formed performance measures that the applicant credibly shows will lead to increased targets for one or more of the above performance measures.

It is not a programmatic priority to fund catfish or tilapia projects in this competition. It is not a programmatic priority to fund habitat restoration projects in this competition (unless habitat restoration projects are part of a larger stock enhancement project).

#### C. Program Authority

33 U.S.C. 1121 et seq.

## II. Award Information

### A. Funding Availability

Depending on FY 2011 Congressional appropriations and the quality of proposals, Sea Grant expects to have available up to \$6,000,000 for aquaculture research projects for FY 2010 to FY 2011, with individual research projects funded at a total of \$50,000 to \$400,000 in federal funding (or \$75,000 to \$600,000 total funding, including required non-federal matching funds) for up to a two-year period. Additional match may be applied, if appropriate. Given the anticipated amount of funding and the anticipated number and quality of proposals submitted, approximately 15 projects of average federal funding \$400,000 are anticipated.

### B. Project/Award Period

Projects can be for a maximum duration of two years. Awards are anticipated to start on or after October 1, 2010. Some projects selected in this competition may be awarded in FY 2011 and funded with FY 2011 funds.

### C. Type of Funding Instrument

Applications selected for funding will be funded through grants or cooperative agreements. We will use cooperative agreements if the proposed project includes substantial NOAA involvement as described in the award. Examples of substantial NOAA involvement may include non-compensated collaboration in research or approval of key stages in the project before subsequent steps are undertaken.

### III. Eligibility Information

#### A. Eligible Applicants

Institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, commercial organizations, State, local and Indian tribal governments and individuals are eligible. Federal agencies and their personnel are not permitted to receive federal funding under this competition; however, federal scientists can serve as partners or co-Principal Investigators on research proposals. Directors of the state Sea Grant Programs are not eligible to compete for funds under this announcement, although for administrative purposes, they will be considered to be the Principal Investigator for all awards made to their state programs.

#### B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

Non-federal matching funds equal to at least 50 percent of the Federal funding request must be provided. In-kind contributions can count towards this matching requirement.

#### C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility

none

### IV. Application and Submission Information

#### A. Address to Request Application Package

Applicants from Sea Grant States should contact the Sea Grant Program or project in their state prior to submission of a proposal to request application materials and instructions, or contact the Agency Contact listed in section VII to request application materials and instructions. The contact information for participating Sea Grant College Programs and Projects may be found at: [http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/nsi/2010/eligible\\_2010.htm](http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/nsi/2010/eligible_2010.htm) or may also be obtained by contacting the Agency Contact listed in section VII.

Applicants \*NOT\* from Sea Grant States can submit applications to a nearby Sea Grant Program or directly to grants.gov. If they choose to submit to a Sea Grant Program, they should contact that program for application materials and instructions. If they choose to submit directly to grants.gov, they should obtain application materials from <http://grants.gov> (search for opportunity number NOAA-OAR-SG-2010-2002488). Application materials may

also be obtained by contacting the Agency Contact listed in section VII.

An optional Title Page template, Sea Grant 90-2 form, Sea Grant 90-4 form (OMB Control No. 0648-0362) and NEPA questionnaire (OMB Control No. 0648-0538) are available at <http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/funding/forms.html> or may be requested from the Agency Contact listed in section VII.

## B. Content and Form of Application

Applications must adhere to the provisions under Format Requirements and Content Requirements below. Applications received that deviate from content and format requirements will not be reviewed by NOAA.

**Format Requirements:** All application materials should be composed in Portable Document Format (PDF) or a common word processing format, and when printed out should meet all format requirements. All pages must be single- or double-spaced, printed or typed in at least 12-point font, and printable on metric A4 (210 mm x 297 mm) or 8.5-inch x 11-inch paper, with 1-inch margins.

**Content Requirements:** Brevity will assist reviewers and program staff in dealing effectively with proposals. Therefore, the Project Description may not exceed 15 pages. Tables and visual materials, including charts, graphs, maps, photographs and other pictorial presentations are included in the 15-page limit. The signed title page, project summary, references, budgets and budget notes, current and pending support sections, letters of support, and vitae do not count towards the 15-page limit. All information needed for review of the proposal should be included in the main text; no appendices are permitted. Application materials, including all letters of support, must be received by the State Sea Grant Program by May 25, 2010. Applications received that deviate from this format will not be reviewed by NOAA.

For each proposal the following information must be included:

a. **Signed title page (one-page maximum):** The title page should clearly identify the program area being addressed by starting the project title with: "Sea Grant Aquaculture Research Program 2010", followed by a colon and a brief descriptive title of the proposal, followed by a hyphen and letters "PI" and the last name of the Principle Investigator. For example, "Sea Grant Aquaculture Research Program 2010: a new site planning tool - PI Smith". The title page must include the name, affiliation, and address of the investigators with e-mail and telephone numbers, the budgets requested and match offered for year one and, if applicable, for year two and a total budget figure, and the date of submission. An optional Title Page template is available at <http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/funding/forms.html> .

b. Project Summary (two-page maximum for this section): It is critical that the project summary accurately describe the project being proposed and convey all essential elements of the project. The project summary must not exceed two pages and include: (a) Title: Use the exact title as it appears in the rest of the application; (b) Investigators: List the names and affiliations of each investigator who will significantly contribute to the project, starting with the Principal Investigator; (c) Funding request for each year of the project, including matching funds; (d) Project Period: Start and completion dates. Proposals must request a start date of October 1, 2010 or later; and (e) a one-page Project Abstract: This abstract must include the rationale for the project, the scientific or technical objectives and/or hypotheses to be tested, a brief summary of work and accomplishments to be completed to be used for public dissemination. An optional Sea Grant Form 90-2 may be used for this purpose <http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/funding/forms.html>.

c. Project description (15-page maximum):

(1) Introduction/background/justification: Subjects that the investigator(s) must include in this section are: (i) current state of knowledge of problem or issue and justification for proposed work; (ii) contributions that the study will make to the particular discipline or subject area or issue; and (iii) contributions the study will make toward addressing the problems identified in the appropriate state Sea Grant Strategic Plan Regional Research and Information Plan or National Sea Grant Strategic Plan.

(2) Research Work Plans and Milestones: Include as appropriate: Objectives to be achieved, hypotheses to be tested, how the objectives relate to top program priorities (listed in Section I.B), experimental design and statistical analyses, and role of all project personnel.

This section should also describe how the research, outreach or other parts of the overall project will be integrated to effectively lead to the desired result. It should also discuss how the success of the project (i.e., objectives, timelines, milestones) will be measured and reported.

This section must either include one or more of the performance measures listed in section I.A, with targets, or include other performance measures with targets, and provide an explanation of how achievement of these performance measure targets will lead to increased targets for one or more of the performance measures in section I.A. The performance measures should be outcome-based rather than activity based.

This section must also include at least one milestone (a significant activity to be performed or objective to be achieved) per year.

(3) Outcome: Describe the project outcomes or benefits that will contribute to improving and further developing marine aquaculture in the U.S. Identify the planned outcomes in objective, quantifiable terms. The outcome should be a description of the desired end state to

be achieved (for example, the desired changes adopted by the aquaculture industry), not just a description of the activities to be performed. Describe how the project outcomes will enhance sustainable domestic aquaculture. If appropriate, describe how the outcomes will affect an identified regional, state, or national aquaculture priority. Describe how the outcomes of the project will be measured and reported.

(4) Outreach Plan: Describe specific outreach goals, activities, and deliverables including publications, presentations, and public education. Provide a specific, measureable, time-bound work plan for these activities. Describe how the results of the project will benefit stakeholders (e.g., local coastal communities, public and private sectors).

(5) Coordination with other program elements: Describe any coordination with other agency programs or ongoing research efforts. Describe any other proposals or outside activities that are essential to the success of this proposal.

d. References and literature citations: Must be included as appropriate. This section does not count towards the 15-page maximum.

e. Budget and matching funds justification: Applications must reflect the total budget necessary to accomplish the project. There must be a separate budget for each year of the project as well as a cumulative budget for the entire project. Applicants are encouraged to use the Sea Grant Budget Form 90-4 (<http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/funding/forms.html>), but may use their own form as long as it provides the same information as the Sea Grant form. Subcontracts must have a separate budget page. The appropriateness of all matching funds (including in-kind contributions) will be determined on the basis of guidance provided in applicable Federal cost principles, and applicants will be bound by the percentage of matching funds in the grant award. Applicants must provide justification for all budget items in sufficient detail to enable review of the appropriateness of the funding requested. Pay special attention to any travel or supply budgets and provide details. This section does not count towards the 15-page maximum.

f. Current and pending support: Applicants must provide information on all current and pending Federal support for ongoing projects and proposals, including subsequent funding in the case of continuing grants. The proposed project and all other projects or activities requiring a portion of time of the principal investigator and other senior personnel must be included. The relationship between the proposed project and these other projects must be described, and the number of person-months per year to be devoted to the projects must be stated. This section does not count towards the 15-page maximum.

g. Letter(s) of support: Applicants may provide letters of support from stakeholders. Letters of support do not count towards the 15-page maximum.

h. Vitae (2 pages maximum per investigator). This section does not count towards the

15-page maximum.

i. Standard application forms: Standard application forms are available through grants.gov. They are mandatory for a proposal application. This section does not count towards the 15-page maximum.

j. NOAA NEPA Questionnaire: As part of this application process, questions from "The Environmental Compliance Questionnaire for NOAA Federal Financial Assistance Applicants" (OMB Control No. 0648-0538) must be answered. This NEPA Questionnaire form is available at <http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/funding/forms.html>. All applicants need to fill in sections A,D,E and F. If you are proposing activities Related to Damage Assessment and Restoration, also fill out section G. If you are proposing activities Related to Fisheries Sampling and Research, fill out section H. Failure to complete all of the indicated questions will result in the application being considered incomplete.

Applications received after the deadline or applications that deviate from the format described will not be reviewed.

#### C. Submission Dates and Times

Proposals are due at 5:00 p.m. EDT on May 25, 2010, regardless of where they are submitted. State Sea Grant Programs must forward all applications unchanged to Grants.gov by 5:00 p.m. EDT June 8, 2010.

The timeliness of applications received through Grant.gov will be determined by the date and time indicator included when applications are submitted. The timeliness of applications received through Sea Grant Programs will be certified by the receiving Sea Grant Program.

Although preliminary proposals are not required for this funding opportunity, it is highly recommended that interested applicants contact the Sea Grant Program in their state prior to submission of a proposal to discuss the process for submitting that proposal and the required form and content of the application. There is no deadline by which these preliminary discussions must take place, but failure to submit a correct and complete proposal by the proposal deadline of submission to the State Sea Grant Program, because the above issues were not fully discussed and resolved in time, will result in rejection of the application by NOAA.

#### D. Intergovernmental Review

Applications under this Program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

#### E. Funding Restrictions

No special restrictions apply.

#### F. Other Submission Requirements

none.

#### G. Address for Submitting Proposals

Applicants from Sea Grant states must submit applications to the address provided by their participating Sea Grant Program or Project. Those Sea Grant Programs or Projects must submit applications received to Grants.gov (address opportunity number NOAA-OAR-SG-2010-2002488).

Applicants \*NOT\* From Sea Grants States submit their applications to a nearby State Sea Grant Program to the address provided by that Program, or directly to Grants.gov. If submitted electronically, via Grants.gov, address opportunity number NOAA-OAR-SG-2010-2002488.

If an applicant or Sea Grant Program does not have proven internet access, contact the Agency Contact listed in section VII for submission instructions.

### V. Application Review Information

#### A. Evaluation Criteria

1. Importance and/or relevance and applicability of proposed project to the National Sea Grant program goals (maximum 25 points): This ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, Federal, regional, State, or local activities. For this competition, this ascertains:

(a) if the impact of the proposed work will increase domestic marine aquaculture production, contribute to environmental sustainability, and advance the state of the industry, science, or state-of-the-art methods for marine aquaculture;

(b) the degree to which the proposal contributes to the top priorities for FY2010 and FY 2011:

1) Research on technical aspects of innovative mitigation or 'smart design' approaches to aquaculture, such as integrated multi-trophic aquaculture or other ways to design aquaculture production in an ecosystem management context; 2) Development of planning tools or approaches to aid site selection for new or expanded aquaculture facilities in the

context of coastal and marine spatial planning efforts, including planning and zoning tools for coastal managers; and 3) Research on the social and economic issues associated with current and new marine aquaculture; and

(c) if the proposal includes a concrete, unambiguous specific desired outcome, and has a good chance of achieving that outcome (including meeting stated performance measure targets).

2. Technical/scientific merit (maximum 35 points): This assesses whether the approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and objectives. For this competition, this ascertains:

(a) the quality of the work plan, and if it includes (if appropriate) plans for identifying and conducting future research or other future actions;

(b) if the proposal includes all components (research, outreach, extension, etc) necessary to achieve the desired outcome and an effective plan to integrate all components;

(c) if the proposal includes one or more of the performance measures identified in section I.A, with targets. If it does not include these, does it include well-formed, outcome-based performance measures, with targets, and credibly demonstrate how achieving these performance measure targets will lead to increased targets for one or more of the performance measures in section I.A?; and

(d) if the proposal includes a way to objectively determine its success at achieving its outcomes.

3. Overall qualifications of applicants (maximum 10 points): This ascertains whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project. This includes their record of achievement with previous funding.

4. Project costs (maximum 15 points): The budget is evaluated to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time-frame.

5. Outreach and education (maximum 15 points): Assesses whether this project provides a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nation's natural resources. For this competition, this ascertains if the proposal includes a clear and objective work plan for outreach strategy and specific activities to maximize dissemination of results to stakeholders.

## B. Review and Selection Process

An initial administrative review is conducted by NOAA to determine compliance with

requirements, completeness of the application, and whether it addresses the programmatic priorities.

All proposals will be subjected to technical peer review by the National Sea Grant Office based on the evaluation criteria listed above. Evaluation will be by a review panel of government, academic, NGO and/or private sector scientists and managers. Scores will be provided by each member of the panel based on the evaluation criteria contained in this request for proposals. A summary statement of the review by the panel will be provided to each applicant of a complete proposal. Reviewers will not make a consensus decision, but will provide individual scores. The Program Coordinator will review the ranking of the proposals and the review panel comments and make recommendations to the Selecting Official. Awards will be made in rank order unless a proposal is justified to be selected out of rank based upon one or more of the selection factors described in the next section.

### C. Selection Factors

The Selecting Official shall award in rank order unless a proposal is justified to be selected out of rank based upon one or more of the following factors:

1. Availability of funding
2. Balance and distribution of funds
  - a. Geographically
  - b. By type of institutions
  - c. By type of partners
  - d. By research areas
  - e. By project types
3. Duplication of other projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA or other Federal agencies
4. Program priorities and policy factors as given in section I.B
5. Applicant's prior award performance
6. Partnerships and/or Participation of targeted groups

7. Adequacy of information necessary for NOAA staff to make a National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) determination and draft necessary documentation before recommendations for funding are made to the Grants Officer.

Consequently, awards may not necessarily be made to the highest-scored proposals. Investigators may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets prior to approval of the award. Subsequent administrative processing will be in accordance with current NOAA grants procedures.

#### D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Subject to the availability of funds, awards are expected to be made by October 1, 2010. Some awards may be funded solely from FY2011 appropriations, and these awards will not start until after those appropriations become available. This may result in applicants being asked to modify their start dates.

### VI. Award Administration Information

#### A. Award Notices

Successful applicants will receive notification that the application has been recommended for funding to the NOAA Grants Management Division. This notification is not an authorization to begin performance of the project. Official notification of funding, signed by the NOAA Grants Officer, is the authorizing document that allows the project to begin. Notification will be issued to the Authorizing Official and the Principle Investigator of the project electronically via Grants Online or in hard copy. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified that their proposal was not selected for recommendation.

#### B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

##### 1. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PRE-AWARD NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS -

Administrative and national policy requirements for all Department of Commerce awards are contained in the Department of Commerce Pre- Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the Federal Register notice of February 11, 2008 (73 FR 7696). A copy of the notice may be obtained at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/search.html>.

2. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY - In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if these programs fail to receive funding or are canceled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

3. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) - NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for applicant projects or proposals which are seeking NOAA federal funding opportunities. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA website: <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/>, including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA, <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216--6--TOC.pdf> , and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, [http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/toc\\_ceq.htm](http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/toc_ceq.htm) Consequently, as part of an applicant's package, and under their description of their program activities, applicants are required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non-indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to coral reef systems).

In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting of an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. The failure to do so shall be grounds for not selecting an application. In some cases if additional information is required after an application is selected, funds can be withheld by the Grants Officer under a special award condition requiring the recipient to submit additional environmental compliance information sufficient to enable NOAA to make an assessment on any impacts that a project may have on the environment.

### C. Reporting

Award recipients will be required to submit financial and performance (technical) reports to the State Sea Grant Program for reporting requirements. These reports are to be submitted electronically, unless the recipient does not have proven Internet access, in which case hard copy submissions may be accepted; however, no facsimiles will be accepted. After consultation between the Principal Investigator(s) and the State Sea Grant Program staff, reports are to be submitted electronically by State Sea Grant Program staff via [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov).

## VII. Agency Contacts

Agency contact for information regarding the NOAA Sea Grant Aquaculture Research Program 2010 should be directed to Dr. Gene Kim, 301-734-1281; via e-mail at [oar.hq.sg.aquaculture@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.hq.sg.aquaculture@noaa.gov); Mailing Address: NOAA Sea Grant; 1315 East-West

Highway, SSMC3, R/SG; Silver Spring, MD 20910.

#### VIII. Other Information

Questions about this funding opportunity may be sent to [oar.hq.sg.aquaculture@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.hq.sg.aquaculture@noaa.gov). Questions of general interest will be responded to, time permitting, on a question-and-answer website about this competition:  
[http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/nsi/2010/aquaculture\\_research\\_q\\_and\\_a.html](http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/nsi/2010/aquaculture_research_q_and_a.html)