

## **Lake Champlain Sea Grant Request for Expressions of Interest for Research**

Lake Champlain Sea Grant (LCSG) is seeking innovative research ideas for a future LCSG research program. We are currently seeking brief Expressions of Interest; this is *not* a Request for Proposals yet. Researchers should submit ideas that directly address the goals of the LCSG strategic plan (2018-2021). This document can be found [here](#). A brief statement of our vision, mission and goals is appended to this message.

Interested researchers should respond with an expression of interest **by 15 May 2017**. Detailed instructions are provided below.

### *Background*

The National Sea Grant College Program is a network of 33 programs based at universities across the United States. The LCSG is a cooperative program of the University of Vermont and the State University of New York (SUNY) at Plattsburgh. The LCSG program is currently preparing a proposal to attain institute status within the National Sea Grant College Program, which could mean additional funds for research projects as soon as February 2018.

We are confident that our institute proposal will be successful. However, future funding for an expanded research program is complicated by the uncertain outlook of the Federal Budget from Washington, D.C. To make the most persuasive argument that we can, we are looking for a few good ideas to include in our institute proposal to illustrate the important research work that could be done on the basis of our strategic plan and to support our efforts in outreach and education to the communities that we serve.

We hope to know by fall 2017 about the fate of our institute proposal and the likelihood of additional funding for an expanded research program. At that time we will announce a fully-competitively Request for Proposals. We expect that proposals based on the EOIs that we select to include in the institute proposal would respond to this RFP.

### *Eligibility*

Researchers at institutions of higher education and organizations or agencies that conduct research in the Lake Champlain basin (New York and Vermont) are eligible to respond to this EOI.

### *Format*

Submit your 1 to 2-page Expression of Interest using the template appended below. You can also find this template [here](#).

## *Next Steps*

Letters will be reviewed internally by the LCSG Director, Extension Leader, and Research Coordinator for best fit to the LCSG strategic plan and evolving institute proposal. We will respond to everyone who submits an EOI to let you know whether we will use it in the institute proposal or not. Inclusion now does not guarantee funding in the future. Exclusion now does not mean your idea is irrelevant to the evolving LCSG research plan. *However, your participation now will help us make a stronger argument that additional funding for research in the LCSG program is essential to advance our strategic plan.*

If we do notify you that we intend to use your research idea in the institute proposal, we ask that you **save the dates of 11-12 July 2017**, to participate in a site review that is being organized by the National Sea Grant Office to evaluate our proposal and site. We will be able identify a specific time and day in this window by mid-May. The meeting will be held on the UVM campus.

Whether we select your EOI for use now or not, please look for developments relevant to this new initiative in early fall 2017.

Thank you for your interest and support as we embark on this exciting new potential for the Lake Champlain Sea Grant program.

William “Breck” Bowden, LCSG Director

Kris Stepenuck, LCSG Extension Leader

Elissa Schuett, LCSG Research Coordinator

# Lake Champlain Sea Grant in Brief

## *Lake Champlain Sea Grant Vision*

*Lake Champlain Sea Grant envisions a future in which Basin communities anticipate and enable change for long-term ecosystem health and sustainable economic development.*

## *Lake Champlain Sea Grant Mission*

*To develop and share science-based knowledge to benefit the environment and economies of the Lake Champlain Basin. Our audience is business, state, and local leaders and the communities they serve.*

## *Goals*

- A. Resilient Communities and Economies
  - Goal 1: Water resources are sustained and protected to meet emerging needs of the communities, economies and ecosystems of the Lake Champlain Basin.
  - Goal 2: Coastal communities and economies are resilient to changing environmental conditions.
  
- B. Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development
  - Goal 3: An environmentally literate, engaged and diverse public implements innovative solutions to improve community well-being in the face of a changing Lake Champlain Basin.
  - Goal 4: A diverse and skilled workforce is engaged and enabled to address critical local, regional and national needs.
  
- C. Healthy Coastal Ecosystems (will address only if awarded institutional status and associated additional funding)
  - Goal 5: Habitat, ecosystems, and the services they provide are protected, enhanced, and/or restored.
  - Goal 6: Land, water, and living resources are managed by applying sound science, tools, and services to sustain ecosystems.

**Expression of Interest for Research  
Lake Champlain Sea Grant Program**

*(Delete or replace italicized text with your own narrative)  
(Limit to 2 pages maximum; 1 is sufficient.)*

**Problem, challenge, or issue to be addressed:** *(A single, clear, declarative statement)*

**Justification:** *(Briefly explain why this is an important research objective. Clearly identify the relevance to the environment and/or economy of the Lake Champlain basin. It is essential that you explain how the research would advance the LCSG Strategic Plan.)*

**Approach:** *(Provide a brief description of how the research could be done. Use lay terms, not scientific terms. Methodological details are not needed at this time. Rather, convey just enough information so that a non-technical reader would understand how the research would be done.)*

**Opportunities for Outreach:** *(Note that LCSG Outreach staff will assist you with this aspect of a funded project. At this time we are looking for your ideas for innovative outreach opportunities.)*

**Suggested Funding Level and Duration:** *(We do not want to suggest limits at this time; we would rather know what you think it will cost to do the work, including match, see next. As some guidance, we expect this to be “small” grants program in which the typical project would be a 2 year duration.)*

**Matching Opportunities:** *(NOAA stipulates that Sea Grant research projects need to show a 50% match; i.e., \$0.50 match for each \$1 of federal funding. You do not need to show this match now. It is sufficient to simply affirm that you think the match can be found. If you are comfortable stating the source of that match, please do. However this is not required for the EOI.)*

Return this form by e-mail attachment to [Elissa.Schuett@uvm.edu](mailto:Elissa.Schuett@uvm.edu)  
Use this filename format: 2017\_LCSG\_EOI-**YOUR\_NAME**.doc/docx/pdf