

**Virginia Fishery Resource Grant Program
Request for Proposals (RFP) November 2007**

<http://www.vims.edu/adv/frg/index.html>

Proposals will be accepted from November 15, 2007 – January 18, 2008

The Virginia Sea Grant Program at Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) is accepting applications to compete for approximately \$200,000 in the Fishery Resource Grant Program. The Virginia Legislature created the Fishery Resource Grant Program to “protect and enhance the Commonwealth’s coastal fishery resource through the awarding of grants” in four areas: 1) new marine fisheries equipment or gear; 2) environmental pilot studies on issues including water quality and fisheries habitat; 3) aquaculture or mariculture of marine-dependent species; and 4) seafood technology.

A basic principle of the program is that people in the industry often have valid ideas for enhancing and protecting fisheries, but they lack the financial resources to experiment with innovations. The Fishery Resource Grant Program invests in ideas generated by the fishing public through fair and competitive methods.

The legislation established the four priority areas noted above. Specific priorities within the four topic areas have been approved by the Fishery Resource Grant Program Advisory Board and are noted below. All proposals submitted within the limits of the Guidelines for Submission will be accepted and reviewed for technical merit and the ability to address one or more of the specific priorities listed.

New Fisheries Equipment and Gear – This priority area seeks proposals that focus on the development of less environmentally destructive gear, bycatch reduction, improvements in gear selectivity, more effective ways to handle catch and the development of information leading to fishery management plans for key species and groups.

Environmental Pilot Studies – This priority area seeks proposals that focus on ways to restore damaged habitat, create new habitat, prevent habitat impairment or reduce impact from fishing or aquaculture activities.

Aquaculture/Mariculture – This priority area seeks proposals that focus on ways to develop criteria and assessment for permits, increase return from investment in culture activities or introduce new species to the existing aquaculture list to broaden the participation in commercial aquaculture.

Seafood Technology and Utilization – This priority area seeks proposals that develop value-added products from existing production, the utilization of underused or new fishery resources, develop models for total quality system management programs or increase returns in the seafood industry by improving packaging and handling.

Eligibility

To be eligible for funding under the Fishery Resource Grant Program, each proposal must substantially involve Virginians who are actively involved in a fishing industry (defined as persons involved in commercial activities relating to fishery resources, aquaculture/mariculture or the processing or handling fishery products). Proposals submitted by persons not involved in a fishing industry must have 1) substantial involvement of Virginia fishers as defined (above) and 2) written endorsements from persons or organizations representing fishing industries supporting the project.

Proposal Development

Competitive proposals are developed through discussion of ideas and partnering with interested groups and experts. Every applicant should consult with experts in the targeted priority area(s) and, where appropriate, develop a team of fishers and scientists to conduct the work. Sea Grant Marine Advisory agents and specialists can help assemble a team. Non-fishers could improve chances of funding by collaborating with persons in a fishing industry for proposal development and design and by involving fishers in the execution of the study. Virginia Sea Grant will be responsible for determining the eligibility of each proposal.

Application Forms

The application form at the end of this notice provides an outline for the proposal and additional pages should be used for providing information in the sections listed. Applicants should pay particular attention to items 12-17. These sections should describe the problem and rationale for proposing the research project (12), present the goals and objectives and the proposed work (13) and describe the work that is to be performed to meet the objectives (14). The next three sections should explain how the information gained from the work will help resolve the problem described (15), how the information developed will be transferred to others (16 – Note: It is not enough to say the data will be given to VMRC or another agency.) and who will be responsible for doing the work (17 – Letters confirming participation should be obtained from all cooperators, including VMRC and/or Sea Grant Marine Advisory staff).

A series of workshops will be held to explain the grant program, including eligibility and funding priorities, how to complete the application form and where to go for more help when developing a grant proposal package. The time and location of these workshops will be announced through press releases to the media and in selected newsletters. The workshop schedule is also included in this announcement.

Proposal Submission

To be considered for funding in this solicitation, a signed application must be delivered or mailed to the Virginia Sea Grant office by **January 18, 2008**. Mailed copies must be postmarked no later than **January 18, 2008**. Faxed or electronic proposals will not be accepted. Proposals must be delivered or mailed to VFRGP Manager, Virginia Sea Grant Program, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, P.O. Box 1346, Gloucester Point, VA 23062. No applicant may submit more than 2 proposals for this cycle.

To ensure competitive project selections, Virginia Sea Grant will subject all proposals to a series of reviews by a panel of experts from outside of Virginia. The FRGP Advisory Board (see appended list of Advisory Board members) will also provide proposal evaluations to the selection process. Virginia Sea Grant will make proposal selection decisions and funding agreements will generally be effective during the second calendar quarter of 2008.

Funding Priorities

The following list of potential research ideas has been reviewed and approved by the FRGP Advisory Board and is provided as *suggestions* of the types of subjects that could be appropriate for proposals to the FRGP. These are not intended as a complete listing of all possible projects; nor are the topics listed in order of importance. All proposals received by the submission deadline will receive equal treatment during the review process.

Potential research topics or issues include but are not limited to the following:

I. New Inshore and Offshore Fisheries Equipment or Gear

1. Reduce bycatch by technology development and education.
2. Develop “environmentally friendly” gear.
3. Develop more effective/efficient mechanisms for handling catch.
4. Develop and evaluate mechanisms to release fish to increase their survival.
5. Determine amounts of hook-and-release mortality for important recreational species.
6. Increase efficiency/economic return of fishing.
7. Develop bait and bait substitutes.
8. Develop species-specific gear.
9. Develop information leading to Fishery Management Plans for key species and groups.
10. Develop new gear and/or improve current gear and/or document catch per unit effort (“CPUE”).
11. Develop gear to improve selectivity of target species.

II. Environmental Pilot Studies

1. Develop mechanisms to restore damaged habitat or create new habitat.
2. Develop mechanisms to prevent habitat impairment.
3. Reduce habitat impact from fishing activities.
4. Develop recycling and collection programs for used fishing or aquaculture gear.
5. Develop ways to monitor and evaluate habitat alterations or the impacts of aquaculture practices such as moving of seaside shellfish to the bayside.
6. Determine environmental impact of fishing and processing activities.
7. Assess effects of water quality and habitat alteration on fisheries production.

III. Aquaculture/Mariculture

1. Increase return from investment in culture activities including the development of mechanical planting and harvesting technologies.

2. Examine the potential for culture of new species and/or deep-water culture techniques for existing species such as clams and oysters.
3. Determine environmental impacts of aquaculture operations.
4. Improve the efficiency of growth, feeding and nutrition.
5. Demonstrate the best husbandry practices for potential growers.
6. Develop mechanisms for a network for technical monitoring of waters for levels of spat fall, food, predators, etc.
7. Market research for aquaculture products.
8. Develop parameters for apprentice program and training for career aquaculturists.
9. Assess feasibility of augmenting commercially and recreationally important species through hatchery release.
10. Assess regulations that impact aquaculture/mariculture such as submerged aquatic vegetation protection.
11. Assess the potential of shellfish aquaculture to enhance wild populations.
12. Provide the opportunity for watermen, including minorities, to diversify their businesses through aquaculture.

IV. Seafood Technology

1. Develop value-added products from existing or potential production.
2. Increase returns in the seafood industry by improving packaging and handling.
3. Develop models for total quality system management programs.
4. Develop improvements in product quality.
5. Develop mechanisms for reducing effluents and the environmental impacts.
6. Develop alternative uses for processing byproducts.

Contacts

If you have an idea for a project, you may contact the following Virginia Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service (MAS) representatives for assistance in writing your proposal or to request additional information. These people can also direct you to a research scientist who has expertise related to your project topic. *Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program contacts include:*

Vicki Clark	804-684-7169	Marine Education
Bill DuPaul	804-684-7163	MAS Coordinator, Fisheries Development
Bob Fisher	804-684-7168	Commercial Fisheries/Seafood Technology
George Flick	540-231-6965	Seafood Technologies
Chris Hager	804-684-7555	Commercial Fisheries/By-Catch
Mike Jahncke	757-727-4861	Seafood Technology
Dan Kaufman	757-727-4861	Seafood Business Management
Bob Lane	757-727-4861	Processing Engineering
Lee Larkin	804-684-7172	Marine Education
Tom Murray	804-684-7190	Marine Business and Development
Mike Oesterling	804-684-7165	Fisheries; Finfish/shellfish Aquaculture
Mike Schwarz	757-727-4861	Finfish Aquaculture

2007 Fishery Resource Grant Application Workshops

Two workshops will be held to explain the grant program, including eligibility and funding priorities, how to complete the application form and where to go for more help when developing a grant proposal package. The time and location of these workshops is listed below:

*Wednesday, November 28, 2007 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Director's Conference Room, VIMS, Gloucester Point, VA*

*Thursday, November 29, 2007 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Library, VIMS Eastern Shore, Wachapreague, VA*

Appendix

Virginia Fishery Resource Grant Program – Advisory Board

Chairman (*representing the Virginia Sea Grant Program*)

Dr. William DuPaul, Acting Sea Grant Director phone: 804-684-7163
Virginia Institute of Marine Science fax: 804-684-7161
Gloucester Point, VA 23062 email: dupaul@vims.edu

For VMRC

Dr. James Wesson phone: 757-247-2200
Virginia Marine Resources Commission fax:
2600 Washington Avenue email: jwesson@mrc.state.va.us
P.O. Box 756
Newport News, VA 23607-0756

For VIMS

Dr. Roger Mann phone: 804-684-7108
Research & Advisory Services fax: 804-684-7097
VIMS email: rmann@vims.edu
Gloucester Point, VA 23062

For the Aquaculture Association

Mike Peirson, President phone: 757-331-2622
Virginia Shellfish Growers Association fax: 757-331-4366
Cherrystone Aqua-Farms email:
P.O. Box 347
Cheriton, VA 23316

For the Watermen's Associations

Marshall Cox phone: 757-678-5941
Box 245 fax:
Cape Charles, VA 23310 email: mrscox@intercom.net

John Wyatt phone: 804-530-3194
1409 Walnut Drive fax:
Chester, VA 23836 email: jwyatt@aol.com

Fishery Resource Grant Program

Application

1. Project title: _____
2. Name of applicant: _____
3. Company (if applicable): _____
4. Telephone: _____
5. Address: _____

6. Priority addressed by project (see list): _____
7. Fishing license/permit number(s): _____
8. Social security or federal tax ID number: _____
9. Funding requested: _____
10. Project dates: beginning _____ completion _____
11. Other project participant(s), affiliation, address and phone:

[Note: Use additional pages as needed to respond to the items below.]

12. Give a brief summary of the situation or problem to be addressed.

13. What is the purpose (objectives) of the project?

14. What work do you intend to do, and how do you plan to accomplish it?

15. Explain how the expected results will address the problem and/or enhance fishery resources.

16. Explain how the expected results will be made available to the fishing industry.

17. Briefly outline who will be responsible for each aspect of the work plan (attach letters from cooperators outlining their participation).

18. Briefly summarize the qualifications of each participant.

19. Provide project budget and cost justification.

ITEM/CATEGORY	AMOUNT
a. Personnel Costs (time x unit cost)	
b. Travel (trip or mileage x unit cost)	
c. Supplies	
d. Equipment (items more than \$500)	
e. Contractual Services (itemize)	
f. Other Costs (itemize)	
g. Total Project Costs	

20. Provide budget item justification and/or explanations.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Fishery Resource Grant Program

Application Guidelines

1. Provide a title that summarizes the project.
2. Give the full name of the applicant; it will be used to issue payments for the project.
3. Give the name of your company or corporation if applicable, or the institution of your employment. If self-employed, say so.
4. Applicant's complete telephone number including area code.
5. Mailing address for correspondence and mailing payments, etc.
6. Which priority are you addressing? The attached listing gives this year's priorities under the four-program areas equipment/gear, environment, aquaculture and seafood.
7. Give fishing license or permit number(s), if applicable.
8. Social security or federal ID number is required for grant payments.
9. Total amount of funding requested (see budget section).
10. Give the date that you plan to begin work and the date that we can expect a completion report.
11. List all other personnel involved in the project and their affiliation. This includes all those who have a major responsibility for some aspect of the work.

**** Use additional pages as needed to fully answer items 12 through 18 ****

12. Describe the nature of the situation or problem that your proposed work will address.
13. What is the purpose of your proposed work?
14. **This section is very important!** Please explain how, where and when you will conduct each work task. Explain how tests will be run and how the data will be analyzed. Describe the tests you plan to conduct, the surveys you will make and/or plans for making something. Your methodology must withstand questions about its validity and/or potential to yield the results you need to solve the purpose of your work (described in number 13 above).
15. Describe how the outcome of your proposed work will help address the problem described in number 12 above.

16. Describe how you plan to get the results of your work to other members of the fishing industry for their use. It is not enough to just discover something. It must also be usable. If you are going to rely on someone else to extend the results, be sure to have an agreement and arrange to cover those expenses.
17. Who is going to be responsible for what? Each participant (including the applicant) must be responsible for some part of the work. You must have letters of endorsement from other participants to confirm their participation in the project. For example, if personnel from VIMS will conduct the statistical analysis, then an agreement letter from VIMS is required.
18. Give a brief statement describing the experience of each participant and the applicant that qualifies them to do the tasks outlined above.
19. Carefully compute the funds needed (rounded to the nearest dollar) for all of the work described in the proposal. Be sure to include any subcontractors (budget item e.) for lab work, consultants, extension, services, etc. The funding for these grants does not permit indirect costs (overhead). Be sure to check your budget total figure.
20. Please justify the budget figures. For example: “We will need a deckhand for 150 hours @ \$7/hour,” or “We will need to design and build a trawl that requires \$1,200 for materials,” etc.

- ❑ **Be sure to sign the application! Applications without a dated signature will be rejected as incomplete.**

Mail the signed original to: VFRGP Manager, Virginia Sea Grant Program, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, P.O. Box 1346, Gloucester Point, VA 23062.

- ❑ **Applications must be postmarked no later than January 18, 2008. Applications may be delivered to the Virginia Sea Grant Office in Gloucester Point only until 5:00 p.m. on January 18, 2008. Late proposals will be returned to the applicant without being considered.**
- ❑ **If you need assistance completing the grant application, a resource list is available from the Mrs. Dianne Roberts at the Virginia Fishery Resource Grants Program (phone: 804-684-7173; fax: 804-684-7161) This notice and application form is available at the website below: <http://www.vims.edu/adv/frg/index.html>**