

BIENNIAL INVITATION FOR PRELIMINARY
PROJECT PROPOSALS

2010/2011 Awards

**Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Oil Spill Advisory Committee
Maine Sea Grant**

Deadline for Preliminary Proposals: Monday, March 2, 2009, 4:30 p.m.

Late applications will not be accepted.

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Oil Spill Advisory Committee (OSAC), and Maine Sea Grant College Program invite preliminary proposals for one- or two-year research projects that will be funded in the period February 2010 through January 2011. (Note: there will not be a call for proposals in 2010.) The mission of the Oil Spill Advisory Committee is to monitor the opportunities and constraints of scientific, engineering, and technical advances in spill response and prevention techniques in order to make recommendations to the DEP.

The following are research priorities for the 2010-2011 competition. However, creative and rigorously conceived proposals in areas not mentioned may be considered, provided that they contribute to the mission of OSAC. Projects may be in engineering and the natural and social sciences, and they should lead to results that can be incorporated in the near term into procedures of user groups (petroleum transporters, spill responders, hazard managers, etc.). Although the competition is run by Maine Sea Grant, projects are not restricted to the marine environment.

- Develop rapid, safe techniques to improve the effectiveness of personnel involved in removal or recovery of petroleum products from disabled vessels, tank trucks, or other sources.
- Develop means to improve the effectiveness and/or efficiency of on-water containment and recovery of spilled oil.
- Improve understanding of spill impacts and ecosystem recovery. Special emphasis is placed on evaluation of the potential impact of spilled oil on ecologically or commercially important marine or coastal life. Develop means to reduce spill impacts and improve ecosystem recovery.
- Prevent oil spills through understanding and avoiding human behaviors that cause accidents. Special emphasis is placed on preventing medium- and major-sized spills.

The Maine Sea Grant College Program will run the research competition and manage funded projects using the same guidelines as for Sea Grant's federally funded research

competition. Although the University of Maine administers the Maine Sea Grant Program, this oil-spill competition is open to faculty and staff at any public or private research laboratory or institution of higher education. We anticipate that at least \$100,000 will be available for funded projects in each of 2010 and 2011.

The development, review, and reporting of oil-spill proposals is a four-step process:

- ◆ *First*, short preliminary proposals are to be submitted to Maine Sea Grant by 4:30 p.m., Monday, March 2, 2009. Preliminary proposals must follow the [guidelines](#), also available from the Maine Sea Grant office by calling 207-581-1435. One electronic copy and 16 paper copies are required.
- ◆ *Second*, applicants who submit the most promising preliminary proposals will be invited to submit full project proposals by 4:30 p.m., Monday, June 1, 2009.
- ◆ *Third*, after a comprehensive merit review by mail and panel, the most promising full proposals will be submitted to OSAC and DEP with a recommendation for funding.
- ◆ *Fourth*, awarded PIs will be requested to give a brief presentation to OSAC at a date to be specified later, in addition to annual and final technical reports.

[Guidelines](#) and [forms](#) for preparing Preliminary Proposals are also available from the address below.

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Proposal Development Calendar

January 5, 2009. Release 2010-2011 request for preliminary proposals.

Monday, March 2. Preliminary proposals due in Sea Grant office by 4:30 p.m.

March 30 (approximate). Stakeholder advisory panel reviews preliminary proposals and makes recommendations to Maine Sea Grant Management Team.

April 10. Applicants receive recommendations regarding development of full proposals.

Friday, May 15. List of suggested reviewers due in Sea Grant office by 4:30 p.m.

Monday, June 1. Full proposals due in Sea Grant office by 4:30 p.m.

June 8-12. Mail proposals to scientific reviewers.

July 31. Reviews due in Sea Grant office; blind copies provided to applicants.

Friday, August 14. Rebuttal letters due in Sea Grant office by 4:30 p.m.

September 14-18 (approximate). Technical advisory panel reviews proposals and makes recommendations to Management Team, which makes final decisions on which projects will be included in the 2010 proposal to the National Sea Grant office.

September 25. Selected projects and rationale submitted to the National Sea Grant office for approval.

By October 2. Applicants informed of decisions.

October. Production of proposal to National Sea Grant office.

November 1. Final proposal mailed to the National Sea Grant office.

February 1, 2010. Anticipated 2010-2011 awards begin