



NORTH CAROLINA SEA GRANT

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Minigrant Funding Instructions

A unique strength of the North Carolina Sea Grant Minigrant Program is its ability to test new ideas, augment ongoing research efforts, stimulate innovation, and address short-range time sensitive, critical needs. Minigrants offer the capability to respond to emerging opportunities that cannot be predicted for regular proposal preparation and review. There is no application deadline for minigrants. They are processed on a rolling basis, as they are received. Minigrant award decisions are based on peer reviews and the availability of funding. Available funding for a given year may run out any time, even while your project is being reviewed. If that happens, your project may be held until the next year's funding becomes available. Funding decisions are usually available two months after submission. **Minigrants should be based around a question driven research project.** Minigrants are not able to support monitoring projects, workshops, or outreach product development, and are envisioned as having a 12 month maximum timeline. To apply for a North Carolina Sea Grant minigrant, please follow these steps.

- 1) Contact John Fear, deputy director, at 919-515-9104 or jmfear@ncsu.edu to ensure applicability of your proposal idea.
- 2) Go to (go.ncsu.edu/ncesg) to submit your minigrant proposal. All needed forms are provided within eSeaGrant.
- 3) University-affiliated applicants must have approval from their office of sponsored programs prior to submitting a minigrant proposal to NC Sea Grant.

Minigrant budgets do not allow indirect costs and are generally less than \$10,000. Cost sharing (matching) is not required, but is encouraged.

Recipients of minigrant funding will be required to conduct requested project reporting and complete a final project report.

Minigrants should be submitted electronically via eSeaGrant at go.ncsu.edu/ncesg.

Minigrants are reviewed for:

- Relevancy/need: Will the project help address a high-priority coastal issue? (30%)
- Approach: Are the proposed methods suitable to complete the work? (30%)
- Outcomes: Are the project results likely to provide seed data, lead to leveraged funding, be transferable, provide for student training opportunities, create new partnerships, etc. In other words, is the project worth doing? (30%)
- Budget: Are the requested funds appropriate for the proposed work? (10%)

The rating levels for these out of a 100% scale are: Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, and Poor as described below. Excellent: top 10% (exhibits outstanding quality/relevance) Very Good 75-90%: (above average quality/relevance) Good: 50-75% (routine/average quality/relevance) Fair: 25-50% (marginal quality/relevance) Poor: bottom 25% (missed the mark, has major deficiencies, not relevant).