The University of Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program Competitive Marine Research Program

Federal Agency: University of Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

Dates: Next Announcement for 2008&2009 will be published in September 2006.

Funding Opportunity Description: Over the last 24 years our mission has been to promote the conservation and wise use of the coastal and marine resources of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands in ways that benefit the entire population and the Caribbean in general. One of 31 programs throughout the coastal United States, the University of Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program achieves its mission through a multi-faceted approach that includes: research, outreach and formal (K-12) education programs. UPR Sea Grant links the university setting, which focuses on the development of theoretical and applied research, with regional and national agencies, and stakeholders in a way that increases our understanding of marine technologies, seafood production (including marine aquaculture), coastal ecosystem health, and coastal economic development (including the human environmental impacts, and public safety).

Funding: Individual awards range from $20,000 to $80,000/year for two years and have March 1 start date. UPR awards approximately 9-10 projects per year, depending upon budgetary constraints.

Funding Instrument: Grants are awarded through this program.

Funding Duration: Projects can be for a maximum of two years' duration.

Eligible Applicants: Public and private institutions of higher education, institutes, laboratories, and public or private agencies which are engaged or are concerned with, activities in the various fields related to the development of marine resources.

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement: Each proposal must include a required non-federal matching of funds equivalent to at least 1/3 of the requested federal funds.

FY2005 Program Priorities (priorities may change for FY08&09**):**

Coastal Hazards and Safety - Caribbean hurricanes and tsunamis, storm wave run-up, shoreline erosion, coastal modeling, flood mapping, affects related to the filling of coastal wetlands and incorporation in GIS applications will contribute to coastal risk management and hazard assessment.

Water Quality - Coastal ecosystem health and public safety are global concerns related to water quality issues. Point and non-point source pollution, watershed wastewater management, contamination of coastal marine environments (including wetlands and estuaries), pollution indicators, and the impacts of land use on water quality are focus areas.

Fisheries and Mariculture - Improving commercial fisheries through ecosystem based management and sustainable marine aquaculture is an over riding concern guiding research in these areas. Research in fish biology and behavior as related to essential fish habitats is essential to effective management. These could include, spawning aggregation areas, coral reefs, mangroves and marine grass beds, influencing commercial or endangered fish species. Research in marine protected areas, sustainable marine aquaculture, and hatcheries for commercial marine species are expected to contribute to the management efforts.

Coastal Community and Sustainable Resource Development - Capacity building, public policy, marine recreation and coastal tourism, coastal access and development of sustainable economic practices are areas we should be looking at.

Seafood Safety - Research in this area plays an important role in ensuring that human infection related to seafood consumption is reduced or eliminated. Advances in biotechnology have practical application in this area.

To access information about this program - http://seagrant.uprm.edu/research.html.