



MAY 08 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR: Reserve Managers and State Contacts

THROUGH: Chris Cartwright *Cartwright*
 Chief Financial Officer, National Ocean Service

FROM: Erica Seiden *Seiden*
 Acting Chief, Estuarine Reserves Division

SUBJECT: Final FY 13 National Estuarine Research Reserve System
 Funding Allocations and Guidance

Pending approval of NOAA's FY2013 spend plan by Congress, this funding guidance is based on the funding levels contained in FY2013 Consolidated and Continuing Appropriations Act. This will provide \$20,367,988 for the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) which includes funds deducted for the Hollings Fellowship assessment, Congressionally directed de-obligation, and reduction from all NOAA operations programs per the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA, P.L. 112-25). We have allocated the funds taking into account discussions at the NERRS Annual Meeting in November 2012 and the Program Managers Meeting in February 2013. This memorandum provides guidance on the allocation and use of these funds. See the FY 2013 allocation of NERRS funds in Table 1.

Funding Facts

FY2013 CZMA NERRS Funding	
Section 315 Appropriation	\$22,000,000
Reductions (itemized below)*	\$ 1,632,012
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Total Allocation	\$20,367,988
<p>* Total reflects the amount from the FY 2013 Consolidated and Continuing Appropriations Act, less the following reductions: \$1,510,000 due to the budget sequester and a rescission from all NOAA operations programs per the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA, P.L. 112-25), a reduction of \$101,624 per a Congressionally directed de-obligation, and a \$20,388 assessment for the Hollings Scholarship program.</p>	

Overview

The FY 2013 funding is derived from the FY 2013 Consolidated and Continuing Appropriations Act, less the following reductions: \$1,510,000 due to the budget sequester and a rescission from all NOAA operations programs per the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA, P.L. 112-25), a reduction of \$101,624 per a Congressionally directed de-obligation, and a \$20,338 assessment for the Hollings Scholarship program. The FY13 allocation of \$20,367,988 is \$1,287,302M less than the FY12 allocation of \$21,655,290. The aforementioned reductions are applied as follows:

Reserve operations funding was not assessed the budget sequester or NOAA rescissions to ensure continuity of essential operations; \$15,468,208 will be directed to reserve operations resulting in a \$552,436 allocation for each reserve. For the Graduate Research Fellowships, the NOAA rescissions and the budget sequester were applied resulting in \$260,778 for fourteen fellows resulting in an \$18,627 allocation for each fellow. For the NERRS Science Collaborative, the NOAA rescissions, budget sequester, Hollings Scholarship assessment, and Congressionally directed de-obligation were applied to the \$4,732,000 allocation resulting in a final allocation of \$4,285,201. For the Centralized Data Management Office, the budget sequester was applied to the FY12 amount resulting in an allocation of \$349,146. The NERRA will receive an allocation of \$4,655 to support the American Planning Association certification requirements.

Applicable Regulations

Allocations for operations, management, education, monitoring, and research fall under Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), Section 315(e), and the applicable regulations at 15 CFR Part 921 Subparts G, H, and I, including the 70:30 (federal:state) match requirement (except for projects that benefit the entire system, which do not require match).

Reserves wishing to designate another entity to receive a portion of their allocation must meet the statutory and regulatory requirements regarding the recipient (eligible recipients are state entities for education and operations, and state entities or public or private persons for research and monitoring). Agreements between the lead agency and the designated entity must be in place before submitting an award application. The allocation of funds to each reserve is shown in Table 2.

Application Procedures

We understand that this has been a difficult year for planning and development of your applications and we encourage you to continue to work closely with your program specialist to complete all requirements. Recipients must find and apply for these funds via grants.gov using search term NERR and CFDA number 11.420. Recipients must download the application package and complete all forms including the SF424, SF424A, SF424B and CD511. Recipients must complete their scope of work using CAMMP (Coastal and Marine Management Program) <https://coralapps.nos.noaa.gov/Cammp/>. The final CAMMP document must be attached to the grants.gov application. Please submit your application according to the schedule below and apprise your program specialist of any administrative challenges.

July awards:	draft application due to ERD – May 8, 2013
	final application due to grants.gov – May 22, 2013

application submitted to GMD – May 31, 2013

Sept-Oct-Nov awards: draft application due to ERD — May 17, 2013
final application due to grants.gov – May 31, 2013
application submitted to GMD — June 14, 2013

Reserve Operations, Research, Monitoring, Training, Education, and Stewardship

Each operations award requires a 30% state match to the 70% federal allocation. Site operations awards are cooperative agreements and may be awarded for a period of 18 months. Personnel costs should be limited to 12 months to avoid any overlap with future awards. The core positions - manager, research coordinator, and education coordinator- should be fully funded (with state funds as much as possible) without the need to raise additional salary money from external sources. Please refer to the FY13 NERR Operations Award Guidance for information to support development of the Reserve application.

Operations funds should be allocated to specific tasks for the System-wide Monitoring Program and the Coastal Training Program. The following tasks are results-oriented and sufficient funds should be allocated to achieve the results. If less than the target amount is budgeted, a reserve must explain how the task will be accomplished (e.g., other state funds are available). The remaining funds may be used for other reserve priority tasks.

1. System-wide Monitoring Program (SWMP)

All reserves should allocate funds to fully implement the current components of the NERR System-wide Monitoring Program with the target amount of \$120,000. These components include operation of water quality monitoring stations, a weather station, and monitoring for estuarine nutrients, and chlorophyll *a*. Each reserve should continue to collect continuous data from a weather station and at least four long-term YSI datalogger stations, which should be calibrated, deployed, retrieved and operated in compliance with NERR SWMP protocols. The monitoring program for nutrients and chlorophyll *a* should consist of (at a minimum) monthly grab samples from the four SWMP datalogger stations and 24 hour automated sampling from a single SWMP datalogger station. Monitoring under this task includes data collection, quality control/quality assurance of all data, and timely data submission to the NERRS Centralized Data Management Office (CDMO). A special award condition will stipulate these SWMP requirements. On average, we expect reserves to allocate \$120,000 toward this task; however, reserves may allocate more or less, but the requirements for SWMP monitoring must be met. These SWMP funds typically should be used to support full-time and part-time SWMP technicians, pay for collection and processing of nutrient samples, and provide support for equipment upgrades, repairs, and routine maintenance. Reserves should replace sondes to the YSI 6600 EDS units as needed. Funding decisions regarding on-site operation of SWMP should be made in close consultation with your research coordinator and technician(s). Until additional funds are available, reserves should focus on supporting the core elements of SWMP and only as they are able, continue biological monitoring and/or add components towards building a sentinel site. These efforts should follow the NERRS protocols and details should be included in the task description and outcomes.

2. Coastal Training Program (CTP)

All reserves should allocate funds to fully implement CTP with the target amount of \$90,000. Reserves may allocate more or less funding, but the performance requirements for CTP remain the same. A separate task must be included in the financial assistance award application that reflects directions from the program strategy, describing how the reserve will implement CTP in the award period, including services, products and programs to be implemented. A Special Award Condition will stipulate that reserves implementing CTP will have a CTP Coordinator, comply with the CTP guidance, and submit performance reports on progress, programs, services, products, and performance monitoring data according to the agreed performance metrics.

System-Wide Support Activities

System-wide activities are those that benefit the entire reserve system, and are funded with 100% federal funds that do not require match. The NERRS Centralized Data Management Office (CDMO) funding of \$349,146 does not require match. The University of South Carolina, Belle Baruch Lab houses NERRS CDMO, which provides data quality review, management, and dissemination/education via the web for the System-wide Monitoring Program.

Graduate Research Fellows

A total of \$260,778 has been allocated for fourteen students to complete their current Graduate Research Fellowships, providing \$18,627 for each student. This is the final year of funding for this program. Awards were made on a competitive basis and provided to the student's academic institution. Each award requires a 30% match to total cost of project.

Other Reserve Projects

Table 1 reflects two activities that assist the reserve system in meeting its mission: the NERRS Science Collaborative, and the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association.

NERRS Science Collaborative – Funds totaling \$4,285,201 will be provided to the University of New Hampshire for continuing collaborative research.

NERRA Cooperative Agreement – Funds totaling \$4,655 will be provided to NERRA in support of American Planning Association training certification costs.

cc: NERR Research, Education, CTP, and Stewardship Coordinators
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Table 1. FY13 NERRS Budget Overview and Allocation Summary

Budget Overview	
Appropriation	22,000,000
Sequestration and NOAA rescissions	1,510,000
Subtotal	20,490,000
Congressional de-obligation	101,624
Hollings Scholarship Assessment	20,388
Total FY13 CZMA Section 315	20,367,988

Reserve System Allocations	Allocation	Notes
Reserve Operations	\$15,468,208	28 reserves at \$552,436
Graduate Research Fellowships	260,778	14 fellows at \$18,627; Applied NOAA rescissions and sequester
Centralized Data Management Office	\$349,146	Applied sequester only
NERRS Science Collaborative	\$4,285,201	\$4,732,000 minus the NOAA rescissions, sequester, Hollings Scholarship Assessment, and Congressionally directed de-obligation
NERRA	\$4,655	Support for the APA Partnership
Total	\$20,367,988	

Table 2. FY13 NERR Operations, Research, Monitoring, Training, Education, and Stewardship Allocations

Recipient	Reserve	Federal Allocation	Match	Start Date
SC Department of Natural Resources	ACE Basin	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Jul
FL Department of Environ Protection	Apalachicola	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Jul
MD Department of Natural Resources	Ches. Bay - MD	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Oct
VA College of William & Mary	Ches. Bay - VA	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Sep
DE Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control	Delaware	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Oct
CA Coastal Conservancy	Elkhorn Slough	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Jul
MS Department of Marine Resources	Grand Bay	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Jul
NH Department of Fish and Game	Great Bay	\$444,436	\$190,473	1-Jul
University of NH	Great Bay	\$108,000	\$46,286	1-Jul
FL Department of Environmental Protection	GTM	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Jul
NY Department of Environmental Conservation	Hudson River	\$496,336	\$212,716	1-Jul
Greenway Conservancy	Hudson River	\$56,100	\$24,043	1-Jul
Rutgers University	Jacques Cousteau	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Oct
PR Department of Natural and Environmental Resources	Jobos Bay	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Oct
AK Department of Fish and Game	Kachemak Bay	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Jul
University of Texas	Mission Aransas	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Sep
RI Department of Environmental Management	Narragansett Bay	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Sep
Department of Natural and Environmental Resources	North Carolina	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Jul
University of South Carolina	N Inlet/Winyah Bay	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Jul
OH Department of Natural Resources	Old Woman Creek	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Jul
WA Department of Ecology	Padilla Bay	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Jul
FL Department of Environmental Protection	Rookery Bay	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Jul
San Francisco State University	San Francisco Bay	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Jul
GA Department of Natural Resources	Sapelo Island	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Nov
OR Division of State Lands	South Slough	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Jul
CA Department of Parks and Recreation	Tijuana River	\$235,000	\$100,715	1-Jul
Southwest Interpretive Association	Tijuana River	\$317,436	\$136,044	1-Jul
MA Department of Environmental Management	Waquoit Bay	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Jul
AL Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	Weeks Bay	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Oct
Wells Management Authority	Wells	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Jul
University of Wisconsin	Lake Superior	\$552,436	\$236,759	1-Nov
Subtotal		\$15,468,208	\$6,629,252	
University of South Carolina	CDMO	\$349,146	\$0	1-Sep
TOTAL		\$15,817,354	\$6,629,252	