



Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve Request for Proposals for Coastal Research Grant

Request for Proposals

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Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

I. INTRODUCTION and PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Purpose of Solicitation:

The Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (DNERR) of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is announcing the availability grant funding for projects that help fulfill the DNERR Research Goal to “Improve the scientific understanding of the estuarine and coastal ecosystems and the human influence on them”. This RFP will support the understanding of habitat use and migration patterns of horseshoe crabs in Delaware Bay.

Project Description:

Investigating Subtidal Movement of Horseshoe Crabs in Delaware Bay

Delaware Bay hosts the largest spawning population of horseshoe crabs (*Limulus polyphemus*). This commercially important species is harvested primarily for bait in eel and whelk fisheries and are also widely used in the biomedical industry for Limulus Amoebocyte Lysate (LAL). Horseshoe crab eggs also support migrating shorebirds, which rely on the eggs to build energy reserves during their seasonal migration northward.

Coordinated horseshoe crab spawning surveys have been occurring in Delaware Bay since 1990. The Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (DNERR) manages the survey on three Delaware Bay beaches each spring (Kitts Hummock, Ted Harvey Wildlife Area, North Bowers Beach) and incorporates citizen science volunteers to assist with the annual baywide horseshoe crab spawning survey that takes place in May and June.

Despite a vigorous spawning survey, little is known about movements and behavior of crabs after they leave the beaches. Increased understanding of offshore movements and habitat use is needed to better inform species management, particularly in the face of harvest from commercial fisheries and the biomedical industry and due to the importance of the eggs for migratory birds. To improve the understanding of subtidal movements and habitat use of horseshoe crabs the objectives of this proposal are as follows:

1. Development of a program using passive acoustic telemetry to monitor subtidal movements of horseshoe crabs and refine the general knowledge of horseshoe crab habitat use within and around Delaware Bay.
2. Development of a tagging and monitoring program that incorporates the ongoing efforts of the DNERR Horseshoe Crab Spawning Survey citizen science program through participation in the volunteer training sessions, tagging crabs with volunteers and/or DNERR staff, and/or participation in other education and outreach efforts such as research highlights in DNERR social media.

3. Provide data that can be applicable for statewide and regional ecosystem based management.

Important Dates and Grant Schedule:

April 3, 2014	Proposals due to Delaware Coastal Programs office no later than 3:00 pm . <i>Applications received after that time will not be reviewed.</i>
On or before April 10, 2014	Grant awards announced and recipients notified
March 15, 2015	Project completion deadline

II. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicant Requirements:

Applicants may be any academic institution or not-for-profit organization working at the local level within the State of Delaware.

Award Information:

Funding for the project receiving a grant award will not exceed \$50,000. The Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve is providing financial support for projects through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The award recipient is required to comply with all federal laws and guidelines pertaining to the use of federal funds.

Matching Requirements:

Funding received under this grant program must be matched dollar for dollar (a 50:50 cost share ratio) by non-federal, state, or local cash or in-kind services. For example, if \$15,000 in federal funds is requested, \$15,000 in state, local, or some other non-federal funds must be shown as match. A variety of expenses can be considered as match including in-kind services, waiving of graduate student tuition and or fees, student advisor time, volunteer hours, non-federal state or local cash. Deferral of overhead cannot be used as match. For additional information please contact the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve Office at (302) 739-6377.

Ineligible costs:

Funds may not be used for construction costs, scholarships to individuals, deficit reduction activities, projects that have already been completed, or for those activities that constitute legally required mitigation for the adverse effects of an activity regulated or otherwise governed by state or federal law.

Project Duration:

Work conducted for the project is to be complete by March 15, 2015. Award recipients will be required to submit semi-annual status reports and will be notified of specific reporting requirements in the grant award agreement.

III. HOW TO APPLY

Submission of Proposals:

One (1) signed original **AND** one (1) electronic copy of the proposal and any supporting materials must be submitted to Delaware Coastal Programs Office at the following address **no later than 3:00 pm, April 3, 2014.**

ATTN: DNERR Grant Application

Colleen Holstein
Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve
818 Kitts Hummock Rd.
Dover, DE 19901

Grant Application:

Grant applicants must contain the following information to be considered a complete application:

Cover Page: The cover page should include the proposal title, Principal Investigator(s) including contact information, Beginning/completion date of project, requested amount of funding, technical and administrative contacts. This page should include the signature of the responsible party submitting the proposal.

Abstract: Include a short abstract of the project suitable for public distribution and federal grant reports. (1- 2 paragraphs)

Scope of Work: This section should concisely describe the outcomes of the proposal. It should describe in detail the methods and analyses that will be performed. All results must be statistically valid and defensible. (1-2 pages)

Time Schedule and Benchmarks: This section should break down the Scope of Work into tasks with target dates for completion of each task. It should list target milestones, and timelines. This information will also be used to develop payment schedule. (1 page)

Project Budget: This section should provide a detailed budget description and a brief narrative justification of the budget. It should include the amount requested and itemize all expenditures such as personnel, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual costs, indirect costs, and non-federal match sources and amounts. (1 page)

CV: Short (1-2 page) CV of all investigators listed on the proposal

Any project not containing the information outlined above may be disqualified.

IV. SELECTION PROCESS

Each project proposal will receive an initial screening by the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve to ensure the application meets basic eligibility criteria. A committee of

resource experts will then review and rank the eligible proposals and will make recommendations for funding based upon those rankings.

Proposal Review and Ranking Criteria:

Technical merit (60%)

- Project will deliver tangible, defensible result
- Proposed outcomes meet the intent of the RFP
- Methods and analyses described are appropriate to meet the goal of the RFP
- Project addresses one or more of the critical research and monitoring topics for the DNERR

Cost effectiveness and budget detail (20%)

- Detailed budget
- Properly identified match
- Overall cost effectiveness

Investigator(s) Qualifications (20%)

- Investigator(s) have the knowledge and experience to successfully complete the project

V. GRANTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Award recipients will be required to submit semi-annual status reports and will be notified of specific reporting requirements in the grant award agreement. The Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve is providing financial support for projects through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). All award recipients are required to comply with all federal laws and guidelines pertaining to the use of federal funds.

VI. CONTACT INFORMATION

For further details regarding the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve Coastal Research Grant Program applicants may contact:

Lyndie Hice-Dunton, Ph.D.
DNERR Research Coordinator
Lyndie.Hice-Dunton@state.de.us
(302) 739-6377

or

Kimberly Cole
DNERR Manager
Kimberly.Cole@state.de.us
(302) 739-6377

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control solicits and encourages Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) and Women’s Business Enterprises (WBE) in all service contracts and is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and diversity of its workforce.