

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

BOEM - Acquisition Policy and Financial Assistance

2023
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Signature

Date

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A. Program Description

A1. Authority

The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act Amendments of 1978, 92 Stat. 653, codified at 43 U.S.C. 1346, which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct studies of any area or region "to establish information needed for assessment and management of environmental impacts on the human, marine, and coastal environments of the outer Continental Shelf and the coastal areas which may be affected by oil and gas or other mineral development." The Secretary of the Interior is also authorized to, by agreement "utilize, with or without reimbursement, the services, personnel, or facilities of any Federal, State, or local government agency" to carry out the Act. 43 U.S.C. 1346(c)

A2. Background, Purpose and Program Requirements

BACKGROUND

BOEM prepares environmental documents in support of the National Environmental Policy Act and other statutes. In these documents, BOEM is required to assess the impacts from activities that result from BOEM leasing decisions on the marine, coastal, and human environment. These documents require a description of the affected environment that is built on knowledge of the natural resources and human activities occurring in the area of interest. Supporting studies that inform these documents and help fulfil BOEM's mission of environmentally responsible energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf is the purpose of BOEM's Environmental Studies Program.

BOEM needs to anticipate future offshore renewable energy development in the NW Atlantic and its cumulative effects on marine species, including the highly endangered North Atlantic right whale (NARW). NARW prey availability in the Gulf of Maine (GoMe) and underlying patterns of variability need to be better understood for responsible environmental stewardship of this important feeding ground. With continued monitoring of zooplankton populations from key time series, cumulative effects from industry activities could be better detected, understood, and if necessary, appropriately mitigated.

Elevated NARW mortalities beginning in 2017 resulted in NOAA declaring an Unusual Mortality Event (<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-life-distress/2017-2018-north-atlantic-right-whale-unusual-mortality-event>). From 2017-early 2023 98 NARW deaths have been recorded. Of those that were necropsied, entanglement in fishing gear or vessel strikes were determined to be the cause of mortality. The NARW population is currently declining (Pace et al., 2017) with approximately 340 individuals left (<https://www.narwc.org/uploads/1/1/6/6/116623219/2022reportcardfinal.pdf>).

The population reproductive rate is another important factor that could be contributing to a declining NARW population. Right whale births remain significantly below what is expected, and the average inter-birth interval remains high. Additionally, there were no first-time mothers in 2022, underscoring recent research findings that fewer adult, nulliparous females are becoming reproductively active (Reed et al., 2022). Nutrition is a key driver of reproduction, as NARWs need sufficient food to feed upon in order to fulfil their energetic requirements for gestation and lactation. NARWs feed primarily on copepods, specifically, *Calanus finmarchicus* (Baumgartner and Mate, 2003). Concerns about the effects of fixed-bottom offshore wind structures on oceanographic, atmospheric, and hydrodynamic processes have been raised by the public and cooperating agencies. These concerns include the alteration of currents locally resulting in changes in oceanographic processes such as the dispersion of larvae and related spillover effects on surrounding ecosystems (van Berkel et al., 2020; Galparsoro et al., 2022). Specifically, it is postulated that changes in oceanographic conditions caused by offshore wind could result in the dispersion of zooplankton, via disruption of flow-field mechanisms acting to aggregate prey (White and Veit, 2020) thus reducing their concentration, thereby, limiting the food source for North Atlantic right whales, and possibly causing increased energetic expenditure to find enhanced concentrations of prey.

Calanus finmarchicus has key functional significance in the GoMe ecosystem (Bigelow, 1924; Johnson et al., 2011). The lipid-rich stage CV are a primary prey for planktivorous fish, such as herring and sand lance (e.g., Payne et al., 1990; Collette and Klein-MacPhee, 2002) that are fundamental trophic links in regional fisheries. Since there is no apparent functional redundancy for *C. finmarchicus* in the GoMe ecosystem, significant shifts in abundance of *C. finmarchicus* may have substantial impacts on the region's metazoan energy budget and consequently affect local distribution and abundance of planktivores and higher trophic-level predators (Johnson et al., 2011). Wilkinson Basin plays a particularly important role in the western GoMe because it serves as a primary source of supply of *C. finmarchicus* to fishing and NARW feeding grounds in waters off southern New England, including the Great South Channel and Georges Bank (Wishner et al., 1995; Miller et al., 1998; Pendleton et al., 2009).

The GoMe lies at the epicenter of the most rapid warming trend in U.S. coastal waters. Recent warming has placed the habitat for *C. finmarchicus* in the GoMe at risk. Statistical studies of *C. finmarchicus* habitat suggest that the species will disappear or dramatically decline from the GoMe over the next several decades (Reygondeau and Beaugrand 2011; Grieve et al. 2017). Recent research indicates that the abundance patterns of *C. finmarchicus* in the GoMe have shifted over the past decade (Meyer-Gutbrod et al., 2021). The abundance of older, lipid rich stages of *C. finmarchicus* has declined by approximately 30% in summer and fall in the western Gulf of Maine and even more dramatically, by an order of magnitude, in the eastern Gulf of Maine (Record et al. 2019). The recent changes are linked to a shift in ocean circulation patterns that transport seawater into the Gulf (Meyer-Gutbrod et al., 2021). One ecosystem consequence

of this oceanographic change is that North Atlantic right whales have shifted their foraging distributions away from traditional feeding grounds in the Gulf of Maine in summer and fall, affecting their reproduction and mortality rates.

Through long term monitoring by the Canadian Atlantic Zone Monitoring Program and the University of Maine/University of New Hampshire, time series data within the Gulf of St Lawrence and the GoMe have resulted in data showing *C. finmarchicus* persistence in the GoMe during recent extreme warming events (Runge et al., 2015), and more recently showed interdecadal variability of *C. finmarchicus* in the eastern and western GoMe in relation to NARW distribution (Record et al., 2019). This same time series has provided insight on the mechanisms controlling *C. finmarchicus* abundance in the GoMe and in turn how it influences the NARW feeding grounds in southern New England (Ji et al., 2017). Due to a lack of funding, the US data collection stations in Wilkinson Bay and in the Maine Coastal Current ended in 2017. BOEM Cooperative Agreement M19AC00022 supported collection and analysis of samples from the Wilkinson Basin Time Series (WBTS) and Coastal Maine Time Series (CMTS) stations as part of the NERACOOS Integrated Sentinel Monitoring Network (ISMN) Gulf of Maine MBON project from 2020-2022.

The WBTS and CMTS stations are strategically located in the western Gulf of Maine to monitor planktonic ecosystem characteristics in the Maine Coastal Current, a regional production driver, and in Wilkinson Basin, the primary overwintering habitat for the energy-rich foundation species, the planktonic copepod *C. finmarchicus*, that supports the Gulf of Maine subarctic food web and its ecosystem services. Observations of summer abundance of *C. finmarchicus* late stages at the CMTS station show approximately a 30% decline from 2008 to 2021, consistent with the WBTS CI. Data collected in 2022 at both the CMTS and WBTS stations, however, indicate a rebound in *Calanus* abundance. This rebound suggest a recent change in oceanographic conditions affecting supply of *Calanus* into the GoMe; whether this is a singular annual event or the start of a longer-term increase in *Calanus* abundance awaits future observations (Runge et al., 2023). Funding for 2023 sampling was provided through the MBON but this funding ends in January 2024.

This study supports continuation of measurement of *C. finmarchicus* and zooplankton biodiversity at The WBTS and CMTS stations. These observations will become part of the observing data of the NERACOOS Integrated Sentinel Monitoring Network as part of the national Marine Biology Observation Network. Extensive knowledge of the oceanographic mechanisms controlling *C. finmarchicus* abundance will be applied to integrate the time series observations, NOAA plankton data and visual and acoustic sightings of North Atlantic right whales to predict the foraging patterns of the North Atlantic right whale for use in management decisions related to regulation of shipping lanes and entanglement in fishing gear. Documentation of shifting planktonic biodiversity and the role of *Calanus* will also have applications for understanding the future GoMe ecosystem structure and function.

A workshop co-hosted by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and BOEM in May 2018 determined that impacts to zooplankton communities are currently not possible to detect in the short term and that long-term sampling efforts should be supported (Kraus et al., 2019). Moving forward it is imperative to continue this long-term data collection in order to detect any climatological or other effects on this ecosystem that may be happening with or without the influence of BOEM-related activities in this area identified as NARW critical feed habitat.

OBJECTIVE

To understand the long-term variability of *C. finmarchicus* in the GoMe and how that influences the NARW feeding grounds in the Gulf of Maine and the NW Atlantic.

SCOPE OF WORK

Dr Jeffrey Runge at the School of Marine Sciences, University of Maine's Gulf of Maine Research Institute in collaboration with the University of New Hampshire (UNH) will undertake plankton sampling, data analysis and report writing.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number

15.423

Authorization Legislation

Section 1346 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) mandates the conduct of environmental and socioeconomic studies needed for the assessment and management of environmental impacts on the human, marine, and coastal environments which may be affected by oil and gas or other mineral development. OCSLA Section 1345 authorizes the use of cooperative agreements with affected States to meet the requirements of OCSLA, including sharing of information, joint utilization of available expertise, formation of joint monitoring arrangements to carry out applicable Federal and State laws, regulations, and stipulations relevant to outer continental shelf operations both onshore and offshore.

A3. Technical Assistance and Information for Prospective Applicants

B. Federal Award Information

B1. Total Funding

Estimated Total Funding

\$200,000

B2. Expected Award Amount

Maximum Award Amount

\$200,000

Minimum Award Amount

\$150,000

B3. Anticipated Dates

Award Start Date

August 31, 2023

B4. Period of Performance**Length of Project Periods**

Other

Length of Project Period Explanation of Other

20 Month project period and budget period.

Project Period I Expectation Duration in Months

20

B5. Numbers of Awards**Expected Number of Awards**

1

B6. Type of Award**Funding Instrument Type**

CA - Cooperative Agreement

B7. Other Federal Information**Type of Competition**

Open to All Eligible Applicants

C. Eligibility Information**C1. Eligible Applicants**

06 – Public and State controlled institutions of higher education

25 – Others (see text field entitled “Additional Information on Eligibility” for clarification)

Additional Information on Eligibility

The only eligible applicant is the University of Maine. Cost-sharing/match is not required but is strongly encouraged.

C2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing/Matching Requirement

No

Percentage of Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement:

C3. Other

Excluded Parties:

BOEM conducts a review of the SAM.gov Exclusions database for all applicant entities and their key project personnel prior to award. The Bureau cannot award funds to entities or their key project personnel identified in the SAM.gov Exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted or otherwise excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits, as their ineligibility condition applies to this Federal program.

D. Application and Submission Information

D1. Address to Request Application Package

The application must be submitted through the www.Grants.gov portal.

The applicant can locate the application package by visiting the Grants.gov portal and searching on CFDA number 15.423 or Announcement M23AS00425 in the Grants.gov search engine. See sections D3 and D7 for more information on the application process.

D2. Content and Form of Application Submission

SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance

In addition to the SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance applicants must submit the following:

- SF-424a Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs
- SF-424b Assurances - Non-Construction Programs
- Project Narrative
- Budget Narrative with Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
- Budget Worksheet
- Grants.gov Lobbying Form
- Complete SF-LLL only if lobbying has occurred.

These forms will be with the Grants.gov announcement package.

Project Summary

Project Narrative

The Project Narrative should include the Proposal Cover Sheet and Proposal Text.

1. Proposal Cover Sheet: The cover sheet of the proposal shall contain the following information:
2. Project Title:
3. PI(s):
 1. Name:
 2. Address:
 3. Phone:
 4. E-mail:
4. Name of State Agency or University/Department:
5. Contact Information for Technical and Administrative Negotiations
6. Project Status: New/Continuation
7. Project Duration: (years or months)
8. Proposed Start Date:
9. Proposed Draft Final Report Submission Date:
10. Proposed Completion Date:
11. Amount Requested From BOEM:
12. Amount and Sources of Non-Federal Match
13. Total Project Cost:
14. Signature, Name, and Contact Information of State or University PI and Co-Investigator:
15. Proposal Endorsement, including Signature, Name, Contact Information of State Authorizing Official or Sponsoring University Department Dean or Institute Director:
16. Signature, Name and Contact Information of Authorized State Official, Office of Sponsored Programs, or Appropriate Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, etc.

2. Proposal Text: The proposal must be in 11–12 point Times New Roman, Arial, or similar font with 1”-page margins. Non-conforming proposals will not be considered. Text, figures, etc. in support of items a-i below should be no longer than 15 pages.

Please include the following in the Proposal:

1. Abstract
2. Background/Relevance to BOEM Issues, Information Needs, and Research Topics: Give a brief introduction to the research proposed. Specify the contribution to science related to the program issues and the benefits that the public will receive from the project. Explain why the work is important and how the proposal addresses BOEM goals. Provide a brief summary of findings or outcomes of any prior work you have completed in this area.
3. Objectives/Hypotheses: Clearly define goals of the project.
4. Methods/Analyses: Provide a clear description of planned research methodologies and analyses.
5. Project Deliverables and Planned Products: Applicants shall provide plans for executing the project tasks listed in the attached Statement of Work, including a rough timeline for these deliverables.

6. Staffing Plan: All key personnel (including graduate student workers) shall be identified by name. List the Principle Investigator first, followed by the names of other individuals. Indicate the role and anticipated level of effort for each key participant offering unique or specific contributions to the project (oceanographer, geochemist, field assistant, etc.). If names of any key participants are unknown, a proposal addendum with the names and curricula vitae must be submitted prior to award.
7. Performance Measures: Applicants shall suggest specific measures that will be used to monitor project progress, including progress of sub-awardees (e.g., quality and timely deliverables, timely completion of fieldwork or other project components, draft peer-reviewed articles). These performance measures will be incorporated in the cooperative agreement award and reviewed as part of any continuation request.
8. Critical Starting Dates (e.g., for season-limited field work): Identify any critical starting dates and the reason why project success is dependent upon that start date.
9. Publication and Presentation: BOEM strongly encourages the Awardees to publish project reports in scientific and technical journals, and present results to the scientific community, appropriate professional organizations, and local, State, and/or Federal agencies as part of the project (please also see Section H). These publications and meetings should be included in the proposal and budget.
10. Bibliography: List all references cited in the text, as well as references that are relevant to the current proposal from your past work in the field.
11. Curricula Vitae (maximum two pages) for each identified key participant. Emphasize previous experience in the field of study that the proposal addresses.
12. Letters of Commitment: Provide signed letters of commitment by matching fund grantors, contractors, and sub-grantees.

Budget Narrative/Detailed Spreadsheet

Describe and justify requested budget items and costs. Detail how the SF-424 Budget Information, Object Class Category totals were determined. For personnel salary costs, include the baseline salary figures and the estimates of time. Describe any item of cost that requires prior approval under the Federal cost principles. See 2 CFR 200.407 "Prior written approval (prior approval)" for more information. If equipment purchased previously with Federal funds is available for the project, provide a list of that equipment and identify the Federal funding source. Describe and justify requested budget items and costs. Detail how the SF-424 Budget Information, Object Class Category totals were determined. For personnel salary costs, include the baseline salary figures and the estimates of time. Describe any item of cost that requires prior approval under the Federal cost principles. See 2 CFR 200.407 "Prior written approval (prior approval)" for more information. If equipment purchased previously with Federal funds is available for the project, provide a list of that equipment and identify the Federal funding source.

1. **Budget Spreadsheet**: Include information in a format that provides personnel, travel, services, supplies, equipment, tuition, and indirect costs on an annual basis for both the requested BOEM funds and for the anticipated match funds if applicable. Detail how the SF-424 Budget Information, Object Class Category totals were determined.

2. **Budget Narrative**: This information will provide more details than the SF-424a form and will provide adequate information for the Contracting Officer to conduct a detailed analysis of the costs to determine they are reasonable, allowable, and allocable. Describe and justify requested

budget items and costs.

Please include the following:

1. Salaries and Wages. List positions, rate of compensation, and estimates of time spent on the project for employees.
2. Fringe Benefits/Labor Overhead. Indicate the rates/amounts in conformance with normal accounting procedures. Explain what costs are covered in this category and the basis of the rate computations. Provide a copy of the negotiated rate agreement, if available.
3. Lab Analyses. Briefly itemize cost of all analytical work.
4. Supplies. Enter the cost for all tangible property. Include the cost of office, laboratory, computing, and field supplies separately. Provide detail on any specific item that represents a significant portion of the proposed amount. Provide a statement that supplies will be purchased in accordance with 2 CFR 200.317 (State Governments) or 2 CFR 200.318-327.
5. Equipment. Show the cost of all special-purpose equipment necessary for achieving the objectives of the project. "Special-purpose equipment" means scientific equipment having a useful life of more than 1 year and having an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per item. Each item should be itemized and include a full justification and a dealer or manufacturer quote, if available. Title to non-expendable personal property shall be vested solely with the recipient. Under no circumstances shall property title be vested in a sub-tier recipient. Provide a statement that equipment will be purchased in accordance with 2 CFR 200.317 (State Governments) or 2 CFR 200.318-327 and managed in accordance with 2 CFR 200.313.
General-purpose equipment (used also for purposes other than this project) must be purchased from the applicant's operating funds.
6. Services or Consultants. Identify the tasks or problems for which such services would be used. List the contemplated sub-recipients by name (including consultants), the estimated amount of time required, and the quoted rate per day or hour. Sub-applicant proposals should provide cost breakdowns at the same level of detail as the Applicant's proposal. If contract employees are hired, include their total time, rate of compensation, job titles, and roles. Provide a statement that salaries will be charged at the actual rate and that the rate is comparable to others doing similar work within the organization.
7. Travel. State the purpose of the trip and itemize the estimated travel costs to show the number of trips required, the destinations, the number of people traveling, the per diem rates, the cost of transportation, and any miscellaneous expenses for each trip.
Calculations of other special transportation costs (such as charges for use of applicant-owned vehicles or vehicle rental costs) should also be shown.
8. Publication Costs. Indicate an estimate of labor and other unique costs associated with preparation of the draft final report. If publication of results of the research in the peer-reviewed literature (identify likely publications) is anticipated, include costs of drafting or graphics, reproduction, page or illustration charges, and a minimum number of reprints.
9. Other Direct Costs. Itemize the different types of costs not included elsewhere.
10. Total Direct Charges. Sum of above items.
11. Indirect Charges (Overhead). Indirect cost/general and administrative (G&A) cost. Show the proposed rate, cost base, and proposed amount for indirect costs based on the cost

principles applicable to the Applicant's organization. If the Applicant has separate rates for recovery of labor overhead and G&A costs, each charge should be shown. Provide a copy of the negotiated rate agreement with the applicant's federal cognizant audit agency.

12. Amount Proposed. Sum of Total Direct Charges and Indirect Charges (Overhead).

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), [2 CFR §1402.112](#), applicants must state in their application if any actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of submission. Please reference the [Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act](#) for additional details.

(a) *Applicability*.

(1) This section intends to ensure that non-Federal entities and their employees take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under or with respect to Federal financial assistance agreements.

(2) In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by subrecipients, the conflict of interest provisions in 2 CFR 200.318 apply.

(b) *Notification*. (1) Non-Federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance awards, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with 2 CFR 200.112.

(2) Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the Financial Assistance Officer in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that have been reported by subrecipients.

(c) *Restrictions on lobbying*. Non-Federal entities are strictly prohibited from using funds under a grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to 43 CFR part 18 and 31 U.S.C. 1352.

(d) *Review procedures*. The Financial Assistance Officer will examine each conflict of interest disclosure on the basis of its particular facts and the nature of the proposed grant or cooperative agreement, and will determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, develop an appropriate means for resolving it. (e) *Enforcement*. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the government may be cause for termination of the award. Failure to make required disclosures may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338, Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment (see also 2 CFR part 180).

Single Audit Reporting Statement

All U.S. states, local governments, federally recognized Indian tribal governments, and non-profit organizations expending \$750,000 USD or more in Federal award funds in the applicant's fiscal year must submit a Single Audit report for that year through the [Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System](#). U.S. state, local government, federally recognized Indian tribal government, and non-profit applicants must state if your organization was or was not required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year. If your organization was required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year, provide the EIN associated with that report and state if it is available through the [Federal Audit Clearinghouse](#) website.

Certification Regarding Lobbying

Applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funding must certify to the statements in [43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying](#). If this application requests more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Official's signature on the appropriate SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance form also represents the entity's certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A.

Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

Applicants must provide a statement indicating if there is any overlap between this Federal application and any other Federal application, or funded project, in regards to activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel. If no such overlap or duplication exists, state, "There are no overlaps or duplication between this application and any of our other Federal applications or funded projects, including in regards to activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel". If any such overlap exists, provide a complete description of overlaps or duplications between this proposal and any other federally funded project or application in regards to activities, costs, and time commitment of key personnel, as applicable. Provide a copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity and identify when that proposal was submitted, to whom (entity name and program), and when you anticipate being notified of their funding decision.

D3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration: This requirement does not apply to individuals applying for funds as an individual (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own, operate, or work within), or any entity with an exception to bypass SAM.gov registration with prior approval from the funding bureau or office in accordance with bureau or office policy. All other applicants are required to register in SAM.gov prior to submitting a Federal award application and obtain a [Unique Entity Identifier \(UEI\)](#) which replaces the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet in April 2022. A Federal award may not be made to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the program is ready to make an award, the program may determine the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. Federal award recipients must also continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information through the life of their Federal award(s).

Register with the System for Award Management (SAM)

Applicants can register on the [SAM.gov](#) website. The "Help" tab on the website contains User Guides and other information to assist you with registration. The Grants.gov "[Register with SAM](#)" page also provides detailed instructions. Applicants can contact the supporting Federal Service Desk for help registering in SAM. Once registered in SAM, entities will be assigned a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). Entities must renew and revalidate their SAM registration at least once every 12 months from the date previously registered. Entities are strongly encouraged to revalidate their registration as often as needed to ensure their information is up to date and reflects changes that may have been made to the entity's IRS information. There is no cost to register with SAM.gov. There are third-party vendors who will charge a fee in exchange for

registering entities with SAM.gov; please be aware you can register and request help for free. If applicable, foreign entities who want to receive payment directly to a U.S. bank account must enter and maintain valid, current banking information in SAM.

D4. Submission Dates and Times

Application Due Date

08/07/2023

Application Due Date Explanation

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m., ET, on the listed application due date.

D5. Intergovernmental Review

Prior to application submission, U.S. state and local government applicants should visit the OMB Office of Federal Financial Management website and view the “State Point of Contact (SPOC) List” to determine whether their application is subject to the state intergovernmental review process under Executive Order (E.O.) 12372 “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.” States not on the list do not participate in the intergovernmental review process, and therefore do not have a SPOC. If you are located within a State that does not have a SPOC, you may send application materials directly to a Federal awarding agency. If your state is on the list, contact the designated entity for more information on the state’s prior review requirements for Federal assistance applications.

D6. Funding Restrictions

Indirect Costs: Individuals

Indirect Costs: Organizations

Required Indirect Cost Statement to be submitted with Application

All organizations must include the applicable statement from the following list in their application, and attach to their application any documentation identified in the applicable statement:

We are:

- A U.S. state or local government entity receiving more than \$35 million in direct Federal funding each year with an indirect cost rate of [insert rate]. We submit our indirect cost rate proposals to our cognizant agency. Attached is a copy of our most recently approved rate agreement/certification.
- A U.S. state or local government entity receiving less than \$35 million in direct Federal funding with an indirect cost rate of [insert rate]. We have prepared and will retain for audit an indirect cost rate proposal and related documentation.

- A [insert your organization type; U.S. states and local governments, do not use this statement] that has previously negotiated or currently has an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. [Insert either: “Attached is a copy of our most recently approved but expired rate agreement. In the event an award is made, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award is made.” or “Attached is a copy of our current negotiated indirect cost rate agreement.”]
- A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. If we receive an award, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award date.
- A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency and has an indirect cost rate that is lower than 10%. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate; must be lower than 10%]. However, if we receive an award we will not be able to meet the requirement to submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after award. We request as a condition of award to charge a flat indirect cost rate of [insert rate; must be lower than 10%] against [insert a clear description of the direct cost base against which your rate is charged (e.g., salaries; salaries and fringe benefits; or modified total direct costs). However, please note that your organization cannot charge indirect costs in excess of the indirect costs that would be recovered if applied against modified total direct costs as defined in §2 CFR 200.68]. We understand that we must notify the Service in writing if we establish an approved rate with our cognizant agency at any point during the award period.
- A [insert your organization type] that has never submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency and has an indirect cost rate that is 10% or higher. Our indirect cost rate is [insert your organization’s indirect rate; must be 10% or higher]. However, if we receive an award we will not be able to meet the requirement to submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after award. We request as a condition of award to charge a flat *de minimis* indirect cost rate of 10% to be charged against modified total direct project costs as defined in 2 CFR §200.68. We understand that we must notify the Service in writing if we establish a negotiated rate with our cognizant agency at any point during the award period. We understand that additional Federal funds may not be available to support an unexpected increase in indirect costs during the project period and that such changes are subject to review, negotiation, and prior approval by the Service.
- A [insert your organization type] that is submitting this proposal for consideration under the [“Program Title”], which has a Department of the Interior-approved indirect cost rate cap of [insert program rate]. If we have an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency, we understand that we must apply this reduced rate against the same direct cost base as identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR) 2 CFR §1402.414. If we do not have an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency, we understand that must charge indirect costs against the modified total direct cost base defined in 2 CFR §200.68 “Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)”. We understand that we must request prior approval from **[insert Bureau Here]** to use the 2 CFR 200 MTDC base instead of the base identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement. We understand that **[Insert Bureau Here]**

approval of such a request will be based on: 1) a determination that our approved base is only a subset of the MTDC (such as salaries and wages); and 2) that use of the MTDC base will still result in a reduction of the total indirect costs to be charged to the award. In accordance with 2 CFR §200.405, we understand that the indirect costs are not recovered due to a voluntary reduction to our federally negotiated rate are not allowable for recovery via any other means.

- A [insert your organization type] that will charge all costs directly.

Prohibited Uses of Awards Funds

Reimbursement of Pre-Award Costs

D7. Other Submission Requirements

Please be aware that the electronic submission process requires first time users to register using an e- Authentication process. This registration process can be somewhat complex and can take up to 3 weeks to complete. Be advised that it is virtually impossible to begin the process of electronic submission for the first time if you start just a few days before the due date. If you are from a university, contact your Office of Sponsored Programs. They may already have completed the registration process and should work with you to submit the application.

If you have any questions or problems with the registration process, or the completion of the application package, please contact the grants.gov help desk at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov.

Briefly, when you submit a grant application package to Grants.gov, you will receive a confirmation screen as well as three additional emails over two business days from Grants.gov informing you of your application processing status: 1. Confirmation screen

2. Submission Receipt (with “Track My Application” link) 3. Submission Validation (or Rejection with Errors) 4. Agency Retrieval

CONFIRMATION: Submission Confirmation Screen.

After you submit your grant application package, a confirmation screen will appear on your computer screen. This screen confirms that you have submitted an application to Grants.gov.

NOTIFICATION 1: Submission Receipt Email Within two business days after your application package has been received by the Grants.gov system, you will receive a submission receipt email which indicates that your submission has entered the Grants.gov system and is ready for validation. This email also contains a tracking number for use while tracking the status of the submission as well as a “Track My Application” link, to use to see the progress of your submission.

NOTIFICATION 2: Submission Validation Receipt Email – This is the important one!

After you receive the submission receipt email, the next email you will receive will be a message validating or rejecting your submitted application package with errors. The Grants.gov system is designed to check for technical errors within the submitted application package. Grants.gov does not review application content for award determination. Grants.gov will not post the application

if there are errors. Failure to correct errors and submit by the date and time for closing may not be a reason for accepting a late application.

NOTIFICATION 3: Grantor Agency Retrieval Email Once your application package has passed validation it is delivered to the grantor for award determination and further approval. After the grantor has confirmed receipt of your application, you will be sent a **third and final email** from Grants.gov. The grantor may also assign your application package an agency specific tracking number for use within their internal system. **IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED THIS E- MAIL WITHIN FOUR DAYS OF THE CLOSING DATE, PLEASE CONTACT THE CONTRACTING OFFICER.**

If you need help entering your proposal, you can reach the **Grants.gov Contact Center at: 1-800- 518- 4726**. Their hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Eastern Time, and they are closed on Federal Holidays.

During the application period an applicant may submit a revised or corrected proposal through grants.gov. Include a cover letter as the first page of the proposal stating that the proposal is revised and indicating that the previous submittal is to be withdrawn from consideration. See Section 11, Application Preparation Instructions, which describes requirements for the proposal and other application components.

Please allow sufficient time for the proposal to be submitted electronically through Grants.gov and allow time for possible computer delays. Applicants are strongly advised not to wait until the last minute for submission. A proposal received after the closing date and time will NOT be considered for award. If the USGS determines that a proposal will not be considered for award due to lateness, the applicant will be notified immediately.

D8. Application Checklist

SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance or Application for Federal Assistance-Individual
SF-424B or D, Assurances
Project Narrative
SF-424A or C, Budget Information
Budget Narrative
Indirect Cost Statement and related documentation (when applicable)

E. Application Review Information

E1. Criteria

1. Scientific Quality and Impact (20%):

Maximum Points: 20

Is the proposed study of high scientific quality with clear objectives? What is the relevance to BOEM's mission?

2. Work Plan/Methodology (20%):

Maximum Points: 20

Is the strategy coherent and clear? Are the scientific objectives appropriate for the proposed timeframe? Are the geographic areas selected for the study appropriate? Are the proposed methods appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives? Are logistics adequately addressed? Does the proposal address contingency plans for missed field work, equipment failure, and other problems?

3. Experience/Competence of Research Personnel (20%):

Maximum Points: 20

Has the applicant demonstrated (through bibliographic references, relevant education, experience, awards, etc.) that they are capable of doing the proposed research? Has the applicant demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the scientific problem? Have products been on schedule and within budget?

4. Budget Justification and Clarity (20%):

Maximum Points: 20

Is project staffing sufficient (e.g., experience, knowledge and skills) to accomplish the proposed goals? Are field expenses, supplies, lab work, and other expenses appropriate? Are expenses adequately itemized?

5. Planned Products and Dissemination of Results (20%)

Maximum Points: 20

Are the products clearly defined? Will they be useful for offshore energy planning and decision-making? Will the results be published in a peer-reviewed form? Does the proposal indicate the Principal Investigator will provide data and metadata in a format that meets Federal data standards? Will the products be accessible and comprehensible to the public?

E2. Review and Selection Process

The proposal will be reviewed by BOEM scientists and program managers, and possibly external peer reviewers. Reviewers have expertise in Federal offshore programs and/or the specific scientific discipline of the proposal.

E3. CFR - Regulatory Information

BOEM will review and consider applications for funding in accordance with the following policy documents:

- President's September 2, 2020 memorandum entitled *Memorandum on Reviewing Funding to State and Local Government Recipients of Federal Funds that Are Permitting Anarchy, Violence, and Destruction in American Cities*.
- *Executive Order on Protecting American Monuments, Memorials, and Statues and Combating Recent Criminal Violence* (E.O. 13933); and

- Guidance for Grants and Agreements in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (2 CFR 200), as updated in the Federal Register’s 85 FR 49506 on August 13, 2020, particularly on:
 - Selecting recipients most likely to be successful in delivering results based on the program objectives through an objective process of evaluating Federal award applications (2 CFR part 200.205),
 - Prohibiting the purchase of certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment in alignment with section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (Pub. L. No. 115—232) (2 CFR part 200.216),
 - Promoting the freedom of speech and religious liberty in alignment with *Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty* (E.O. 13798) and *Improving Free Inquiry, Transparency, and Accountability at Colleges and Universities* (E.O. 13864) (parts 200.300, 200.303, 200.339, and 200.341),
 - Providing a preference, to the extent permitted by law, to maximize use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States (2 CFR part 200.322), and
 - Terminating agreements in whole or in part to the greatest extent authorized by law if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR part 200.340).

E4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

Applications are due by 5:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time, application due date TBD; see section D Application and Submission Information. All applications will be reviewed after that date. BOEM anticipates that award will be made in FY 2023.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

F1. Federal Award Notices

Awards are based on the application submitted to and approved by BOEM are subject to the terms and conditions incorporated into the Notice of Award either by direct citation or by reference to the following: Federal regulations; program legislation or regulation; and special award terms and conditions. Recipient acceptance of a Federal award from the Service carries with it the responsibility to be aware of and comply with all terms and conditions applicable to the award. Recipients indicate their acceptance of the Federal award by starting work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means.

F2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

See the “DOI Standard Terms and Conditions” for the administrative and national policy requirements applicable to DOI awards.

The link to the DOI Standard Terms and Conditions is <https://www.doi.gov/grants/doi-standard-terms-and-conditions>

Please contact the Federal Awarding Agency Contact in Section G1 below for information on the applicability of these terms and conditions.

Data Availability

Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), [2 CFR §1402.315](#): (a) All data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, valuation products or other scientific assessments in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual, resulting from a financial assistance agreement is available for use by the Department of the Interior, including being available in a manner that is sufficient for independent verification. (b) The Federal Government has the right to: (1) Obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, produced under a Federal award; and (2) Authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, for Federal purposes, including to allow for meaningful third-party evaluation.

See the Service's General Award Terms and Conditions for the general administrative and national policy requirements applicable to Service awards. The Service will communicate any other program- or project-specific special terms and conditions to recipients in their notices of award.

F3. Reporting

Financial Reports

All recipients must use the SF-425, Federal Financial Report form for financial reporting. Final reports are due no later than 90 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit **interim** financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award.

Performance Reports

Performance reports must contain a comparison of actual accomplishments with the established goals and objectives of the award; a description of reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate; and any other pertinent information relevant to the project results. At a minimum, all recipients must submit a final performance report. Final reports are due no later than 90 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit interim financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award. See Service policy 516 FW 1, Monitoring Financial and Performance Reporting for Financial Assistance for more information.

c. Significant Development Reports

Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates which have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, recipients are required to notify the Bureau in writing as soon as the recipient becomes aware of any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair the ability to meet the objective of the Federal award. This disclosure

must include a statement of any corrective action(s) taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation. The recipient should also notify [Insert Bureau Here] in writing of any favorable developments that enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned.

d. Real Property Reports

Recipients and subrecipients are required to submit status reports on the status of real property in which the Federal government retains an interest. The required frequency of these reports will depend on the anticipated length of the Federal interest period. The Bureau will include recipient-specific real property reporting requirements, including the required data elements, reporting frequency, and report due dates, as applicable.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

Recipients must notify the program immediately in writing of any conflict of interest that arise during the life of their Federal award, including those reported to them by any subrecipient under the award. Recipients must notify the program in writing if any employees, including subrecipient and contractor personnel, are related to, married to, or have a close personal relationship with any Federal employee in the Federal funding program or who otherwise may have been involved in the review and selection of the award. The term employee means any individual engaged in the performance of work pursuant to the Federal award. Recipients may not have a former Federal employee as a key project official, or in any other substantial role related to their award, whose participation put them out of compliance with the legal authorities addressing post-Government employment restrictions. See the U.S. Office of Government Ethics website for more information on these restrictions. The [Insert Bureau Here] will examine each conflict of interest disclosure based on its particular facts and the nature of the project and will determine if a significant potential conflict exists. If it does, the Service will work with the recipient to determine an appropriate resolution. Failure to disclose and resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Service may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338 Remedies for Noncompliance, including termination of the award.

Other Mandatory Disclosures

The Non-Federal entity or applicant for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Non-Federal entities that receive a Federal award including the terms and conditions outlined in 2 CFR 200, Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to SAM. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338 Remedies for Noncompliance, including suspension or debarment.

Reporting Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance

If the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding agencies exceeds \$10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this Federal award, then you as the recipient during that period of time must maintain the currency of information reported to the System for Award Management (SAM) that is made available in the designated integrity and performance system (currently the

Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)) about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings in accordance with Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200.

G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

First Name

Deja

Last Name

Bracey

Address

45600 Woodland Road, VAE-AMD, Sterling, VA 20166

Telephone

703-787-1057

Email

Deja.Bracey@bsee.gov

G2. Administrative/Budget Questions Program Office Contact

For programmatic technical assistance, please contact:

First Name

Desray

Last Name

Reeb

Address

760 Paseo Camarillo, Suite 102 Camarillo, CA 93010

Telephone

805-384-6396

Email

desray.reeb@boem.gov

G3. Grants Staff Contact

For financial, awards management, or budget assistance, contact:

First Name

Last Name

Address

Telephone

Email

G4. Technical Support

For Grants.gov technical registration and submission, downloading forms and application packages, contact:

Name

Grants.gov Customer Support

Telephone

1-800-518-4726

Email

Support@grants.gov

H. Other Information

Environmental Studies Program Information System (ESPIS)

ESPIS data will be submitted to the Project Officer, in a mutually agreeable format (e.g. readable, and writeable by Microsoft Windows®), as a final deliverable of the study to include the:

- a. Final Report and Technical Summary: the copies of the narratives of study results in Microsoft Word format following the Environmental Studies Program Report Specifications (<https://www.boem.gov/esp-data-and-information-specifications>).
- b. Study Footprint: the geographic information that enables the referencing of the study using a geographic information system (GIS), following the study footprint specifications.
- c. Study Footprint Metadata: the scientific attribution information required to enhance discoverability of the study in the ESPIS system and third party sites (such as <http://www.data.gov/>), following the study footprint metadata specifications.
- d. Study Map: the study area map embedded in the (i) Final Report, and (ii) Technical Summary that depicts the study footprint and that is cited in the study footprint metadata.
- e. Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) compliant metadata for each scientific dataset: the scientific, technical, and administrative information for each coherent unit of scientific data, including the physical medium, file information, volume, and access uniform resource locator (URL), when applicable.
- f. Copy of related publications: the manuscripts of scholarly publications and conference presentations for research funded by this agreement for free and unlimited use by BOEM staff, which may take the form of a full-text, final, pre-publication copy of the related publication in cases that the publisher enforces pay for access or copyright restrictions.
- g. Bibliographic information for related publications: the information on each related publication needed for formatting Council of Science Editors (CSE) bibliographies using the name-date system, including the URL and Digital Object Identifier to access the publication on the publisher's website, when applicable.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

Geospatial Data Act

All geospatial data* collected for or produced through the use of the Department of the Interior financial assistance funds are required to meet all relevant standards established by the Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC) as authorized by Geospatial Data Act of 2018, Pub. L. 115-

254, Subtitle F – Geospatial Data, §§ 751-759C, codified at 43 U.S.C. §§ 2801–2811. Interior requires fully compliant metadata on all Geographic Information Systems files developed for financial assistance projects. If a funded financial assistance project involves acquiring or collecting geospatial data, the recipient is required to search GeoPlatform.gov to determine that no existing Federal, State, local or private data meet the Government’s needs and are available at no cost before acquiring or collecting additional geospatial data.

Geospatial Data Act of 2018, Pub. L. 115-254, Subtitle F – Geospatial Data, §§ 751-759C, codified at 43 U.S.C. §§ 2801–2811 - Federal recipient collection of geospatial data through the use of the Department of the Interior financial assistance funds requires a due diligence search at the GeoPlatform.gov list of datasets to discover whether the needed geospatial-related data, products, or services already exist. If the required data set already exists, the recipient must use it. If the required data is not already available, the recipient must produce the proposed geospatial data, products, or services in compliance with applicable proposed guidance and standards established by the Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC) posted at www.fgdc.gov.

Recipients must submit a digital copy of all GIS data produced or collected as part of the award funds to the bureau or office via email or data transfer. All GIS data files shall be in open format. All delineated GIS data (points, lines or polygons) should be established in compliance with the approved open data standards with complete feature level metadata.

*Geospatial data refers to data regarding natural or man-made, imaginary, or physical features. It also includes location information, and information referring to boundaries, points of interest, and mobility data.

Requirements for Availability of Data (2 CFR § 1402.315)

All data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, valuation products or other scientific assessments in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual, resulting from a financial assistance agreement is available for use by the Department of the Interior, including being available in a manner that is sufficient for independent verification.

The Federal Government has the right to:

1. Obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, produced under a Federal award; and
2. Authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, for Federal purposes, including to allow for meaningful third-party evaluation.