



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Office for Coastal Management

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Reserve Managers and State Contacts

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THROUGH: Joelle Gore *JG*
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SUBJECT: FY 2016 National Estuarine Research Reserve System
Funding Allocations and Guidance

This funding guidance is based on the funding levels contained in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act. This will provide \$22,952,010 for the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) operations. This includes a NOAA deduction of \$251,106 as described below in the funding facts table. This also includes additions from FY 2015 Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction (PAC) carryover of \$73,370 and FY 2016 PAC funds of \$129,746 totaling \$203,116. This funding guidance was informed by discussions at the 2015 NERRS Annual Meeting and through a series of budget discussions with reserve managers in February 2016. This memorandum provides guidance on the allocation and use of these funds. Please see the FY 2016 allocation of NERRS funds in Tables 1 and 2.

Funding Facts

	ORF		PAC
FY16 Appropriation	\$23,000,000	FY16 Appropriation	\$1,700,000
Reductions*	(\$251,106)	Reductions*	(\$18,139)
		FY16 Competition	(\$1,552,115)
		FY15 Carryover	\$73,370
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Total Allocation	\$22,748,894		\$203,116

* Total reflects the amount from the FY 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act less reductions of \$22,865 (ORF) and \$1,690 (PAC) for the NOAA Hollings Scholarship program assessment, \$134,650 (ORF) and \$9,557 (PAC) Congressional de-obligation target, and \$93,591 (ORF) and \$6,892 (PAC) for a NOAA-wide reprogramming.

Overview

The FY 2016 allocation of \$22,952,010 is \$1,639,479 more than the FY 2015 allocation of \$21,312,531. Budget allocations of ORF funds are as follows: \$17,341,016 will be directed for base reserve operations resulting in a \$619,322 allocation for each reserve which is an increase from FY 2015 of \$25,322 per reserve; \$1,018,850 for the Centralized Data Management Office (CDMO) which is an increase of \$633,850 from the FY 2015 allocation; \$4,100,000 for the NERRS Science Collaborative which is \$18,603 more than the FY 2015 allocation; and \$9,028 is allocated for maintenance and shipping of equipment and supplies for the System-wide Monitoring Program which is \$25,772 less than the FY 2015 allocation. Additionally, \$203,116 of PAC funding is being dedicated to support acquisition of materials and infrastructure for the NERR System-wide Monitoring Program (SWMP) Sentinel Site Application Module 1 (SSAM1) which will be distributed to specific reserves based on readiness and expressed needs. This infrastructure will be permanently stationed in the field. Note that the FY16 PAC funds identified in this guidance do not affect the FY 2016 PAC competition.

Of the \$ 4,100,000 allocation to the NERRS Science Collaborative, \$100,000 is dedicated to support a national System-wide Monitoring Program data; \$100,000 is dedicated for a Coastal Training Program Engagement and Impact Analysis which will be administered through the Office for Coastal Management (OCM); and \$50,000 is dedicated for a Sentinel Site Application Module Needs Assessment pilot which will be administered through the Jacques Cousteau, New Jersey Reserve. Finally, \$130,000 is being dedicated to support system-wide education and communications through the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association. As part of this, \$100,000 is dedicated to support an Outcome and Impact Evaluation of NERR Education Programs, including Teachers on the Estuary (TOTE) and Community Based Education. Each of these projects will serve to benefit the Reserve System and will not require match.

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. Additionally, please be aware that the new Office of Management and Budget Uniform Grant Guidance will apply to all new NERRS operations awards. For more information, visit https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_docs.

Application Procedures

Per this memo, the following application procedures are being distributed to eligible state recipients. Please work closely with your program liaison to complete all requirements

associated with award development and submission. 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://coast.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.

Please note that two reserves, Mission-Aransas, Texas, and Padilla Bay, Washington, have agreed to work with the Office for Coastal Management in FY 2016 and FY 2017 to pilot multi-year awards. This two year pilot is designed to test whether multi-year awards result in increased efficiency and effectiveness in award administration, in comparison to administering multiple single-year awards.

Pilot programs should develop two year budgets based on the FY 2016 allocations. The assumption is made that the second year of funding will remain relatively equal to the FY 2016 allocations; however, we are allowing pilot programs to develop initial application budgets with up to a 5% increase in Section 315 base reserve operations funds during the second year of the award in order to accommodate possible between-year budget fluctuations and adjustments. Please note that the FY 2017 NERRS Funding Allocations and Guidance will determine the final funding allocations for the second year of the multi-year awards; OCM will work with pilot programs to implement any multi-year award budget revisions needed for FY 2017.

July awards: draft application due to NOAA – March 4, 2016
 final application due to grants.gov – March 25, 2016

Sept-Nov awards: draft application due to NOAA –March 25, 2016
 final application due to grants.gov - April 15, 2016

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

Each operations award requires a 30% state match to the 70% federal allocation. Reserve 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 FY 2016 NERR Operations Award Guidance for information to support development of the application.

The tasks outlined below should be distinct tasks within the award and supported adequately to achieve the stated outcomes. The target amounts have been determined by the sectors responsible for the following programs as a basis for implementation. Individual amounts per program may vary based on needs to achieve the stated outcomes.

1. System-wide Monitoring Program

All reserves should allocate funds to fully implement the current components of the NERR System-wide Monitoring Program (SWMP) including: operation of four 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 water quality 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, it costs \$120,000 to implement 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 and/or upgrade sondes to ensure continuity of operations. Funding decisions regarding on-site operation of SWMP should be made in close consultation with the reserve 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

All reserves should allocate funds to fully implement the Coastal Training Program (CTP). On average it costs \$90,000 to implement; however, reserves may allocate more or less funding, but the performance requirements for CTP must be met. The task description should reflect CTP program strategy direction and include 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.

3. Teachers on the Estuary Program

All reserves should allocate funds to conduct a 'Teachers on the Estuary' (TOTE) Program. On average it costs \$15,000 to implement a TOTE workshop; however, reserves may allocate more or less funding, but the performance requirements for TOTE must be met. Reserves with an approved market analysis/needs assessment will implement one TOTE professional development workshop of at least 15 contact hours that aligns to state or national curriculum framework and includes an evaluation plan.

Table 1. FY 2016 NERRS Budget Overview and Allocation Summary

Category	Allocation	Notes
Reserves Program/Operations	\$17,341,016	\$619,322/reserve
Centralized Data Management Office	\$1,018,850	
NERRS Science Collaborative	\$4,100,000	Includes support for national data synthesis
System-wide Program Support	\$9,028	
Training Program Engagement and Impact Analysis	\$100,000	
SSAM1 Needs Assessment - MidAtlantic	\$50,000	Allocated to Jacques Cousteau Reserve
National Estuarine Research Reserve Association	\$130,000	
Reserves Sentinel Site Infrastructure (PAC funds)	\$203,116	Variable per reserve
Total	\$22,952,010	

Budget Overview	
ORF Appropriation for site operations	\$23,000,000
PAC Appropriation for infrastructure (FY16 PAC and FY15 PAC carryover)	\$203,116
NOAA Deduction	(\$251,106)
Total	\$22,952,010

Table 2. FY 2016 National Estuarine Research Reserve Allocations

Recipient	Reserve	ORF Allocation	PAC Allocation	Total Allocation	Match
SC Dept of Natural Resources	ACE Basin	\$619,322		\$619,322	\$265,424
FL Dept of Environmental Protection	Apalachicola	\$619,322	\$14,000	\$633,322	\$271,424
CA Coastal Conservancy	Elkhorn Slough	\$619,322	\$34,100	\$653,422	\$280,038
MS Dept of Marine Resources	Grand Bay	\$619,322		\$619,322	\$265,424
NH Dept of Fish and Game	Great Bay	\$494,322		\$494,322	\$211,853
University of New Hampshire	Great Bay	\$125,000		\$125,000	\$53,571
FL Dept of Environmental Protection	GTM	\$619,322	\$32,600	\$651,922	\$279,395
NY Dept of Environmental Conservation	Hudson River	\$571,472		\$571,472	\$244,917
Greenway Conservancy	Hudson River	\$47,850		\$47,850	\$20,508
University of Alaska*	Kachemak Bay	\$619,322		\$619,322	\$265,424
University of South Carolina	N Inlet Winyah Bay	\$619,322		\$619,322	\$265,424
NC Dept of Natural and Environ Resources	North Carolina	\$619,322		\$619,322	\$265,424
OH Dept of Natural Resources	Old Woman Creek	\$619,322		\$619,322	\$265,424
WA Dept of Ecology	Padilla Bay	\$619,322	\$20,000	\$639,322	\$273,996
FL Dept of Environmental Protection	Rookery Bay	\$619,322		\$619,322	\$265,424
San Francisco State University	San Francisco Bay	\$619,322	\$20,450	\$639,772	\$274,188
OR Division of State Lands	South Slough	\$619,322	\$18,500	\$637,822	\$273,353
CA Dept of Parks and Recreation	Tijuana River	\$331,438		\$331,438	\$142,045
Southwest Interpretive Association	Tijuana River	\$287,884		\$287,884	\$123,379
MA Dept of Environmental Management	Waquoit Bay	\$619,322		\$619,322	\$265,424
Wells Management Authority	Wells	\$619,322		\$619,322	\$265,424
RI Dept of Environmental Management	Narragansett Bay	\$619,322		\$619,322	\$265,424
VA College of William & Mary	Ches. Bay - VA	\$619,322	\$23,230	\$642,552	\$275,380
University of Texas	Mission Aransas	\$619,322		\$619,322	\$265,424
DE Dept of Natural Resources & Env Control	Delaware	\$619,322		\$619,322	\$265,424
Rutgers University	Jacques Cousteau	\$669,322	\$20,236	\$689,558	\$295,525
PR Dept of Natural and Environmental Resources	Jobos Bay	\$619,322		\$619,322	\$265,424
AL Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources	Weeks Bay	\$619,322		\$619,322	\$265,424
MD Dept of Natural Resources	Ches. Bay - MD	\$619,322	\$20,000	\$639,322	\$273,996
GA Dept of Natural Resources	Sapelo Island	\$619,322		\$619,322	\$265,424
University of Wisconsin	Lake Superior	\$619,322		\$619,322	\$265,424
Total		\$17,391,016	\$203,116	\$17,594,132	\$7,540,352

*Administered through CESU