

NMFS-Sea Grant Fellowship & NOFO 2024

Amanda Lawrence

National Sea Grant College Program

November 13, 2023

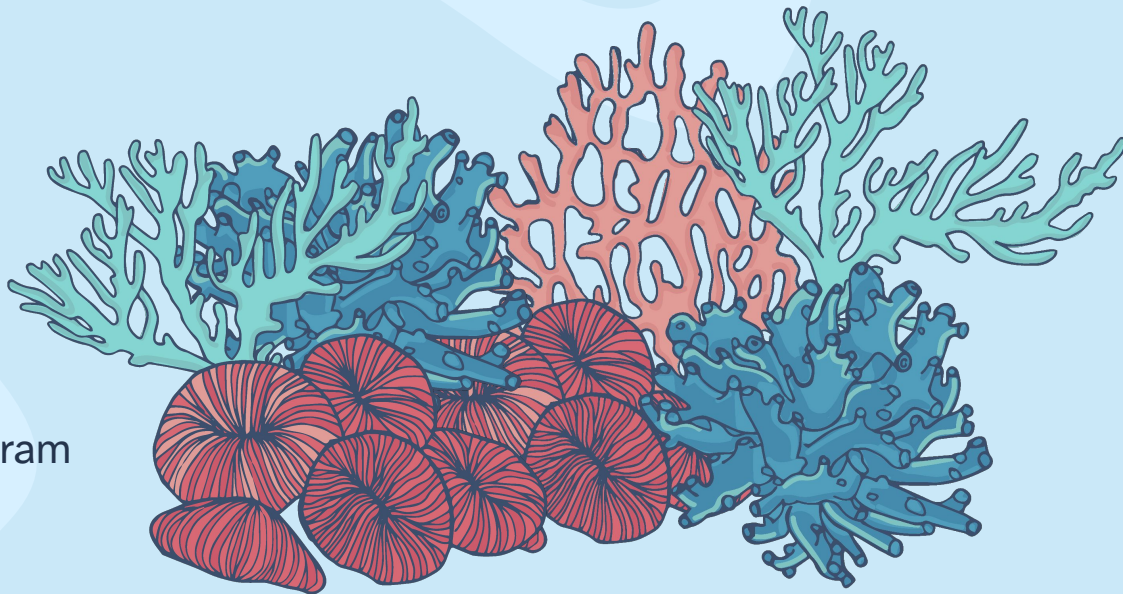




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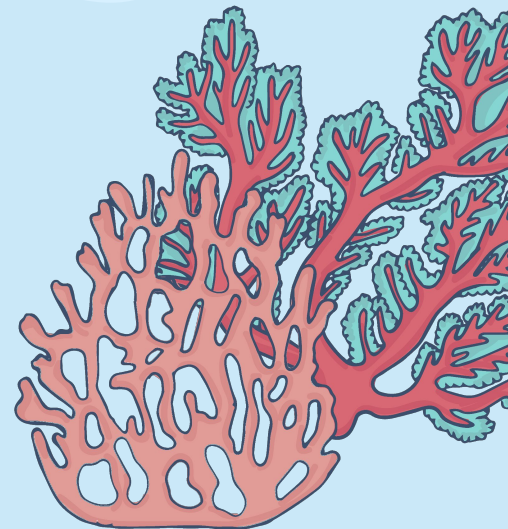
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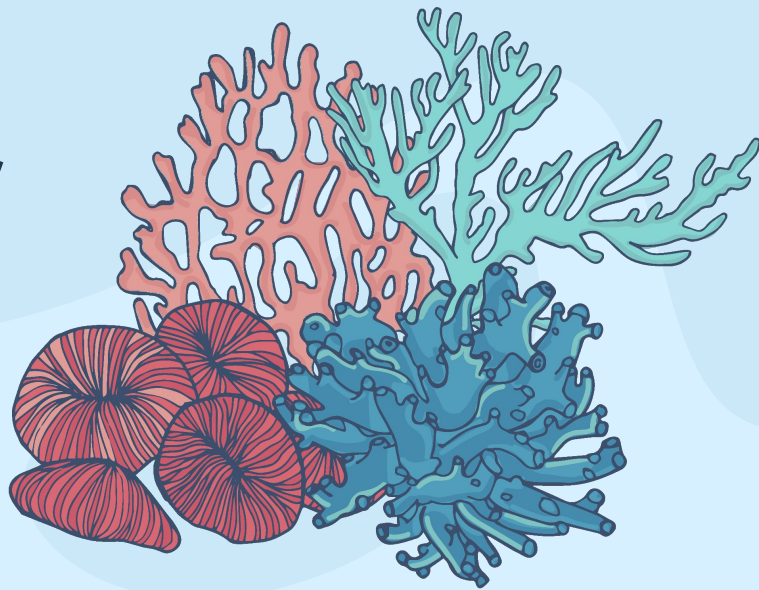
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NOFO Update



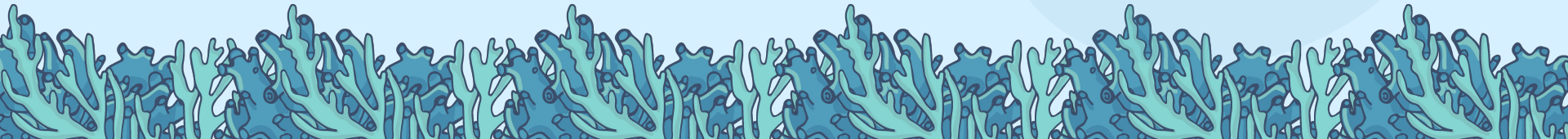
Updates & Changes

Please note that a few things are missing from the 2024 NOFO that should be present. The following will be added and the NOFO is being updated to reflect the following changes:

- The following should be included in the 2024 NOFO Indirect costs are not allowable for either the fellowship or for any costs associated with the fellowship including waived indirect costs as match (15 C.F.R. § 917.11(e), "Guidelines for Sea Grant Fellowships")
- There should be funds included for the fellow to attend the annual Symposium
- Page limits for both CVs and LORs are not more than 2 pages in length

Not much has changed since last year

- Application packages may propose up to \$62,500 in federal funding plus at least 20% matching (\$12,500) funding per year.



01

Award Information & Timeline





NMFS-SG Fellowship Apply If...

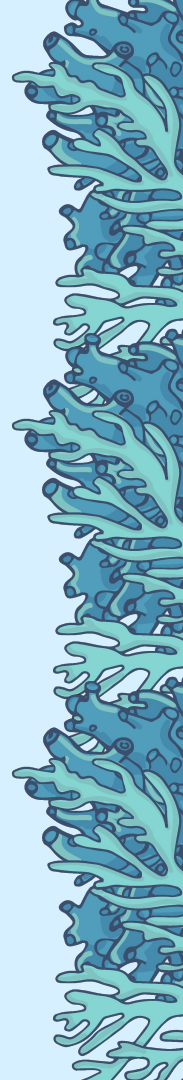
For those interested students with **population and ecosystem dynamics topics**: The fellowship covers both population and ecosystem dynamics to ensure support for fellows who conduct research in support of living marine resource assessments as well as conduct broadly-scoped ecosystem assessments, implement ecosystem-based management, and evaluate system-level considerations of living marine resources. As both ecosystem and population dynamics rely heavily on quantitative marine ecology methods and skills, this announcement reflects that underlying commonality.

Similarly for those students interested in **marine resource economics topics**: The fellowship supports fellows who conduct research evaluating the benefits and costs of alternative management actions for commercial fisheries by analyzing critical fishery management issues. helping to ensure the sustainability and maximization of societal benefits from marine resources. As marine resource economics relies heavily on quantitative economics methods and skills, this announcement reflects that underlying commonality.



02

Eligibility



Perspective fellows must be...

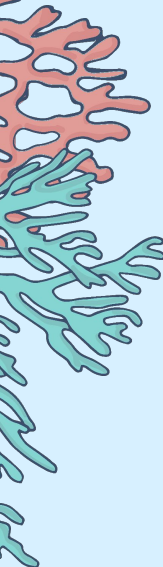


United States Citizen



Admitted to a Ph.D. degree program at a U.S. accredited institution of higher education in the US/territories

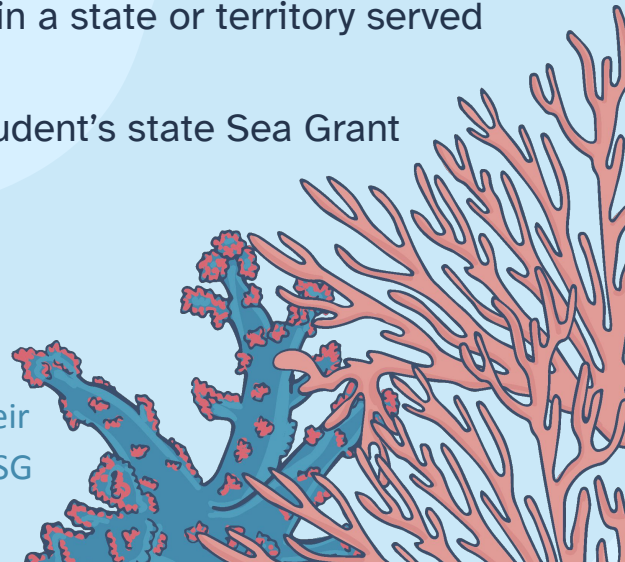
Alternatively, an applicant may submit a signed letter from the institution indicating provisional acceptance to a Ph.D. degree program conditional on obtaining financial support such as this fellowship.



Application Packages Overview

- Applications must come from Sea Grant programs and must be submitted through Grants.gov.
- Students enrolled towards a degree in a graduate program in a state or territory served by a Sea Grant program must submit to that program.
- Applications that are not approved and submitted by the student's state Sea Grant program will not be considered for review.

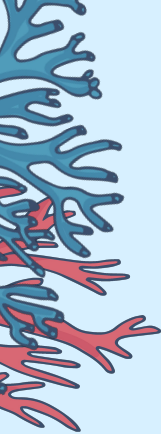
NOTE: Students in states or territories without a Sea Grant program must submit their applications to the Sea Grant program to which they were referred to by the NMFS-SG Fellowship Program Managers





Budget

- Non-federal matching funds equal to at least 20% of the federal funding request must be provided
- The cumulative match at the end of each year of the grant must not fall below 20% of the cumulative federal request up to that point

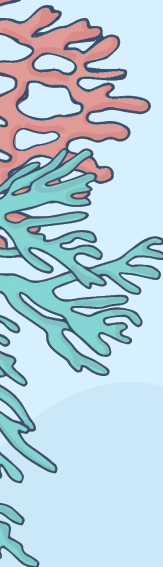


Letter of Intent

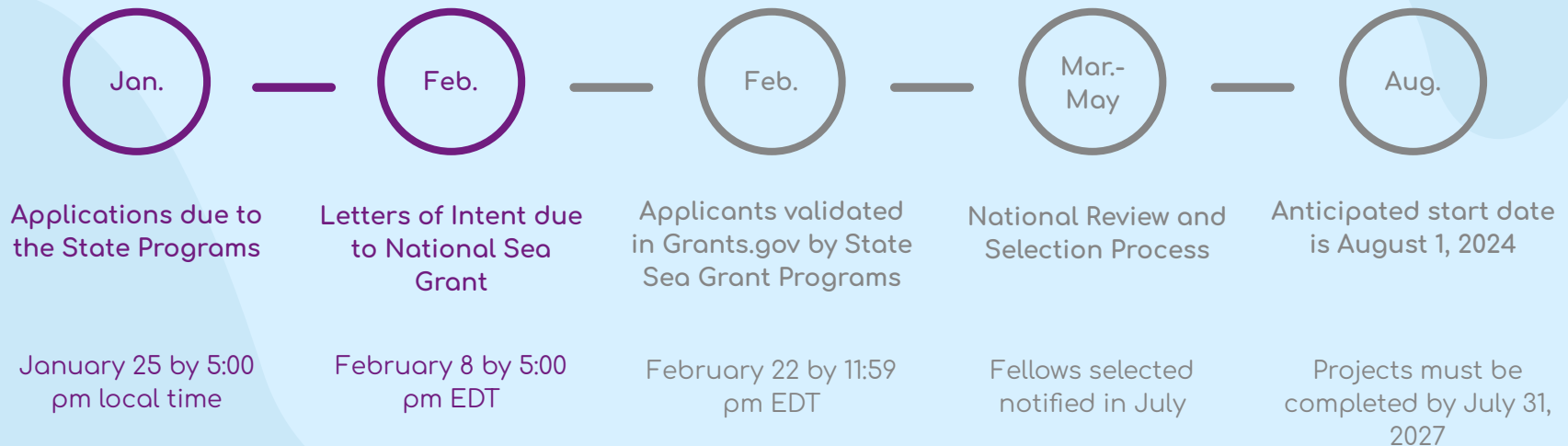
Letters of Intent (LOIs) should be submitted from eligible Sea Grant programs via email to the NSGO Fellowship Program Managers (oar.sg.fellows@noaa.gov) by 5:00 pm Eastern Time on Thursday, February 8, 2024.

Including:

- ☐ Sea Grant Applicant Information (spreadsheet/table)
- ☐ A table of all applications received by the state program including, Student Name, Student's Academic Institution, Degree the student is seeking.
- ☐ Summary of the State Review Process (one page max)
- ☐ A brief discussion of the recruitment process focusing on how programs engaged diverse schools and audiences.



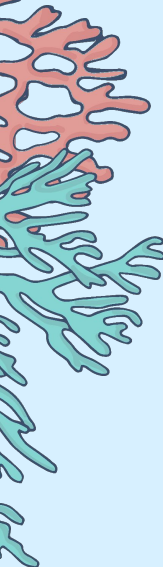
2024 NMFS-SG Fellowship Timeline



03

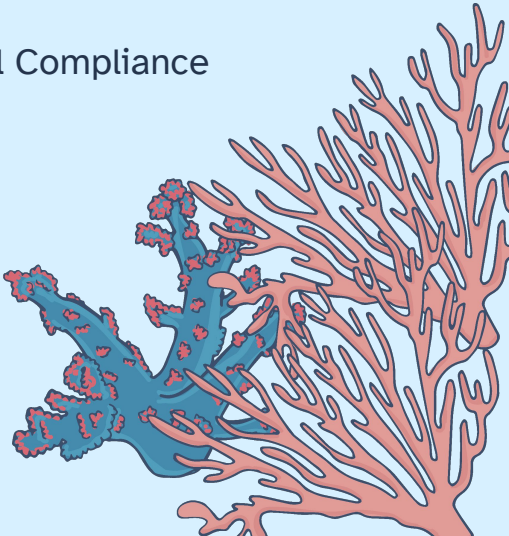
Application Package Materials





The Application Package

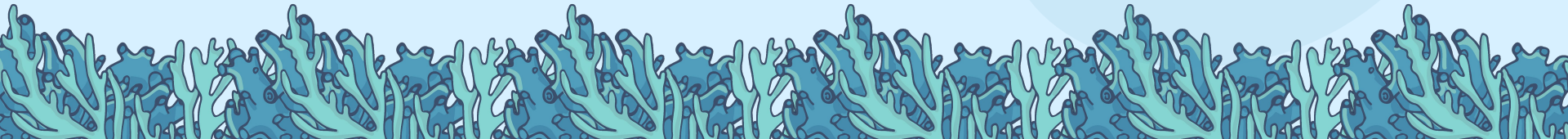
Materials to be submitted.

- ☐ Title Page
 - ☐ Project Proposal
 - ☐ Curriculum vitae (CV)
 - ☐ Transcripts
 - ☐ Academic Training in Quantitative Methods
-
- ☐ Education and Career Goal Statement
 - ☐ Letters of Recommendation
 - ☐ Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire
 - ☐ Data Management Plan
- 

Project Title Page

The Title Page must include:

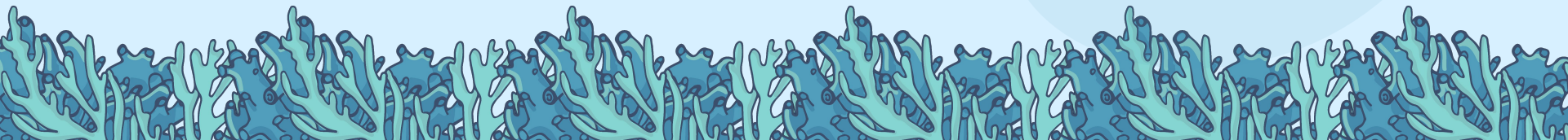
- Name and contact information of the prospective fellow;
 - The title of the proposal;
 - A brief project abstract;
 - Specify the project's focus area (either PED or MRE); and
 - Depending on the student's research /concentration, the proposal title should read either "Last name_PED" or "Last name_MRE" as a prefix.
- ★ Must not exceed one page



Project Proposal

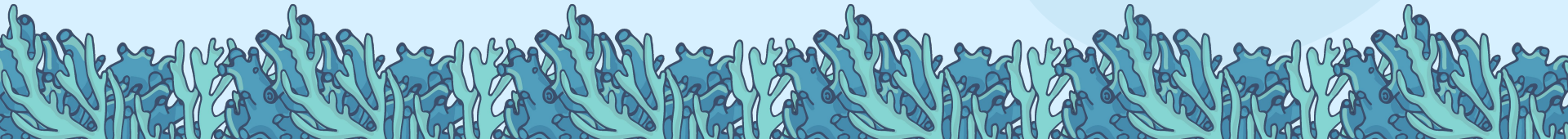
The project proposal is intended to describe the proposed dissertation or the general intended area of study. It must be written by the prospective fellow and include the following:

- The number of years for which fellowship support is being sought;
 - A brief summary of the work to be completed;
 - A rationale for the proposed activity;
 - Scientific or technical objectives and/or hypotheses to be tested; and
 - Appropriate details on methodology, and relevance of results.
-
- ★ The proposal itself must not exceed five pages single spaced. If a proposal is longer than five pages, only the first five will be shared with reviewers. References and figures should be included as an appendix and do not count towards the five page limit.



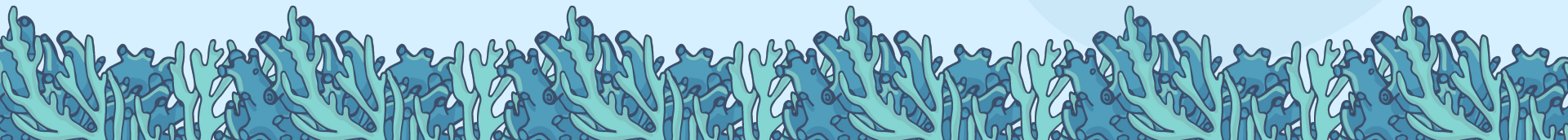
Curriculum vitae (CV)

- A CV must be submitted from each of the following:
1) The student, 2) The faculty advisor, and 3) The NMFS mentor.
- CVs should not exceed 2 pages.
- The CVs should not include personal contact information or web links to external resources (e.g., LinkedIn, articles, blogs, etc.).
- ★ NOTE: If included, programs should redact excess materials prior to submission to Grants.gov.
- ★ NOTE: If a CV is longer than two pages, only the first two pages will be shared with reviewers.



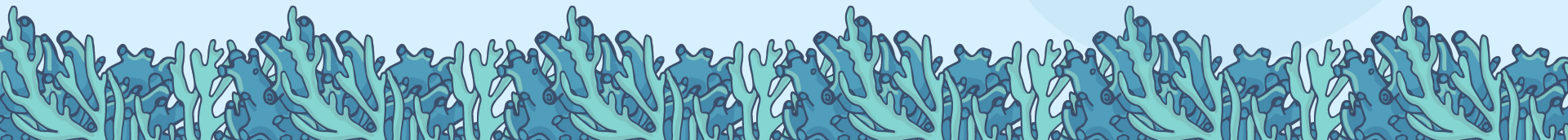
Transcripts

- Clear copies of all **undergraduate AND graduate student transcripts.**
- These copies may be either official or unofficial transcripts.
- For students who have been accepted but not yet enrolled in a current Ph.D. program, the program's acceptance letter is adequate to fill the requirement of Ph.D. transcripts.



Summary of Academic Training in Quantitative Methods

- The student should provide a one-page maximum, single-spaced, summary describing their academic training in quantitative methods;
 - A listing of their top five classes in quantitative methods already taken; and
 - Classes they intend to take over the spring 2024 semester.
- ★ NOTE: Class listings should include course name (though course number e.g., MA 551 can be excluded) and a short description of content covered in course.

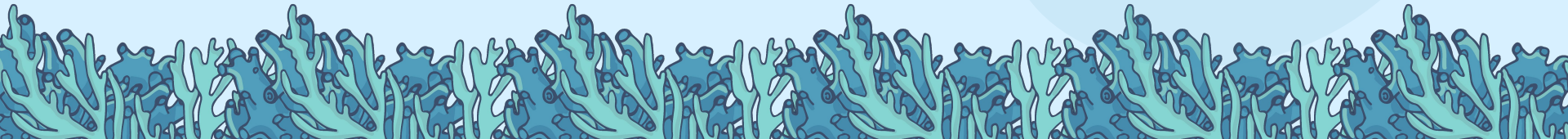


Education and Career Goal Statement

The statement should discuss the student's interest in: the economics of the conservation and management of living marine resources, and/or quantitative marine ecology, with a focus on one or more of the following:

- Development and implementation of methods for assessing marine ecosystems and/or stock status of living marine resources;
- ecosystem-based management;
- population dynamics of managed aquatic animals;
- quantitative survey methodologies;
- commitment to apply scientific expertise to serve society equitably (consider academics, volunteer activities, professional activities or personal experiences).

NOTE: The statement must not exceed two pages single spaced. If a career goal statement is longer than two pages, only the first two pages will be shared with reviewers.

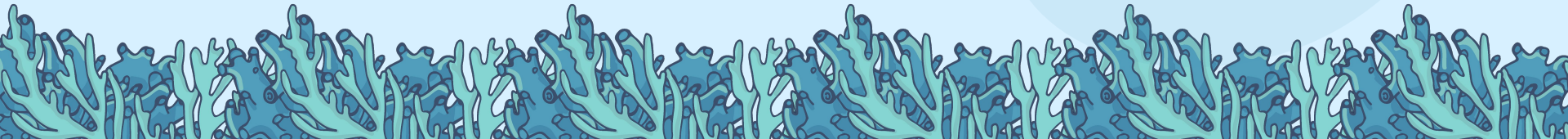


Letters of Recommendation

A minimum of two signed letters of recommendation from:

- The student's faculty advisor. The letters should discuss the following attributes of the student: quantitative skills, self-motivation, response to setbacks, skills and involvement in teamwork, academic and performance and/or potential.
- The student's NMFS mentor. In addition to noting the NMFS staff member's commitment to serve as a mentor, letters from NMFS mentors should briefly address the relevance of the research to NMFS, as well as a statement of broader impacts of the proposal.

NOTE: If multiple advisors or mentors are contributing, each one should provide a separate letter.



Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire

Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire (OMB Control No. 0648-0538)

The Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire, guidance on how to complete the questionnaire, as well as examples of completed questionnaires, can be found [HERE](#)

Students must ensure that the questionnaires are completed in full and include detailed information regarding project location, methodology, and permits.

Copies of all permits required for project activities should be included with application materials.

If a permit is pending or planned, please provide this information.

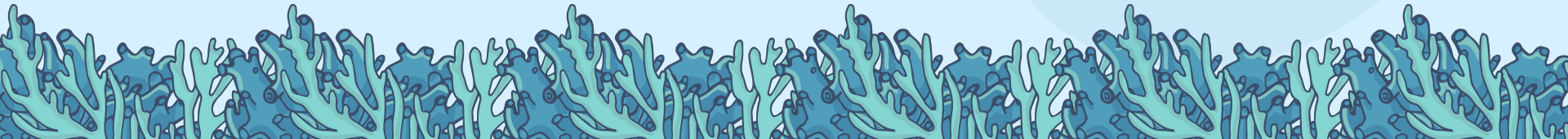
If detailed information is not provided, NOAA via the federal program officer, may request additional information or place a specific award condition on the fellowship award prohibiting specific activities, if permits or other environmental compliance documentation is not currently available.

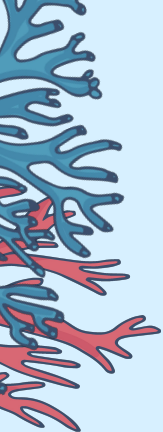


Data Management Plan

If the research will not generate any environmental data, an acceptable data sharing plan can be replaced with the following sentence, "This project will not generate any environmental data."

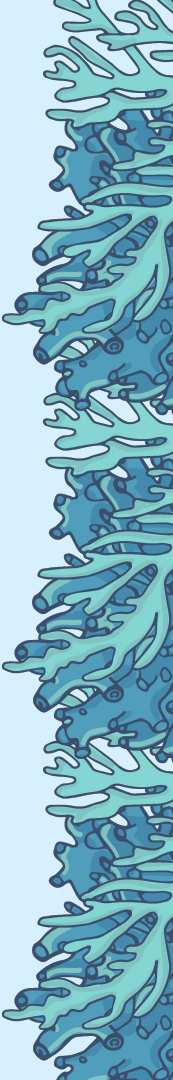
NOTE: Not to exceed 2 pages



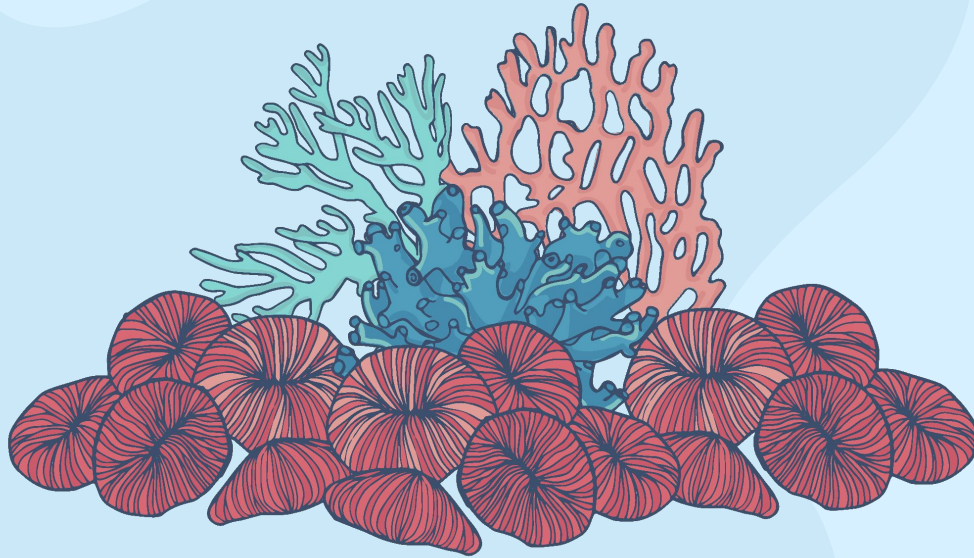


Other Forms

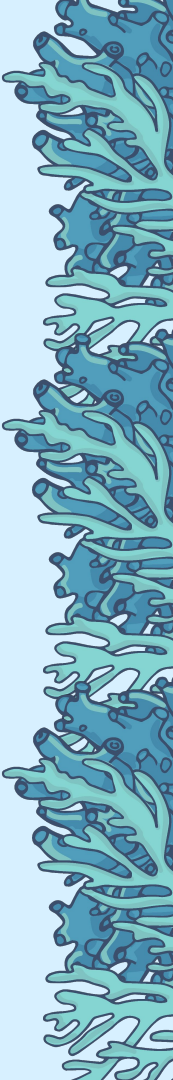
Standard federal forms and assurances are required and can be found with the application package on Grants.gov. These include:

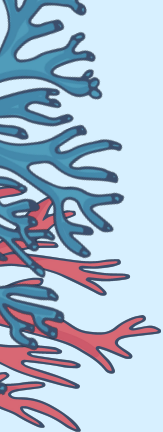
- ❑ **SF-424 R&R Form** (*Grants.gov, OMB Control No. 4040-0001*)
 - ❑ **SF-424B Assurances** (*Grants.gov, OMB Control No. 4040-0007*)
 - ❑ **CD-511** (*Grants.gov, US DOC*)
 - ❑ **SF-LLL** (*Grants.gov, OMB Control No. 0348-0046*)
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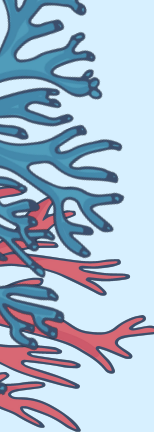
Review Criteria





Overview of Evaluation Criteria

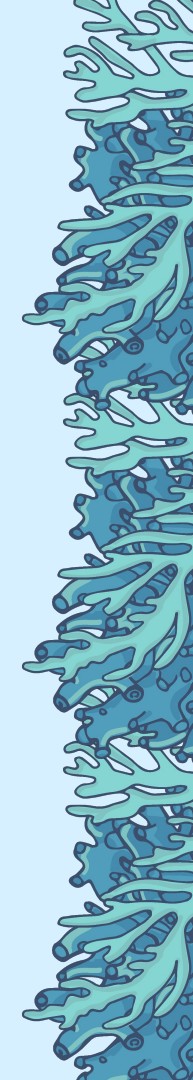
Evaluation Criteria			
Evaluation Criteria	Section		Points
Quality of Project and Applicability to Program Priorities	Project summary		30 Points
Relevant Experience Related to Diversity of Education	CV, career goal statement, and summary of academic training in quantitative methods		20 Points
Academic Record	Student transcripts (undergraduate and graduate) and the CV		20 Points
Recommendations and/or Endorsements	Academic advisor letter	10 Points	20 Points
	NMFS mentor letter	10 Points	
Overall Application Cohesion	All aspects of the application materials (CV, summary of academic training in quantitative methods, project summary, education and career goal statement from student, letters of recommendation)		10 Points

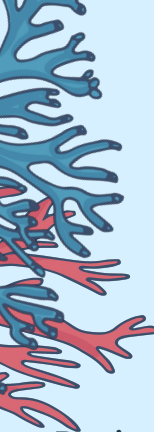


Quality of Project and Applicability to Program Priorities

30 points

Review Criteria:

- ☐ The project description provides a clear rationale for why the work is important and innovative research;
 - ☐ There is a clear scientific or technical objective and/or hypotheses being tested;
 - ☐ The discussed methodology and relevance of results are appropriate for the proposed research and time frame;
 - ☐ The project is relevant to agency (NOAA) priorities.
- 

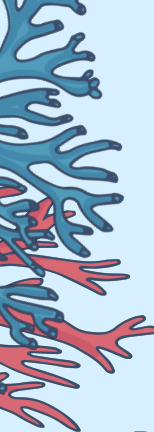


Relevant Experience

20 points

Review Criteria:

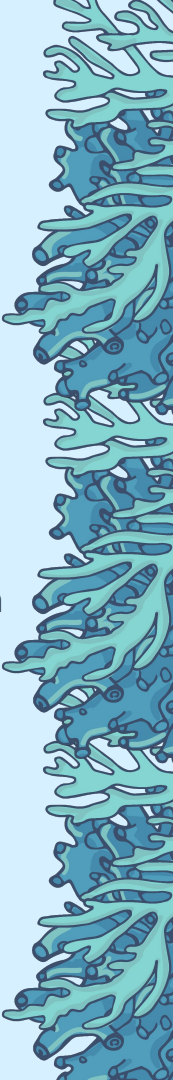
- ☐ The student demonstrates interpersonal, written, or oral communication skills;
 - ☐ The student clearly discusses an interest in the economics of the conservation and management of living marine resources or quantitative marine ecology;
 - ☐ The experiences of the student provide them with the foundation for success in the academic space;
 - ☐ The student has shown interest in working with diverse stakeholders;
 - ☐ The student demonstrates a commitment to apply scientific expertise to serve society equitably; and
 - ☐ The student has shown interest in working with diverse collaborators, community members and/or interested partners.
- 

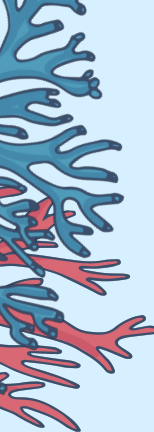


Academic Advisor Letter

10/20 points

Review Criteria for Academic Advisor Letter(s) (10 Points):

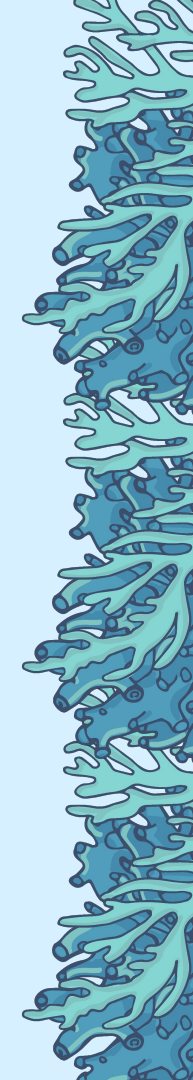
- ☐ The letter writer(s) demonstrate knowledge of the student and their academic abilities and/or potential;
 - ☐ The letter writer(s) speak to the leadership potential, confidence, maturity, and self- direction of the student;
 - ☐ The letter writer(s) provide evidence of the student's involvement in teamwork and collaborative leadership skills;
 - ☐ The expertise of the major professor(s) will support the student and project (reviewers may use CV to review).
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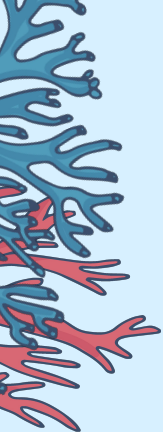


Academic Record

20 points

Review Criteria (20 points):

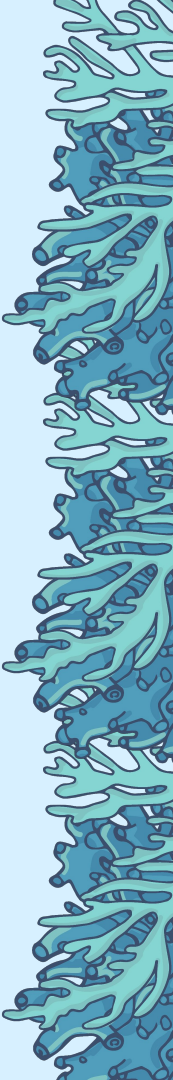
- ☐ The education and experience in the student's area of expertise are appropriate to the career
 - ☐ stage;
 - ☐ The transcript and academic training demonstrate quantitative coursework;
 - ☐ The student displays strength in academic performance and competitive course grades;
 - ☐ Records of publications and/or presentations (academic or non-academic) are appropriate to the career stage, field, and institutional settings of the student.
- 

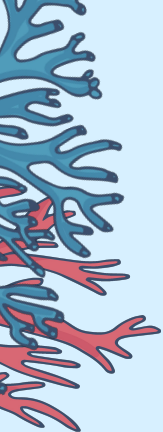


NMFS Mentor Letter

10/20 points

Review Criteria for NMFS Mentor Letter(s) (10 Points):

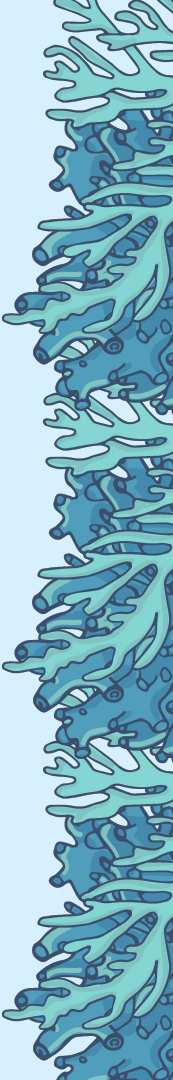
- ☐ The letter writer(s) demonstrate knowledge of the student and their academic abilities and/or potential;
 - ☐ The letter writer(s) adequately address the relevance of the research to NMFS;
 - ☐ The letter writer(s) adequately address the broader impacts of the proposal;
 - ☐ The expertise of the NMFS mentor will support the student and project.
- 



Overall Application Cohesion

10 points

Review Criteria:

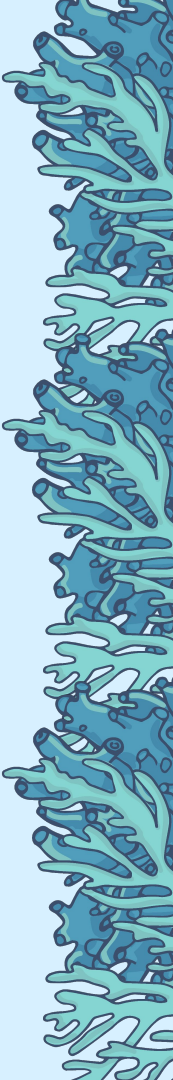
- ☐ The application materials complement each other;
 - ☐ The student brings a diverse perspective to the program;
 - ☐ The application materials provide a clear picture of what the student would gain from receiving the NMFS-Sea Grant Fellowship.
- 

Office hours

**Tomorrow: November 14th, 11am - 12 pm
ET
and 3 - 4 pm ET**



<https://seagrant.noaa.gov/nmfs-sg-fellowship/>



Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

oar.sg.fellows@noaa.gov



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