



Solicitation of Detailed Letters of Intent (DLOIs)

NOAA Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program – FY2011 Funding Competition Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NOS-CSC-2011-2002721

The South Atlantic Alliance (Alliance) intends to submit integrated regional proposals in response to the funding opportunity referenced above. The proposals will include implementation activities (Focus Area 1) and Regional Ocean Partnership administrative and operations support (Focus Area 2). This proactive approach will enable the Alliance to address critical coastal and ocean information and management needs identified in the Alliance's Action Plan together with NOAA's interest in coastal and marine spatial planning. The Alliance also believes that this approach increases the potential for favorable review at the national level, and moves the Alliance enterprise toward its goal of being an effective Regional Ocean Partnership (ROP).

Final proposals are due to the NOAA Coastal Services Center on December 10, 2010. **Therefore, the Alliance requests that Detailed Letters of Intent from interested parties be submitted electronically no later than November 8 to provide sufficient time for review and inclusion in the Alliance's consolidated submission to NOAA.**

The Alliance's proposal will specifically address the "Development or implementation of regional ocean partnership priorities that also advance the objectives detailed in the Ocean Policy Task Force's national coastal and marine spatial planning framework." The content of the Alliance proposal will be based on the South Atlantic Alliance Action Plan (<http://www.southatlanticalliance.org/documents.htm>), the NOAA FFO (<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/funding>), and selected programmatic priorities included as Attachment A of this solicitation. The Alliance is interested in considering for inclusion in its proposal **only those efforts that address priority Alliance action items in at least one of the Alliance priority focus areas AND incorporate and integrate significant elements of coastal and marine spatial planning.**

To be consistent with the interest of the Alliance and of NOAA, Detailed Letters of Intent should focus on two or more of the following programmatic elements, such as planning, stakeholder engagement, research, education and outreach, observing, and monitoring, and must:

- Incorporate cross-discipline approaches to resource management, i.e., represent a collaboration among institutions, disciplines, and/or programmatic elements;
- Demonstrate regional applicability, even if initiated at a smaller scale;
- Include tangible partnerships with state and federal resource agencies and, where applicable, incorporate regional capabilities in the southeast U.S., such as SECOORA (ocean observing), COSEE-SE (ocean education), SAFMC (fisheries management), regional efforts of the four Sea Grant programs (research planning, outreach, and extension), the NERRs network, The Nature Conservancy (e.g., ecosystem assessments), among others;
- Support and directly interact with targeted regional stakeholders and partners;
- Provide data, information, and products or decision-support tools needed to concomitantly address selected regional priorities from the Alliance Action Plan and NOAA's CMSP interests;
- Cover a time period of no more than two years in duration (if a project requires an additional number of years for completion, indicate this in the Detailed Letter of Intent); and
- Address the *Evaluation Criteria* (Section V., A.) and *Selection Factors* (Section V., C.) as stated in the NOAA FFO announcement.

The Alliance strongly encourages interested institutions to work together *across the region* (i.e., through establishment of multi-sector and multi-component teams when possible) when preparing Detailed Letters of Intent for regional activities for consideration in the Alliance's integrated proposal; partnerships will be



a critical factor in determining proposal success. Further, the Alliance encourages submissions that both leverage existing federal, state, and private funding and programs and consider including NOAA, USGS, and EPA federal partners in the project design.

Preparation and Submission of Detailed Letters of Intent

To assist with the preparation of Detailed Letters of Intent, we have provided an outline (Attachment B) to organize critical information. The Detailed Letter of Intent may be no more than 6 single-spaced pages, and it must identify the project investigators and their affiliations, the project's stakeholders and beneficiaries, and include a concise but detailed project description that addresses the guidance provided above, and a detailed budget and budget justification (see NOAA FFO for guidance).

Timeline	Alliance Sponsored Proposals
October 13	Solicitation letter released
November 8	Detailed Letters of Intent (DLoI) due
November 11-17	Alliance Evaluation Team DLoI review; Alliance final proposal outlined
November 18	Selected PIs notified; Writing teams created to revise/draft final proposal(s)
November 30	Draft integrated proposals completed
December 3	Alliance proposal packet reviewed by Steering Group
December 4-7	Alliance proposal(s) finalized
December 10	Deadline for proposal to NOAA

Electronic copies (in Microsoft Word and Excel; please do not submit PDFs) of Detailed Letters of Intent must be submitted by COB on November 8, 2010 to Rick DeVoe at the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium via e-mail with the subject line "SAA-DLoI" to rick.devoe@scseagrant.org.

Alliance Endorsement of Independent Proposals

According to the NOAA FFO, proposals submitted must include a letter of support or endorsement from the lead ROP identified for each region for the purposes of this funding opportunity. Therefore, the South Atlantic Alliance will review all proposals not included in the formal Alliance package for consistency with its Action item priorities and the criteria set out in the NOAA FFO. The letter of endorsement, if provided, will confirm that the proposed project has been evaluated for its contributions to Alliance and NOAA priorities, and specifically indicate concurrence with recommended approach and proposal funding amounts. Proposals seeking such endorsement must be submitted to the Alliance via Carolyn Boltin-Kelly (boltincr@dhec.sc.gov) by no later than November 18, 2010 to allow enough time for proposal review.

Contacts

If you have any questions, please contact:

Carolyn Boltin-Kelly
Chair, Alliance Executive Planning Team
843-953-0226; boltincr@dhec.sc.gov

M. Richard DeVoe
Alliance Administrative Support
843-953-2078; rick.devoe@scseagrant.org

Thank you.

Attachments

- A. South Atlantic Alliance Priority Action Items Related to CSMP
- B. South Atlantic Alliance Detailed Letter of Intent Outline



Attachment A

South Atlantic Alliance Priority Action Items Related to CMSP

For the purposes of this solicitation only (NOAA-NOS-CSC-2011-2002721), the South Atlantic Alliance is particularly interested in receiving Detailed Letters of Interest (DLOIs) that focus on one or more of the following Action Items that are included in the Alliance Action Plan. These have been selected because of their direct relationship with and connection to NOAA's interests in developing regional CMSP efforts.

Healthy Ecosystems

- Initiate a joint federal-state agency marine spatial plan that maps the known distribution of key estuarine and marine habitats, key species of management concern, and land use cover in the coastal watersheds of each state using a common set of standards and attributes (e.g., commercial and recreational fishing areas, shipping lanes, military areas, energy development areas, sand resource areas used for beach nourishment).
- Initiate and enhance interstate/regional efforts to implement ecosystem-based planning and management in coastal ocean environments.
- Identify priority issues (e.g., sea level rise, ocean acidification, coastal development resiliency, and other major anthropogenic issues) and evaluate coastal resources at greatest risk to (1) climate change and (2) anthropogenic effects from coastal and inland development.
- Develop indices of condition for each different habitat type, level of biodiversity, community structure/function, and ecosystem services.

Working Waterfronts

- Support community-based mapping work to identify contemporary and historical recreational and commercial working waterfront sites.
- Protect U.S. military waterfront access and water-dependent land use related to military footprint, operational readiness, and training missions by engaging military representatives in the identification of sites that support military operational and training capacity and national defense mission.
- Inventory public access infrastructure and support facilities within the four states.

Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters

- Develop an integrated database that captures existing state, federal, and non-governmental organization (NGO) monitoring metadata for programs that are ongoing or long-term. The database will identify existing monitoring locations, both nearshore and offshore, and parameters sampled as well as data gaps and capacity needs for estuarine, coastal, and offshore environments.

Disaster Resilient Communities

- Identify the most vulnerable areas along the coast and improve understandings of incentives and disincentives for development in those areas.
- Develop regional standards or best practices for monitoring and mapping beachfront and estuarine shoreline changes for the purpose of targeting specific areas for adaptation responses.



Attachment B

Outline
South Atlantic Alliance
Detailed Letter of Intent
(no more than 6 pages single-spaced)

1. Title Page (not included in page total)
 - a. Title of effort
 - b. Names and affiliations of Primary Investigator (PI) and Co-Investigators (CoIs)
 - c. Endorsements by lead institution/organization
 - d. Total budget amounts (by year) sought
2. Project Description (no more than 5 pages)
 - a. Project goals and objectives
 - b. Background/justification
 - c. Partnerships
 - d. Audience (beneficiaries; stakeholders; users) of activity
 - e. Concise description of approach/methodology
 - i. How the work concurrently supports one or more of the Alliance's priority theme areas AND NOAA's needs in Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP)
 - ii. What existing regional capabilities/assets will be utilized (if applicable)
 - f. Intended regional benefits and how the results will be applied across the Alliance region
 - g. Milestones and performance indicators to be used to measure success
3. Overview of Regional Teaming Strategy (no more than 1 page)
 - a. Who is involved and what they will contribute
 - b. Roles and responsibilities
 - c. How stakeholders will be engaged and integrated into proposed effort
4. Detailed Budget (use [budget form](#) included; we will complete the 424 forms) and detailed Budget Justification (not included in page total)
 - a. Salaries and wages
 - b. Total travel
 - c. Supplies and equipment
 - d. Contractual services
 - e. Other costs
 - f. Overhead (if applicable)
5. Appendices (not included in page total)
 - a. Resumes (two [2] pages maximum for each investigator)
 - b. NOAA NEPA questionnaire (see NOAA FFO for additional information)