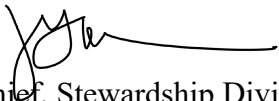





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Office for Coastal Management

MEMORANDUM FOR: Reserve Managers and State Contacts

TO: Dana Laster
Deputy Chief Financial Officer, National Ocean Service

THROUGH: Joelle Gore 
Division Chief, Stewardship Division

FROM: Erica Seiden 
Program Manager, Ecosystems Program

SUBJECT: FY 2020 National Estuarine Research Reserve System
Funding Allocations and Guidance

This funding guidance is based on the funding levels contained in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 which provided \$27,500,000 for the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS). NOAA deductions equal \$46,453, and additions equal \$49,000 from FY19 carryover, leaving an allocation of \$27,502,547. This memorandum provides guidance on the allocation and use of these funds which are detailed in Tables 1 and 2.

Funding Facts

FY 2020 Appropriation	\$27,500,000
Reduction	(\$46,453)
FY 2019 Carryover	\$49,000
Total	\$27,502,547

Total reflects the amount from the FY 2020 Consolidated Appropriations Act less reductions of \$27,481 for the NOAA Hollings Scholarship program assessment and \$18,972 for de-obligation assessment, as well as the addition of \$49,000 in FY19 carryover.

Overview

The FY 2020 appropriation of \$27,500,000 minus reductions and carryover additions noted above provide \$27,502,547 for allocation. Each reserve will receive \$728,214. The Centralized Data Management Office (CDMO) will receive \$631,482 for data management and dissemination. The Office for Coastal Management will retain \$15,696 to support the System-wide Monitoring Program (SWMP) and associated Sentinel Site Application Module 1 (SSAM1) equipment maintenance, shipping, training and supplies. The University of Michigan will receive \$3,908,163 to implement the second year of a five year cooperative agreement to implement a collaborative science program. The National Estuarine Research Reserve Association will receive \$95,000 to support strategic partnerships, communications efforts to improve program awareness, and support the friends and foundation network. Two states will be embarking on the designation process including Wisconsin and Louisiana and will receive \$60,000 and \$50,000 respectively. NOAA will launch the first cohort of the Davidson Fellowship and will allocate \$1,827,000 to support student research, travel and indirect costs.

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 2020 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 must allocate funds to fully implement the current components of the NERRS 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 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 must 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 must allocate funds to conduct a 'Teachers on the Estuary' (TOTE) Program. On average it costs \$15,000 to implement one 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.

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 matching funds. The NERRS Centralized Data Management Office housed at the University of South Carolina, Belle Baruch Lab will receive \$ 631,482 to provide data quality review, management, equipment support and dissemination/education via the web for the System-wide Monitoring Program.

Davidson Fellowship Activities

NOAA will fund the first year of fellows participating in the Margaret A. Davidson Fellowship Program. Students will be funded directly through their academic institutions. It is anticipated that NOAA will fund 29 Fellowship awards totaling \$1,189,000 with an indirect expenditure of approximately \$ 435,000. Additionally, each reserve will receive \$7,000, totaling \$203,000 for 29 reserves, to support student supply and equipment needs. These funds are captured above within their reserve allocation of \$728,214.

Other Reserve Projects

Table 1 reflects additional activities including support for the NERRS Collaborative Science Program in the amount of \$3,908,163 which will serve to assist the reserve system in meeting its mission through administering the program and supporting collaborative research.

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 see the Office of Management and Budget Uniform Grant Guidance which will apply to all NERRS operations awards. For more information, visit https://coast.noaa.gov/funding/_pdf/forms/budget-narrative-guidance-for-NOAA-grants.pdf

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 the Coastal and Marine Management Program (CAMMP) <https://coast.noaa.gov/cammp/>. The final CAMMP document must be attached to the grants.gov application. Multi-year pilot programs will develop their application outside of the CAMMP system. Please submit your application according to the schedule below and apprise your program specialist of any administrative challenges.

Recipients with July award start dates should submit their applications to Grants.Gov by April 10 and for recipients with award start dates past July should submit their applications to Grants.Gov by May 15. Multi-year pilots should submit applications using the same timeline as single-year applicants, as described above (April 10 or May 15).

Eight reserves (ACE Basin, Delaware, Great Bay, Jacques Cousteau, Lake Superior, Mission Aransas, Old Woman Creek, and Padilla) have participated in earlier multi-year award cycles and are approved to develop a two-year multi-year award for the FY 2020 and FY 2021 award cycles. Any additional reserves interested in developing a multi-year award for the FY 2020 and FY 2021 award cycles, should consult with Erica Seiden (Erica.Seiden@noaa.gov) and Liz Mountz (Elizabeth.Mountz@noaa.gov) as soon as possible. This pilot is designed to test whether multi-year awards result in increased efficiency and effectiveness in award administration, in comparison to administering single year awards.

Multi-year pilot programs should develop two-year budgets based on the FY 2020 allocations. This allows pilot programs to develop initial application budgets with up to a 10% increase in Section 315 in base reserve operations funds during the second year in order to accommodate possible between-year budget fluctuations and adjustments. The FY 2021 NERRS Final Funding Guidance and Allocations will include the final allocations for the second year of the multi-year award and OCM will work with pilot states to develop any necessary budget revisions, based on FY 2021 appropriations.

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Table 1. FY 2020 NERRS Budget Overview and Allocation Summary

Budget Category	Allocation
Reserve Program Operations (\$728,214/reserve)	\$21,118,206
Centralized Data Management Office	\$631,482
Science Collaborative	\$3,908,163
SWMP/SSAM1 Maintenance	\$15,696
Margaret A. Davidson Fellowship	\$1,624,000
Pre-designation Funds for Wisconsin and Louisiana	\$110,000
National Estuarine Research Reserve Association	\$95,000
Total	\$27,502,547

Budget Overview	
FY 2020 ORF Appropriation	\$27,500,000
NOAA Deductions	(\$46,453)
FY 2019 Carryover	\$49,000
Total	\$27,502,547

Table 2. FY 2020 National Estuarine Research Reserve Allocations

Recipient	Reserve	ORF Allocation	Match	Start Date
SC Dept of Natural Resources	ACE Basin	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Jul
FL Dept of Environmental Protection	Apalachicola	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Jul
CA Coastal Conservancy	Elkhorn Slough	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Jul
MS Dept of Marine Resources	Grand Bay	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Jul
NH Dept of Fish and Game	Great Bay	\$588,714	\$252,306	1-Jul
University of New Hampshire	Great Bay	\$139,500	\$59,786	1-Jul
FL Dept of Environmental Protection	GTM	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Jul
University of Hawai'i	He'eia	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Jul
NY Dept of Environmental Conservation	Hudson River	\$658,773	\$282,332	1-Jul
Greenway Conservancy	Hudson River	\$69,441	\$29,761	1-Jul
University of Alaska*	Kachemak Bay	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Jul
University of South Carolina	N Inlet Winyah Bay	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Jul
NC Dept Environmental Quality	North Carolina	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Jul
OH Dept of Natural Resources	Old Woman Creek	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Jul
WA Dept of Ecology	Padilla Bay	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Jul
FL Dept of Environmental Protection	Rookery Bay	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Jul
San Francisco State University	San Francisco Bay	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Jul
GA Dept of Natural Resources	Sapelo Island	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Jul
OR Division of State Lands	South Slough	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Jul
CA Dept of Parks and Recreation	Tijuana River	\$371,389	\$159,167	1-Jul
Southwest Interpretive Association	Tijuana River	\$356,825	\$152,925	1-Jul
MA Dept of Environmental Management	Waquoit Bay	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Jul
Wells Management Authority	Wells	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Jul
VA College of William & Mary	Ches. Bay - VA	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Sept
RI Dept of Environmental Management	Narragansett Bay	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Sept
University of Texas	Mission Aransas	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Sept

MD Dept of Natural Resources	Ches. Bay - MD	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Oct
DE Dept of Natural Resources & Env Control	Delaware	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Oct
Rutgers University	Jacques Cousteau	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Oct
PR Dept of Natural and Environmental Resources	Jobos Bay	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Oct
AL Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources	Weeks Bay	\$728,214	\$312,092	1-Oct
University of Wisconsin**	Lake Superior	703,214	301,378	1-Nov
Total		\$21,093,206	\$9,039,955	

* Administered through CESU ** OCM will transfer \$25,000 from the \$728,214 allocation for Lake Superior to the Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab for mission support resulting in \$703,214 allocation to the reserve.