FY2026-2028 Core RFP Informational Open House

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Sea Grant MIT

Eligibility

All researchers from academic, research, and educational institutions (e.g., museums) within Massachusetts who are eligible to submit a proposal according to their home institution are eligible to apply.

Requirements

Pre-proposals will be required.

The PI must not be the recipient of **other MIT Sea Grant funding** during the period of the grant (2/1/2026 to 1/31/2028).

Available Funding

- We welcome proposals up to **$170,000 annually,** for a total of **$340,000** over a two-year period.
- **50%** non-federal match is required.
- Projects may be up to two years: **2/1/2026 to 1/31/2028.**

Important Dates

Request eSeaGrant access by:
February 17, 2025 by 5pm ET
(Email seagrantinfo@mit.edu)

Pre-proposal deadline:
February 18, 2025 by 5pm ET

Full proposal deadline:
May 23, 2025 by 5pm ET

RFP Topics

MIT Sea Grant will focus FY2026-2028 funding on the following areas of research:

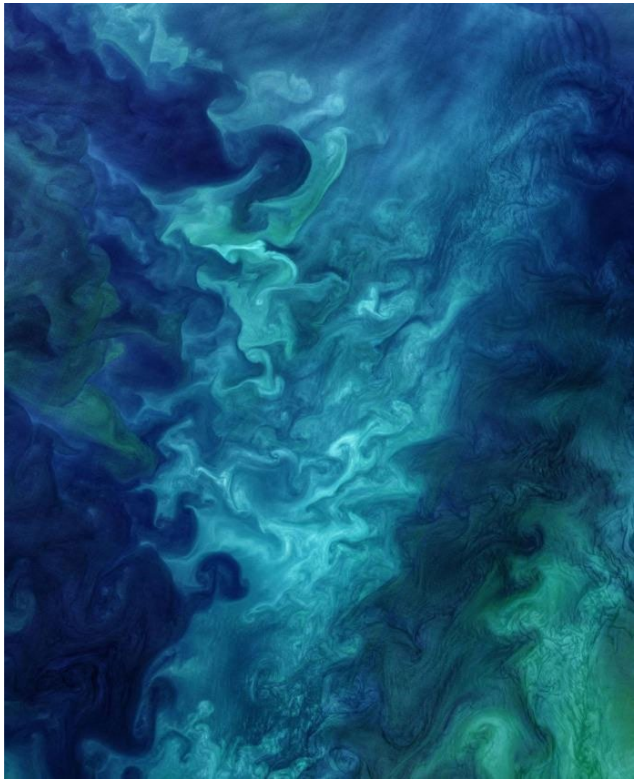
1. **Sustainable aquaculture and seafood processing**
2. **Offsetting climate impacts to coastal and ocean environments**
3. **Tracking and preventing impacts of marine debris**
4. **Ocean applications of biotechnology**
5. **Engineering for ocean uses**
6. **Decarbonization of fisheries and the seafood industry**

Sustainable aquaculture and seafood processing

MIT Sea Grant is looking for innovative solutions to aquaculture, seafood processing, workforce development, and safety issues through biological, chemical, and engineering innovations. Current issues include impacts of farms/processors on the environment, offshore aquaculture development, and monitoring for pathogens that impact coastal aquaculture.

Offsetting climate impacts to coastal and ocean environments

We are seeking transformative techniques in biological, chemical, engineering, and water quality research to assess and offset effects of climate change, including effects of ocean acidification on coastal and marine resources, marine carbon dioxide removal, and storm coastal protection. Proposals that include artificial intelligence methods, and novel methods for monitoring and sensor development are especially encouraged.



Tracking and preventing impacts of marine debris

The two-fold focus of this topic is finding long-term solutions to reducing macro-, micro- and nano-plastics, and innovative ways to identify and map them in the marine environment for management purposes. This broad topic encompasses designing products that replace plastic, mapping marine debris for management, and innovative methods for finding, removing, and disposing of all sizes of marine debris.

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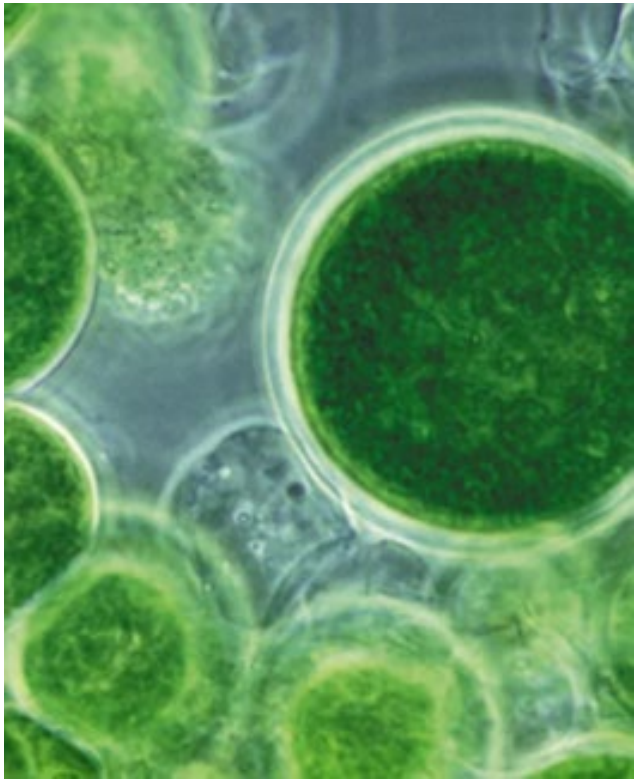
Ocean applications of biotechnology

We request proposals that offer novel applications of existing biotechnology methods, or development of new methods, to address current issues in climate change, aquaculture, and other coastal and marine issues. Examples include devising a way to detect parasites, viruses and precursors of harmful algal blooms using next-generation sequencing, or real time monitoring utilizing eDNA to get spatial and temporal resolution.



Engineering for ocean uses

Proposals that utilize robotics and/or machine learning to develop inventive solutions or improvement to existing technologies to address current community, management, and industry concerns.

Examples include underwater manipulation and intervention for aquaculture; autonomous navigation for ocean sampling.

Decarbonization of fisheries and the seafood industry

The commercial fishing fleet and greater seafood industry face rising costs, especially for fuel, and increased pressure to reduce emissions. Fishermen in MA are already at the forefront of reducing these costs, and MIT Sea Grant has long been at work on decarbonizing the cargo shipping fleet. Proposals to reduce carbon emissions and fuel consumption of fisheries vessels and the seafood processing industry through low-cost, innovative technology are welcome.

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