

**Announcement of Request for Preproposals for a  
Cooperative Institute Research Funding Opportunity  
NOAA National Ocean Service  
National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science**

**Funding Opportunity Title:** Ecosystem Based Management: An Analysis of National Needs and Opportunities

**Announcement Type:** Initial

**Dates:** The deadline for receipt of preproposals at NCCOS/CSCOR is 11:59 PM Eastern Time March 06, 2017.

**Funding Opportunity Description:**

**A. Program Objectives**

The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) seeks to engage an interested and qualified Cooperative Institute (CI) to help identify significant regional coastal issues that would require additional natural and social science understanding in order to implement or augment ecosystem-based management (EBM) approaches. The selected CI will be invited to submit a full project statement of work that will identify and document for each specific regional issue the following five key elements: 1) the coastal or marine ecosystem management challenge and its ecological and societal impacts; 2) the limitations of current traditional management approaches; 3) how EBM would lead to outcomes that mitigate or prevent the natural and societal impacts and how an EBM approach could realistically be implemented utilizing current governance structures; 4) what natural and/or social science understanding and tools are needed to fill gaps in order to enable EBM; and 5) a realistic path forward that management agencies in the specified region will likely pursue to implement EBM approaches to achieve specific outcomes by utilizing the identified gap-filling science.

**B. Program Priorities**

The ultimate goal of the project will be to identify three to five regional ecosystem locations where EBM could be enabled by strategic deployment of a significant research effort to fill knowledge gaps that currently limit state and federal agencies in their pursuit of a coordinated ecosystem approach to management of a regional coastal system currently experiencing ecological impacts that, in turn, have precipitated societal impacts. These locations will then be evaluated by NCCOS and other relevant NOAA program offices for potential options to implement research that will enable agencies, which are willing to utilize new science, to pursue the application of EBM principles to address their environmental issues. The project should clearly define, demonstrate, and align partnerships to integrate social and natural science with governance structures to maximize the potential of using an EBM approach to address and solve the major regional coastal ecosystem issue(s) identified, such as balancing marine conservation and coastal development objectives.

A strong emphasis of this initiative will be to explicitly define how local, state and federal managers would be engaged in an EBM process or framework and how environmental and policy directives, regulations and mandates will be used to implement the practice of EBM to optimize ecosystem services across the continuum of multiple spatial scales or specific case study ecosystems.

### **C. Expected Products & Outcomes**

The expected output of this project will be a comprehensive regional ecosystem research prospectus that, based on the aforementioned information, will screen, in a methodical fashion, coastal regions with the intent of identifying 3-5 settings across the U.S. where an EBM approach is both desirable and achievable. The prospectus must address separately for each of the regional ecosystems the five key elements outlined in the program objectives section.

### **D. Funding Profile and Period of Performance**

Starting in FY 2017, NCCOS anticipates funding 1 project under this initiative for 1 – 2 years for up to \$350K per year. The period of performance and level of funding will be relative to the scope and scale of the project developed by the CI and NCCOS. The project will be implemented by the selected CI.

### **E. Preproposals and Implementation**

In order to be considered for the implementation of this initiative, interested CIs must submit a project preproposal (PP) by the deadline stated above. The PPs will then be evaluated by a panel of subject matter experts selected from NCCOS and other relevant NOAA Program Offices. Key criteria for evaluation will include level of available subject matter expertise and ability to implement the work at a multi-region or national scale. The panel will in turn make a recommendation to NCCOS as to which CI is best suited to carry out the intent of the initiative. Once a CI is selected, NCCOS will work with the appropriate staff at the CI to develop a Statement of Work (SOW) describing the project to be implemented. Overall implementation of this initiative will be overseen by a NOAA team led by a NCCOS Program Manager and including one, or more, subject matter experts as appropriate. The NCCOS Program Manager will act as the primary point-of-contact for the CI with respect to implementation of the resulting project. The PP shall not exceed 6 pages (minimum 12 point font size) and must address the requirements for leveraging and partnering as described above and reflect the CI's capability to implement the project. The PP will consist of a title page and 5 pages of narrative.

The format for the preproposal shall be as follows:

*Title Page* (one page)

- 1) CI Name
- 2) Lead for Development of SOW (primary contact for this Initiative)
  - a) Title / Position
  - b) Affiliation
  - c) Telephone number
  - d) E-mail address
- 3) Additional SOW Team Members (any other CI staff or partner that will participate in the development of the SOW) - Name, affiliation, telephone, e-mail address, nature of contribution (i.e., expertise on a desired research field)

*Narrative* (not to exceed 5 pages)

The emphasis of the narrative of the preproposal is to articulate a unique, creative and effective strategy to screen regional coastal ecosystems across the Nation for the stated objectives, priorities and outputs that are articulated above.

The narrative should also demonstrate that the interested CI has the capability and expertise to implement the articulated strategies. This capability and expertise must be demonstrated by a clear and concise description of individuals who would be lead and/or co-PIs, including examples of related past or ongoing projects. In particular, evaluation will be based on the expertise to identify the relevant user community, ascertain their ecosystem science needs, and envision the scientific products/outputs that can drive their decisions and their willingness to take management actions based upon the science. Please provide, if available, reference web links for the key assets listed (i.e., researchers CVs, project pages, etc.).

Preproposals should be emailed to Dr. Felix Martinez (Felix.Martinez@noaa.gov) by the deadline stated above. Questions on preproposals or other aspects of this Initiative should be sent to Dr. Martinez.

**F. Implementation Timeline:**

Mar 06 – Preproposals due to NCCOS

Mar 20 – CI selected. Begin development of Statement of Work

Apr 21 – Draft Statement of Work due to NCCOS

May 01 – Statement of Work finalized