



New York Sea Grant’s Biennial Research Call for 2026-2027

INVITING PRE-PROPOSALS FOR RESEARCH Specifically Addressing Portions of NYSG’s Strategic Plan for 2024-2027

***Pre-Proposal Deadline: 5:00 PM Eastern
Monday, February 3, 2025***

Anticipated Funds: Approximately \$120,000 per year for 2 years
(contingent on the availability of federal funds)
Supporting about 8-10 projects

The main goal of New York Sea Grant's (NYSG) research program is to generate and provide valid scientific information and tools that will further the sustainable development, use, protection, conservation, and management of our coastal resources. The research must be driven by stakeholder-identified research needs and provide enhanced opportunities for NYSG to ‘make a difference’ and positively impact important coastal issues.

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I. BACKGROUND

[New York Sea Grant](#) (NYSG) is part of the national Sea Grant network that constitutes NOAA's [National Sea Grant College Program](#). NYSG is a cooperative program of the State University of New York (SUNY) and Cornell University, with its main administrative offices located at Stony Brook University and Cornell University, and with extension offices [throughout the state](#). Our vision is to empower the people of New York State, Indigenous Nations, and all guests and visitors to make informed decisions to enhance and sustain healthy coastal ecosystems, communities, and economies. Our mission is *Bringing Science to the Shore through high-quality research, extension, and education that fosters informed collaboration among individuals, communities, businesses, and decision-makers to collectively conserve, utilize, and restore coastal resources to support sustainable and resilient environments, economies, and cultures.*

NYSG's programming serves New York's diverse coastal communities by ensuring they have the science-based information, tools, and resources to understand, plan for, and respond to economic, social, and environmental priorities, challenges, and opportunities.

The New York and National Sea Grant College Programs are committed to a workplace as well as research, education, and extension programming that is informed by and serves the diverse populations throughout New York State and Indigenous Nations. NYSG integrates diverse perspectives, viewpoints, and knowledge (including traditional and local) to pursue its vision and mission, effectively and efficiently.

For this competitive research opportunity, we encourage proposals that include diverse participants and encourage applicants to identify how the research will have broader societal impacts on coastal communities, including communities that are disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards. We encourage research that includes Indigenous, local, and/or traditional ecological knowledge.

II. NYSG RESEARCH AND TOPICS FOR THIS CALL

NYSG supports research on marine, Hudson River estuary, and Great Lakes (and Great Rivers, Niagara, and St. Lawrence) topics and issues. Research projects supported by NYSG must address challenges or opportunities important to New York State, as defined in our 2024-2027 Strategic Plan.

For this RFP, research is defined as natural and/or social scientific endeavors with **explicit and testable hypotheses** that strive to answer "why" and "how" questions. Proposals that focus primarily on developmental work on new methods, models, tools, techniques, and state-of-knowledge synthesis efforts **must also be hypothesis-driven**. Those proposals that only describe or monitor conditions and do not identify or test a specific hypothesis will not be considered.

The proposed research must show an understanding of what constitutes necessary and sufficient information for responsible decision-making or for applied use and will be expected to generate actionable results. A successful Sea Grant project will provide information or tools that will assist resource managers, communities, and other constituents in making decisions or plans regarding coastal resources and environments. Additionally, a project must have sufficient intellectual content and scientific rigor to make it appropriate for university research. The need, significance, products, applicability, target audience (beyond other academics), and expected impact of the

research must be clearly anticipated and described. *These will be key factors in the review process.*

Efforts inappropriate for Sea Grant funding include those directed solely toward monitoring or surveys. Expansion of understanding solely for its own sake without regard to the application or aiding decision-making is also considered inappropriate for Sea Grant research.

Because Sea Grant’s mission includes the extension of research results to coastal constituents, discussions with NYSG extension staff (see list in Section VI) should help hone the focus of proposed research towards particularly useful information. *Researchers are strongly encouraged to contact [NYSG Extension staff](#) with their ideas to improve their understanding of what information and products may be most useful to coastal constituents.* The entity or people who will apply the results for actionable use must be identified in the proposal. Contact with Extension staff before, during, and after the project by the researchers is expected. **Within two months of an executed research contract under this Call, the PI and NYSG staff must develop a project extension and outreach plan to be implemented throughout the project.**

NYSG encourages multi-disciplinary and multi-investigator research. **Research in and among all disciplines is encouraged including the physical, natural, and/or social sciences.** NYSG is also interested in helping to foster new research talent and encourages submissions from early career investigators and others who have not previously received NYSG funding. NYSG welcomes established investigators, especially those familiar with Sea Grant research, to bring on early career colleagues as Co-investigators and serve in a mentorship role. The development of future scientists and decision-makers through student education is also important to NYSG. Investigators are encouraged to involve graduate and/or undergraduate students in the conduct of their projects. **Investigators may want to investigate NYSG’s Sea Grant Scholar Fellowship program** (see III. K. on page 11) for their projects.

In this Call for Pre-proposals, NYSG invites projects that will address the specific topics described below. The selected topic must be addressed in the context of the Focus Area and Goal under which it appears which are based on the [New York Sea Grant’s Strategic Plan for 2024-2027](#). For this Call, NYSG commits to supporting at least one fundable social science project from the topics below.

Your proposal concept must:

- Address one or more specific research topics defined below under NYSG’s Focus Areas and associated Goals; **AND**
- Assist NYSG in making progress towards fulfilling the Goal under which the research topic appears below.

Focus Area A. Healthy Coastal Ecosystems

NYSG Goal A1: Coastal habitats, ecosystems, and the services they provide are protected, enhanced, and/or restored.

To help achieve this goal, NYSG is specifically soliciting research topics that address the following objectives:

1. Research on the structure, function, and benefits of urban coastal (micro)habitats and potential approaches to enhancing those habitats and ecosystem productivity.
2. How PFAS and other contaminants of emerging concern and legacy contaminants impact the function of coastal ecosystems and the services they provide. This can include but is not limited to food web impacts, some of which may influence public health through seafood consumption, including subsistence fishing.
3. Research about the impact of renewable energy infrastructure development on the structure and function of coastal ecosystems; and/or the economic, and/or social impacts on coastal communities; and possible adaptation strategies.
4. Assessment of the ecosystem services of coastal habitats under different restoration strategies, including but not limited to enhanced capacity for carbon sequestration, fish spawning habitat, and/or removal of (or impacts by) aquatic invasive species or dams.

NYSG Goal A2: Diverse communities, agencies, and individuals apply science, tools, and services to manage land, water, and living resources to protect, enhance, and restore coastal habitats, ecosystems, and the services they provide.

To help achieve this goal, NYSG is specifically soliciting research topics that address the following objectives:

1. Development of tools or models to predict and assess the ecological and/ or economic and/ or socio-cultural impacts of future climate change on marine and Great Lakes environments including (but not limited to) impacts of marine heat waves, changing ocean currents, changing water chemistry, fluctuating lake levels, winter ice reduction, and increased frequency of extreme events.
5. Assess different shoreline and/or in-water restoration methodologies (either using modeling, lab or field experiments, or a combination) including those using nature-based techniques, for their ability to provide ecosystem services, protect shorelines, enhance ecological function, and/or provide socio-cultural value.
2. Model development and field studies to determine the characteristics of coastal ecosystems that improve resilience and adaptation to future climate change factors such as water level changes, precipitation changes, and heat waves to help identify strategies and sites for restoration.

Focus Area B. Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

NYSG GOAL B1: Domestic fisheries, aquaculture, and other coastal and freshwater natural resources supply food, jobs, and economic and cultural benefits.

To help achieve this goal, NYSG is specifically soliciting research topics that address the following objectives:

1. Co-produced research on the characteristics, practices, and status of subsistence fishing communities in New York that identifies knowledge gaps and needs, and collaboratively develops effective strategies for outreach with these communities.
2. Research to analyze current market characteristics and conditions of existing seafood (wild-caught or aquaculture) and seaweed sectors in NY and the potential opportunities for and/ or barriers to future growth.

3. Research on the economic and/ or socio-cultural value of seafood and aquaculture in New York State, which may include consumer preferences and valuation.
4. Research on the impacts of offshore renewable energy construction, development, and operations on the ecology of offshore fisheries such as changes in community composition, migratory patterns, population structure, and productivity.
5. Develop methods and test advances in aquatic food safety and processing technology to enhance food safety and increase production efficiency and capacity.
6. Research on developing or testing new aquaculture techniques for producing or raising species not currently cultured in NY aquaculture to explore opportunities for new sustainable and environmentally sensitive commercial markets.

NYSG GOAL B2: Natural resources are sustainably managed to support economically viable fishing communities and industries, including commercial, recreational, subsistence fisheries, and aquaculture.

To help achieve this goal, NYSG is specifically soliciting research topics that address the following objectives:

1. Develop tools and technology for marine and Great Lakes fisheries management and restoration and/ or aquaculture production, (e.g., genetics, survey techniques, novel gear design, video, telemetry, etc.) that ensures sustainability while maximizing economic viability and cultural continuity of fishing communities and seafood and aquaculture businesses.
2. Research on the vulnerabilities and risks to fisheries and aquaculture resources from ongoing and future impacts related to invasive species, pathogens, contaminants of emerging concern (e.g. pharmaceuticals, PFAS), marine debris, climate change, and/ or other human-caused or influenced activities and identify and assesses the efficacy of potential mitigation strategies.
3. Assess the impact and effectiveness of restored shellfish/finfish spawning and/or nursery habitats on species recruitment, survivorship, and population dynamics and on coastal ecosystem function and services.

Focus Area C. Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies

NYSG GOAL C1: The recreation, tourism, water-dependent business, and maritime history industries are resilient to changing environmental conditions, extreme events, coastal hazards, and economic disruptions, while also protective of coastal ecosystems.

To help achieve this goal, NYSG is specifically soliciting research topics that address the following objectives:

1. Research on the economic benefits of coastal recreation and tourism industries, including public access to waterfronts, on local and state economies (e.g. fishing, species-specific angling, outdoor recreation, and ecotourism); identify associated risks and vulnerabilities, and potential solutions and strategies for protection and mitigation to ensure sustainable businesses, industries, and economies.
2. Research on the economic impacts of coastal hazards on recreation, tourism, and water-dependent businesses. Coastal hazards include but are not limited to, low water levels, sea level rise, droughts, coastal storms, flooding, erosion, heat waves, and impacts from climate change.

3. Research on the potential impacts and opportunities of extreme events, future climate change and/ or environmental stressors on coastal tourism and fisheries-related businesses (e.g. impacts from lack of ice and snow, changes in species distributions, water level changes, longer water seasons) and identify new opportunities and/ or test different methods for diversifying coastal economies.
4. Research to assess existing barriers (economic or regulatory) to starting new water-dependent businesses and assess potential mitigation strategies.
5. Research to develop technologies to identify, study, and preserve submerged cultural resources, and assess effective methods to develop and disseminate knowledge about maritime history, and traditional, Indigenous, and cultural heritage.

NYSG GOAL C2: Coastal communities (e.g., local governments, resource managers (including property owners), and inhabitants) have the capability and research-based resources to prepare for and adapt to extreme and chronic weather and coastal hazards, climate change, economic disruptions, and other challenges to community health and well-being.

To help achieve this goal, NYSG is specifically soliciting research topics that address the following objectives:

1. Conduct a comprehensive comparative analysis of the effectiveness of various natural and nature-based and traditional shoreline protection features (e.g., seawalls, break walls, etc.) to achieve physical, ecological, and/or socio-cultural goals.
2. Research on coastal residents' decisions related to staying in place or relocating when climate change threatens livelihoods, property, or safety and test different risk communication strategies, tools, and products to assist diverse communities in understanding risk and making informed decisions.
3. Develop and test tools and data sources (e.g. photographic and/or satellite data, historical data, GIS data, economic data, etc., or any combination) to establish innovative methods to enhance risk and vulnerability assessments, and other decision-making resources for communities, organizations, emergency managers, municipalities, etc.

NYSG GOAL C3: Water resources are enhanced, sustained, and protected to meet existing and emerging needs of the communities and economies that depend on them.

To help achieve this goal, NYSG is specifically soliciting research topics that address the following objectives:

1. Develop models to assess the current and/or potential future threats, impacts, or risks from anthropogenic activities to the quality, quantity, and availability of water resources to support community wastewater (including onsite wastewater treatment systems), stormwater, and drinking water infrastructure.
2. Develop and evaluate new and innovative methods, tools, and practices to treat or mitigate contaminants of emerging concern (e.g., PFAS), in water resources infrastructure (e.g., drinking water, ground water, wastewater and stormwater).
3. Develop new and innovative tools, methods, and practices to prevent and reduce marine debris in coastal waterways and water resources through community-engaged research.

Focus Area D. Environmental Literacy & Workforce Development

NYSG GOAL D1: A diverse, environmentally literate public participates in a continuum of lifelong formal and non-formal learning opportunities.

To help achieve this goal, NYSG is specifically soliciting research topics that address the following objectives:

1. Develop and test new innovative outreach and education methods and tools that increase environmental literacy, exposure to outdoor aquatic recreation (e.g., fishing, boating, etc.), and awareness of coastal issues to a variety of audiences and settings including formal classrooms, informal adult programs, and special events. The research can include comparisons to existing educational tools and should apply established educational research approaches.

NYSG GOAL D2: A resilient, diverse, and skilled workforce is engaged and enabled to address critical local, regional, and national needs through traditional and innovative careers.

To help achieve this goal, NYSG is specifically soliciting research topics that address the following objectives:

1. Develop and test methods to expand awareness and participation in community resilience planning so that a greater variety of perspectives, knowledge, and experiences are available to improve community planning for resilience, natural resource management, sustainable economic development, etc.
2. Develop models to forecast critical labor needs for local and/ or state coastal sectors, and development of workforce recruitment and development programs related to coastal issues to prepare the next generation of workers from diverse communities.

III. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT PRE-PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

A. Who is Eligible to Submit:

Faculty at New York academic institutions are the main targets and recipients of NYSG's research funds. Nevertheless, proposals from other groups may be accepted and approved for funding. Eligible groups are listed below in order of preference for funding under this Call:

1. Researchers at universities and colleges.
2. Researchers at other not-for-profit research institutions.
3. Researchers who are personnel of state or local agencies, or not-for-profit organizations.
4. Researchers at for-profit institutions or companies.

Important: All proposals submitted under this Research Call for 2026-2027 must be **led** by an eligible researcher with their primary professional base in New York State. Co-PIs and Associate PIs may be from out of state. Federal employees may participate in projects as collaborators, but they may not be included in the budget. Federal employees and institutions are not eligible for compensation or budget items of any sort, and their contributions to the proposed research cannot be used as a source of cost-share. Students

and NYSG staff cannot have PI, co-PI, or AI status. For post-docs check with your institution's policies first. Extension staff cannot receive funding for the project.

Note: Researchers at non-university institutions should make sure that their organization has the infrastructure to apply for, receive, and manage federal grants. If not, such researchers might want to consider partnerships with research institutions (Universities or other research institutions) that have the experience and ability to accept federal grants. This may ease the administrative burden of accepting funds and setting up accounts if the proposal is funded.

Lead PIs who have received funding from the previous two consecutive Biennial Calls are not eligible to submit until the next Biennial Call (2028-2029). They can be a Co-PI, or AI on another proposal so long as that proposal is an original proposal developed by that lead PI.

B. Duration of Proposed Work:

Funding made available under this Call will cover two years (2/1/2026 - 1/31/2028), subject to available annual Federal appropriations. While NYSG is accepting proposals for up to two years of work, only one year of support is awarded at a time. Continued support for the second year of a project will be contingent on demonstrated progress. Proposals for one-year projects are also welcome.

C. Budget Size (total of indirect plus direct costs):

The total budget request (direct + indirect costs) for a project may not exceed \$120,000 per year, including funds for the Sea Grant Scholar Fellow (see below). Smaller grant proposals are welcome. Note that the budget estimates in pre-proposal submissions are expected to be realistic. A substantial budget change (greater than 10%) in the full proposal compared to the pre-proposal will be viewed negatively and may result in either the proposal not being reviewed or budget cuts without changes in the scope of work. Awards under this Call are administered as a Cost Reimbursable Award (CRA) and successful applicants must submit invoices to NYSG for reimbursement. Lead PIs are required to keep up to date with submitting invoices rather than letting invoices accumulate and submitting them near the end of the project. Lead PIs are required to keep accurate records of who is paid on the grant funding the project for reporting purposes. The funded project personnel should match what is in the proposal budget. Detailed fiscal guidance and policies are provided with the full proposal guidance.

D. Cost-Share Requirement:

Sea Grant requires non-federal cost-share (a.k.a. matching funds) support in the amount of at least 50 percent of the Sea Grant funds requested. For example, if \$100K is requested from Sea Grant, the proposal's budget page must demonstrate an additional \$50K of non-federal cost-share. The match at the end of each year of the grant should not fall below 50 percent of the federal request up to that point. The budget cannot have, for example, 25% match in one year and 75% in the other year. In-kind contributions directly supporting the application may count towards this matching requirement. Please contact Jean Johnston (jean.johnston@stonybrook.edu) if you have questions about matching funds.

Match may be in the form of selected "in kind" services, unrecovered indirect, or additional

funds from a specified institution, agency, industry, or non-federal program. No funds from federal entities can be used for match. Letters certifying match commitment will be required in the full proposal.

E. Limit on Salary Requests:

Principal and associate investigators with appointments providing nine (9) or more months of support annually are usually not allowed to receive more than two (2) months' total salary from NYSG per year. Other eligible principal and associate investigators will generally be allowed to receive up to six (6) months' salary from NYSG per year. These limits may be relaxed under exceptional circumstances, with prior approval from NYSG. Under all circumstances, the amount of salary support requested or provided as cost-share must be warranted by the effort needed to conduct the project.

F. Regional or Multi-state Proposals:

All Sea Grant programs are on the same funding cycle, which facilitates collaborative projects between states. If you are interested in submitting a regional or multi-state proposal that is not part of a special Regional Call, you must contact NYSG's Director and Research Coordinator, and your co-PIs must contact their state Sea Grant director(s) and research coordinators before submission. Submitters must be familiar with, and comply with, the due dates and processes as specified by their state's Sea Grant program.

G. Duplicate Submissions:

NYSG should be immediately informed by the Principal Investigator if a proposal submitted under this Call will also be submitted elsewhere, e.g., in response to a call released by the National Sea Grant College Program, another state Sea Grant program, or any other funding agency or source. It is NYSG's policy to consider only proposals submitted specifically in response to, and within the due dates for, this Call. Full proposals will not be considered unless they were in this Call's pool from the start as a pre-proposal.

H. Data Management/Sharing Plan:

NOAA regulations require that data and information collected and/or created under NOAA (including Sea Grant) grants must be made visible, accessible, and independently understandable to general users, free of charge or at minimal cost, in a timely manner (typically no later than two years after the data are collected or created), except where limited by law, regulation, policy or by security requirements.

The requirement has two basic parts: (1) environmental and socio-economic data generated by a grant project must be made available after a reasonable period of exclusive use (typically no more than 2 years), and (2) the grant proposal must describe the plan to make the data available.

To follow this requirement, in NYSG's full proposal stage, the principal investigator must include a data management plan that describes how the project's data and metadata will be made available to others. Deposition of data in standard data archives (e.g., by discipline) or available university archives is encouraged. This requirement for data archiving is in addition to the expected publication of research results in peer-reviewed journals. The proposed plan will be reviewed for compliance with NOAA requirements. If funds are needed for this task, they may be included in the project pre-proposal and full proposal

budgets. Further details are provided with the full proposal submission guidance.

I. Extension and Outreach Plan:

All research proposals will be evaluated based on clear linkages between the objectives to be conducted and the public benefits that will result, in terms of improving the understanding, assessment, use, management, conservation, or restoration of marine and coastal resources. Proposals will be evaluated based on the usefulness of the final products for NYSG constituencies. It is strongly suggested and encouraged to identify specific target audiences and engage with those audiences in the development of your proposal. If you need assistance with identifying appropriate target audiences, NYSG extension staff should be able to help. See the staff list in section VI. Publication of results in academic journals alone is insufficient evidence of a successful outreach, education, or communication strategy.

Principal investigators of research projects funded under this award must develop, in collaboration with NYSG staff, an extension and outreach plan within two months of the start of the project. The extension and outreach plan is expected to be implemented throughout the project. The plan should be customized for the specific funded project, use appropriate tools and methods and target the audiences most appropriate to maximize the potential impact and use of the project results. Outreach plans can include a variety of tools and activities in any combination, including workshops, talks, social media, websites, articles, videos, or other ideas developed in the plan. An extension and outreach plan template is provided with the instructions for full proposals sent to PIs encouraged to submit full proposals. Principal investigators of funded research projects will be contacted by NYSG staff after the start of their project to coordinate the development of the outreach plan. Please ensure the inclusion of estimated expenses needed to support project-related extension and outreach activities in both the project pre- and full proposal budgets. NYSG extension staff should be able to help with estimating an amount to include in the budget estimate. See the staff list in section VI. Further details are provided with the full proposal submission guidance.

J. Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire:

Principal investigators of research projects funded under this award must provide a filled-out Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire (NEPA form) and copies of associated permits, and permission of access before data collection can begin. The questionnaire is a fillable pdf form that will be provided with the full proposal instructions along with guidance for filling out the form along with filled-out examples. Further details are provided with the full proposal submission guidance.

K. Sea Grant Scholar Fellowships:

The Sea Grant Scholar Fellowship awards are a mechanism through which NYSG stimulates study and provides support, in the form of a stipend, to graduate students who conduct research relevant to projects funded through its program. In this case, Sea Grant Scholars are fellows rather than employees which saves some costs on the project's budget. If the funded project is destined to be a master's student project or a doctoral student dissertation chapter, then the Sea Grant Scholar Fellowship is recommended for those students.

Sea Grant Scholar Fellowship stipends are pre-determined by the principal investigator(s) of the project and are based on the prevailing rates of the student's department at the time the

project's budget was submitted to NYSG for funding consideration. ***When the project award is made, the investigator's account will not include funds proposed for Sea Grant Scholar Fellowship stipends. Those funds are "withheld" and Sea Grant Scholar payroll distribution is managed directly by NYSG.*** NO IDC is charged on the fellow's stipend or health insurance. Any funds for Scholars are specified on a separate line in the 90-4 budget form and on the project's Award Acceptance Form.

Full Sea Grant Scholar Fellowship details are sent with the full proposal instructions for PIs encouraged to submit full proposals. For questions, please contact New York Sea Grant's fiscal officer - JeanAnn Johnston at 631-632-6908 or jean.johnston@stonybrook.edu.

Project PIs are encouraged to include Sea Grant Scholars as part of their projects.

L. Publication Costs:

NYSG expects investigators and Sea Grant Scholars to publish the results of NYSG-funded work in peer-reviewed journals, proceedings, trade press, etc. Investigators should include estimated costs for publishing their research in their proposal budgets. The 90-4 budget form has two lines for publications. One line for estimated costs for peer-reviewed publications and one line for estimated costs for non-peer-reviewed publications. **NOTE:** The funds for peer-reviewed publications will be "withheld" by NYSG to directly manage publication charges. Further details will be provided in full proposal guidance (if encouraged) and Award Conditions (if a project is selected for funding). Please contact Lane Smith (lane.smith@stonybrook.edu) and Jean Johnston (jean.johnston@stonybrook.edu) with any questions.

M. What and When to Submit:

NYSG uses a pre-proposal process. A complete, PC-readable Pre-proposal Submission Form (see Section VII) ***must be received by the deadline of 5:00 pm Eastern on Monday, February 3, 2025,*** through NYSG's electronic submission website:

www.NYSGProposal.org. Click on "New York Sea Grant's Biennial Research Call for 2026-2027" under "Current Funding Opportunities" and follow all directions for electronic submission. *At the pre-proposal stage, the signatures of principal investigators or campus officials are not required.*

Use all-around margins of at least one inch and a font size of #12 Times New Roman. Convert your document to pdf before submission. *Your project description, parts 6a – 6c, is to be a maximum of two pages.*

Do ***not*** include information or materials supplemental to the Pre-proposal Submission Form (e.g., full budget, appendices, letters of support, etc.). Such materials will be discarded without review.

Important notes about pre-proposal submission:

Submissions that do not include the required information will not be considered (see Section VII for Instructions).

- Double-check your Pre-proposal Submission Form PDF file before uploading it to the submission website to make sure it is readable and that it is the final version. *The submission must be in the form of a single pdf file.* You will receive an auto-receipt from the website confirming your submission. If you do not receive an auto-receipt in your email after 10 minutes, check your spam folder and if not there then contact

Lane Smith at 631-632-9780).

- We recommend submission via a PC at your university office, with a current version of Edge, Firefox, or Chrome web browser installed. If you are working from home, you are responsible for making sure you have an adequate stable internet connection that will allow for your submission. Early submission will provide a buffer to deal with any unexpected connectivity issues.
- If you have trouble with submission through www.NYSGProposal.org, call NYSG (631-632-9780) to explain the problem. We will try to help but cannot guarantee that we can solve your problem. In any case, unless the website becomes inoperable, it is *your* responsibility to plan accordingly and use equipment that will allow you to meet the deadline (*Tip*: Just enter the first few words of your project title in the title field of the submission form. Too long titles cause errors with the form. The entire project title is not necessary.).
- A pre-proposal emailed after the deadline of 4:30 pm EST on January 22, 2025, will not be accepted and its lead investigator will be notified. Please be sure to watch the website's clock (not your computer's clock)! Even if you are on the website before the deadline, if your file is not submitted by 4:30 PM, it will be too late to be accepted. The official time stamp on the submission is provided by the website's server.
- All pre-proposals submitted will be checked for compliance with the format, page limits, and completeness of the pre-proposal sections. Any pre-proposals that fail the compliance check will be disqualified.

NYSG will not make exceptions to these conditions, so *early submission is very strongly advised*.

IV. THE REVIEW PROCESS

Pre-proposals submitted to NYSG in response to this Call will be reviewed by NYSG's senior program managers, extension specialists, and Program Advisory Council. The following criteria will be used in this evaluation:

- How well the project responds to one or more of the research priorities contained in Section II (0 to +5)
- Likelihood that the proposed approach will be successful (0 to +2)
- Expected actionable products and outcomes for use by NYSG constituencies, anticipated societal benefits from the results (0 to +5)
- Other programmatic considerations such as geographic, institutional, and topic balance, may result in out-of-rank order selection

Only authors of the most highly rated pre-proposals will be encouraged to submit full proposals. In this cycle, NYSG will invite about twice as many full proposals as it expects to be able to fund. Any PI who submits a pre-proposal is permitted to submit a full proposal. However, though non-encouraged proposal submissions are accepted they historically have had a low chance of success. **During full proposal development, investigators will be expected to facilitate coordination with, or input from, industry, agency, or private groups as**

appropriate to ensure actionable research results and outcomes with a user group. If you need assistance with identifying appropriate target audiences, NYSG extension staff should be able to help if PIs reach out proactively. See the staff list in section VI.

Full proposals will be subject to external peer review and a Technical Review Panel (TRP). Each full proposal will receive written peer reviews from three non-conflicted, external peer reviewers. Proposal PIs will be given masked copies of the written peer reviews and will have the opportunity to write responses to the reviews. The TRP will consist of non-conflicted, external academic peers. Peer reviewers and TRP members will be instructed to evaluate and score proposals based on the following criteria:

- 1) The fit and responsiveness to the NYSG goals and research topics listed in Section II of the *Biennial Research Call for 2026-2027* – how well the proposed work plan addresses the Goal and research topic of the *Call* (0 to +25);
- 2) the scientific or technical merit of the project – the degree to which the research activity uses appropriate hypotheses and/or methods; the degree to which it will advance the state of the science or discipline through development, use, application, or extension of methods (0 to +25);
- 3) the expected actionable products, outcomes and anticipated societal benefits of the project results – significance and importance of the products (models, methods, and scientific information) and impacts (change in behavior/policies, economic and/ or social benefits, and environmental benefits) that are expected to result from this project and can be used by NYSG constituencies; accessibility of the products and documentable impacts (0 to +25);
- 4) the appropriateness of the budget request and match – the degree to which the requested funding and matching costs levels are appropriate and reflect reasonable costs for the proposed research (0 to +15);
- 5) the professional qualifications of investigators – the degree to which investigators are qualified by education, training, and/or experience to execute the proposed activity; record of achievement with previous funding (0 to +10).

Peer reviewers and TRP members are asked to provide comments under each criterion and provide an overall summary score as follows:

A = 4 = Excellent: Probably will fall among the top 10% of proposals in the area of research; highest priority for support.

B = 3 = Very Good: Probably will fall among the top third of proposals in the area of research; should be supported.

C = 2 = Good: Probably will fall among the middle third of proposals in the area of research; worthy of support.

D = 1 = Fair: Probably will fall among the lowest third of proposals in the area of research.

F = 0 = Poor: Proposal has serious deficiencies; should not be supported.

Final proposal scores and ranking will be based on peer reviews and TRP scoring based on peer reviews, PI responses, and Panel discussions. Final funding decisions are made by the NYSG senior leadership team and incorporate all peer and panel reviews and rankings, relevancy input from the New York Sea Grant Program Advisory Council, as well as the availability of funding, prior award performance of applicants, and balance across the portfolio such as institutions,

geography, focus areas, and applicant diversity, which may result in out of rank order proposals selected for funding. Selected applicants can expect notification in Summer of 2025.

V. CALL TIMELINE

January 2, 2025	Call for pre-proposals released
January 9, 14	RFP informational webinar
February 3, 5:00 pm	Deadline for pre-proposals (via the NYSG submission website)
February 27	Pre-proposal Review Panel Meets*
March 4	NYSG notifies PIs of pre-proposal review panel results*
March 11, 13	Full proposal informational webinar
May 7, 4:30 pm	Deadline for full proposals including the Subrecipient Form, University Officials Contact Form (via NYSG submission website)
June 24-25	Full proposal PI's receive masked peer reviews for response
July 9	Deadline for PI responses to reviews
August 7	Technical Review Panel Meets*
August 11-12	NYSG notifies all investigators of funding decisions
August 25	Deadline for revisions, final budgets (90-4 excel), NEPA questionnaire of successful proposals
September 1	Permits, permissions, and IRB approvals for funded proposals due
January 5, 2026	Policies and procedures review webinar
January 12	Signed Award Acceptance Form, and Permits/Permissions due back from PIs
February 1	Anticipated funding begins for new projects
By April 1	Outreach plan due
February 1, 2027	Anticipated funding continues for 2-year projects with satisfactory progress

*Dates are approximate and tentative depending upon scheduling with panel members and NYSG's Program Officer at the National Sea Grant Office.

VI. NEW YORK SEA GRANT STAFF

<https://seagrant.sunysb.edu/articles/t/nysg-staff-full-staff-directory>

Research Administration (at Stony Brook University)

Rebecca L. Shuford, Director (631-632-6905, rebecca.shuford@stonybrook.edu)

JeanAnn Johnston, Fiscal Officer (631-632-6908, jean.johnston@stonybrook.edu)

Lane Smith, Research Program Coordinator (631-632-9780, lane.smith@stonybrook.edu)

Extension Administration (at Cornell University)

Katherine Bunting-Howarth, Associate Director (607-255-2832, keb264@cornell.edu) – coastal policy and decision-making; public participation; human dimensions of coastal management; climate-induced human migration.

Communications Administration (at Stony Brook University & New York City)

Paul Focazio, Communications Manager (631-632-6910, paul.focazio@stonybrook.edu)

Extension Specialists

New York City

Catherine Prunella (cjp275@cornell.edu) – Water Quality Extension Specialist

Hannah Eisler Burnett (heb84@cornell.edu) – Coastal Resilience Specialist (Jamaica Bay)

Lillit (Lilli) Genovesi (lg543@cornell.edu) – Outreach Coordinator, Long Island Sound Study, NYC

East Meadow

Sarah Schaefer-Brown (scs292@cornell.edu) – Sustainable and Resilient Communities (SRC) Specialist, Nassau County

Stony Brook

Michael Ciaramella (mc2544@cornell.edu) – Seafood Specialist

Antoinette Clemetson (aoc5@cornell.edu) – Marine Fisheries Specialist

Kathleen Fallon (kmf228@cornell.edu) – Coastal Processes & Hazards Specialist

Kayla Walsh (kgw43@cornell.edu) – Coastal Climate Specialist

Elizabeth Hornstein (eeh78@cornell.edu) – Sustainable and Resilient Communities (SRC) Specialist, Suffolk County

Barry Udelson (bu25@cornell.edu) – Aquaculture Specialist

Jimena Perez-Viscasillas (jbp255@cornell.edu) – Outreach Coordinator, Long Island Sound Study

Elmsford

Sara Powell (slp285@cornell.edu) – Sustainable and Resilient Communities (SRC) Specialist, Westchester County

Kingston

Jessica Kuonen (jak546@cornell.edu) – Hudson Estuary Resilience Specialist

Watertown

Lauren E. Darcy (led222@cornell.edu) – Great Lakes Coastal Resilience Specialist

Oswego

John Cannaday (jdc378@cornell.edu) – Great Lakes Recreation and Tourism Specialist

Stacy Furgal (slf85@cornell.edu) – Great Lakes Fisheries and Ecosystem Specialist

Roy Widrig (rlw294@cornell.edu) – Great Lakes Coastal Processes and Hazards Specialist

Newark

Mary Austerman (mp357@cornell.edu) – Great Lakes Coastal Community Development Specialist

Rochester

Jake Anderson (ja843@cornell.edu) – Water Quality Specialist

Buffalo

Nate Drag (nwd4@cornell.edu) – Great Lakes Literacy Specialist

Megan Cochran (mk2236@cornell.edu) - Great Lakes Outreach Coordinator

VII. PRE-PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

Be sure to use the format and provide the information as described below. **Every Section (1-9) and all the information specified within it is required.** Submissions that do not include all this information will NOT be reviewed or encouraged to submit a full proposal. Any PI that submits a pre-proposal before the deadline can submit a full proposal. Though non-encouraged proposal submissions are accepted, they historically have had a low chance of success. Any PI can re-submit their preproposal through the submission portal prior to the deadline if they make corrections or updates. The most recent version submitted is used for review. Use all-around margins of one inch and a font size and type #12 Times New Roman. Convert your document to pdf before submission. Tip: Copy and paste the text below into a new document, remove the instructions text and use as a template for your preproposal.

Pre-proposal Submission to the NYSG Biennial Research Call for 2026-2027

Date: _____

1. LAST NAMES OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS: (e.g., Smith / Doe / Jones)

2. BRIEF PROJECT TITLE:

3. INVESTIGATOR(S): List **all** principal (PI), co-principal (co-PI), and associate (AI) investigators, including name, mailing address, telephone, and email for each. *Also* indicate eligibility category (#1, 2, 3, or 4) from the Call’s Section III.A for each. The primary institutional affiliation of the lead investigator must be an institution located in New York State. CO-PIs and AIs can be from out of state. Students and NYSG staff cannot have PI, co-PI, or AI status, do not include them here. For post-docs check with your institution’s policies first. Extension staff cannot receive funding for the project.

4. PROJECT DETAILS:

A. Addressing Which Research Topic: Indicate or list the Research Goal, and Number, from Section II of this Call that will be addressed by this submission (e.g., *Goal A1, Number 2 Develops or use ecosystem-based models/studies that examine how species/populations have shifted over time and the environmental factors driving those shifts, and how climate changes may impact species/populations in the future*).

B. Regional or multi-program submission? Indicate yes or no, whether the pre-proposal is part of a regional or multi-program submission being considered by other state Sea Grant programs. If yes, indicate which Sea Grant programs. Proposals in response to Special Regional Sea Grant RFPs should not be submitted with this form. Yes ___ No ___

C. Data Management Plan: Indicate your acknowledgment that proposals recommended for funding must provide an acceptable data management/sharing plan to be added to the proposal and that compliance with the plan will be required, and that the preproposal's budget estimate provides for this.

I (we) acknowledge that if encouraged to submit a full proposal that an acceptable data management/sharing plan will be added to the proposal and that the preproposal's budget estimate provides for this. Yes___

D. Extension and Outreach Plan: Indicate your acknowledgment that an acceptable extension and outreach plan developed with NYSG extension staff will be required by two months after the start of a project if it is funded and that the preproposal's budget estimate provides for this.

I (we) acknowledge that an acceptable extension and outreach plan is to be developed with NYSG extension staff two months after the start of a project if it is funded and that the preproposal's budget estimate provides for this. Yes___

E. Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire: Indicate your acknowledgment that an Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire will be required for proposals recommended for funding and that data collection cannot begin before these items are reviewed and approved by the National Sea Grant Office and NOAA.

I (we) acknowledge that an Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire will be required for proposals recommended for funding and that data collection cannot begin before these items are reviewed and approved by the National Sea Grant Office and NOAA. Yes___

F. Permits, Permissions, and IRB Approval: Indicate your acknowledgment that copies of any required permits, permissions, or IRB approvals needed to conduct the project, if applicable, will be required for proposals recommended for funding and that data collection cannot begin before these items are reviewed and approved by the National Sea Grant Office and NOAA.

I (we) acknowledge that copies of any required permits, permissions, or IRB approvals needed to conduct the project will be acquired before data collection and that these items are reviewed and approved by the National Sea Grant Office and NOAA. Yes___

5. BUDGET: Total of direct plus indirect costs.

A. Estimated Request for Federal Funds from New York Sea Grant

Year One \$ _____ Year Two \$ _____ Total Request \$ _____

B. Estimated Non-Federal Cost-Share to be Provided to New York Sea Grant

Year One \$ _____ Year Two \$ _____ Total Match \$ _____

C. Expected Source(s) of Cost Share:

D. Sea Grant Scholar to be Requested: Yes___ No___ If yes, how many___

6. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Start on a *new page*, use *no more than two pages* with the following a-c headings to describe your proposed project.

- a) **STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE AND OBJECTIVES:** Explain how the research you propose will address the topic(s) you have chosen from Section II's list. Present the overall objectives of your proposed study. Alternatively, if the proposal involves model and/or decision-making tool development, clearly state the intent and intended end-users.
- b) **APPROACH:** Very briefly describe the general approach to be used in accomplishing the objectives.
- c) **EXPECTED ACTIONABLE PRODUCTS, OUTCOMES AND ANTICIPATED SOCIETAL BENEFIT(S):** Explain what products (techniques, tools, models, and scientific information) are expected to result from this project, who will use them, how will they be engaged, and what the anticipated societal benefit(s) will be within New York and beyond.

7. LITERATURE CITED: Present the full citations for any work referenced in Section 6, where they may be labeled as (1), (2, 3), etc. The space required for Section 7 is not counted under the 2-page maximum for Section 6. If no references are used in Section 6, state "none".

8. CVs: Provide a Curriculum Vita for each listed investigator (Principal Investigator, Co-Principal Investigator, Associate Investigator) with a 2-page maximum per person. Contact NYSG if you need more information.

9. POSSIBLE PEER REVIEWERS: Starting on a new page, list the names and affiliations of up to four out-of-state individuals of national standing and pertinent expertise who we might ask to provide peer reviews of your submission. Do *not* include individuals with whom you have worked or collaborated within the last 4 years or who would be considered to have a professional or personal conflict of interest. We may or may not use these individuals, so do not contact them yourself. You may also request that certain individuals not be asked to review your proposal.

The information for Section 9 is for internal NYSG use only. Like Sections 1 through 8, omitting this section will cause your submission to NOT be reviewed or encouraged to submit a full proposal.

VIII. VOLUNTARY DEMOGRAPHICS FORM

[Form Link](#)

Opportunity Title is: 2026-2027 Biennial Research Call

Please follow the link above to complete the form as **the Lead PI/Applicant ONLY**. Only the lead applicant should respond, and they should respond on behalf of themselves, not the entire team of applicants.

In accordance with OMB SPD 15, NOAA has a continuing commitment to monitor the operation of its review and award processes to identify and address any inequities based on gender, race, ethnicity, or disability of its proposed applicants. To gather information needed for this important

task, the applicant(s) should submit the requested information for the lead PI/Applicant. Submission of the requested information is voluntary and is not a precondition of award unless otherwise noted by the opportunity. Any individual not wishing to submit some or all the information should check the box provided for this purpose or skip the question. Upon receipt of the application, this form will be separated from the application. This form will not be duplicated, and it will not be a part of the review process (unless specified by the opportunity). Data will be confidential.