

2024 CALL FOR PROPOSALS OPEN MEETING

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MIT Sea Grant Director
December 1, 2022



MIT SEA GRANT RFP CYCLE IS CHANGING

The 2024-2026 RFP is the first two-year, biennial RFP. What's different for this RFP:

- Maximum project budget has increased to \$170,000 annually, for a total of \$340,000 over a two year period.
 - The project timeline must fall between 2/1/2024 and 1/31/2026.
- Five topics that are a combination of old and new topics.
- Returning to a preproposal phase.

2-year projects
\$170,000/yr max
2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026

ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

- University-based, Massachusetts scientists eligible for Principal Investigator status at home institution.
- If the PI is receiving any other MIT Sea Grant project funding during the FY2023 period (2/1/2024 to 1/31/2026) s/he is not eligible to apply in this round.
- Projects are generally funded for one year at a maximum of \$170,000 per year, with a 50% match requirement.

PREPROPOSALS DUE:
JANUARY 12, 2023

PROPOSALS DUE:
April 7, 2023 (preproposal submission prior to proposal submission is a requirement)



TOPICS FOR 2024-2026

- 1. Coastal and/or offshore aquaculture**
- 2. Ocean Acidification**
- 3. Mitigating marine debris**
- 4. Biotechnology for ocean sustainability**
- 5. Technology for observation and underwater manipulation, and fisheries management**

TOPICS FOR 2024-2026

1. Coastal and/or offshore aquaculture

Supporting sustainable coastal aquaculture, developing offshore aquaculture, supporting seafood industries, and improving the efficiency and safety of farming practices, through biological, engineering, and robotics technologies is a growing effort within MIT Sea Grant. Projects can include, but are not limited to, innovative approaches to improving farm operations, hatcheries, and seafood processing; addressing invasive species that impact growers and ecosystems; and aiding workforce development and market expansion opportunities for current and currently underutilized species.



TOPICS FOR 2024-2026

2. Ocean Acidification

Assessing the effects of ocean acidification on coastal and marine resources, including innovations in monitoring and sensor development, computer modeling and geospatial visualization, and biological and water quality research to improve ecosystem health and ameliorate the effects of ocean warming and ocean acidification. Creating novel Artificial Intelligence methods for analysis, mapping, modeling, and visualizations of ocean data are of interest.



TOPICS FOR 2024-2026

3. Mitigating marine debris

The focus is on identifying, mapping, and/or reducing marine debris (e.g., derelict fishing gear, plastic bottles, and other trash, including microplastics and nanoplastics) in the environment, and/or at the source. Proposals may focus on regions of the coast of Massachusetts and the Gulf of Maine with relevancy to MA state priorities.



TOPICS FOR 2024-2026

4. Biotechnology for ocean sustainability

The first two decades of the 21st century have seen a technological revolution in biotechnology. Two of the key drivers of this revolution are next-generation sequencing and CRISPR genome editing, however, these powerful technologies have rarely been applied to ocean sustainability and climate change. MITSG is interested in exploratory proposals that investigate utilizing these technologies to address questions of ocean environmental change or disruption, as well as bioremediation.



TOPICS FOR 2024-2026

5. Technology for observation and underwater manipulation, and fisheries management

The focus is on robotics and novel actuators and sensors to enable surface and underwater manipulation, and intervention, and enabling multiple robot collaborative operation through autonomy. Also, on machine learning applications to meet the needs of fisheries management, industry, and local communities.



PREPROPOSALS DUE:

JANUARY 12 BY 5:00 PM



QUESTIONS?