

Agency Name:	Sea Grant Consortium		
Agency Code:	P260	Section:	48



**Fiscal Year FY 2024-2025
Agency Budget Plan**

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

OPERATING REQUESTS <i>(FORM B1)</i>	For FY 2024-2025, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

NON-RECURRING REQUESTS <i>(FORM B2)</i>	For FY 2024-2025, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

CAPITAL REQUESTS <i>(FORM C)</i>	For FY 2024-2025, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

PROVISOS <i>(FORM D)</i>	For FY 2024-2025, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Dr. Susan Lovelace	(843) 953-2078	susan.lovelace@scseagrant.org
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Ryan C. Bradley	(843) 953-2076	ryan.bradley@scseagrant.org

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2024-2025 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	<u>Agency Director</u>	<u>Board or Commission Chair</u>
SIGN/DATE:		
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	SUSAN LOVELACE	ROBERT H. JONES

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

Agency Name:	Sea Grant Consortium
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BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Conversion of two (2) Temporary Grant Employee (TGE) positions to two (2) Full-time Employee (FTE) positions	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	1.75	0.25	0.00	2.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Engaging Smaller Communities with Technical Assistance	83,875	0	0	0	83,875	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
3	B1 - Recurring	Staff Changes to Meet the Coastal Science Literacy Needs of a Growing Population	70,285	0	0	0	70,285	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
TOTALS			154,160	0	0	0	154,160	2.00	1.75	0.25	0.00	4.00

Agency Name:	Sea Grant Consortium		
Agency Code:	P260	Section:	48

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	1
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Conversion of two (2) Temporary Grant Employee (TGE) positions to two (2) Full-time Employee (FTE) positions
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$0 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$0
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2024-2025? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	2.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Fiscal Year 2022-23 Strategic Planning and Performance Measurements: 1.1.1; 1.1.2; 1.1.3; 1.1.4; 1.1.5; 2.1.1; 2.1.2; 2.1.3; 2.1.4; 2.1.5; 3.1.1; 3.1.2; 3.1.3; 3.1.4
	<p>This conversion request will support the Consortium’s overall mission and corresponding goals and objectives. These two (2) TGE positions have been staffed for a couple of years and their conversion to FTE positions will stabilize agency staff capabilities to support increasing demands for agency products and services. In addition, due to challenges in retaining professional staff due to relatively low compensation, transition of these TGEs into FTEs will increase the stability and marketability of these positions going forward. No funding is necessary to implement the conversion; staff in these positions will continue to be evaluated through the EPMS process as they have been evaluated in the past.</p>

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency’s accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

ADDITIONAL FUNDS	Not applicable; no additional funds are required to support the conversion of these
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RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

positions (2) from TGE to FTE employees as other secured resources support the positions

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

Demands for the Consortium’s products and services (information, assistance, and guidance) continue to increase as more people move to the coast, additional development pressures results, and the use of the state’s economically important coastal and marine resources increases. As a result, the Consortium has been able to justify the creation of new professional positions in an attempt to meet this demand. Through creative approaches and frugal spending, the Consortium has obtained the resources necessary to support and sustain these positions through our annual Sea Grant College Program appropriations from NOAA as well as other ongoing sustainable federal sources.

The two (2) positions to be converted cover critically important core competencies which are in increasing demand by our diverse stakeholders and include: the (1) Shellfish Aquaculture Program Specialist, funded by National Sea Grant and other federal resources from NOAA and (2) Coastal Processes Program Specialist, joint-funded by National Sea Grant and Coastal Carolina University.

In January 2021, Sea Grant Consortium secured funding from the National Sea Grant College Program to establish a new aquaculture position specializing in shellfish and other sustainable living marine organisms. In consultation with key stakeholders and constituencies, the Shellfish Aquaculture Program Specialist extends science-based information to coastal communities, resource managers, and interest groups in South Carolina and the region and works with researchers to develop outreach extensions for their projects. The position contributes to research motivated by community needs and provides hands-on operational and technical support for constituents and solicits funding as needed to support projects through the development of grant proposals. Topical areas of work include, but are not limited to, issues and opportunities addressing state-level aquaculture policy and management, sustainable aquaculture development, seafood business planning and marketing, working waterfronts, shellfish ecology, and aquaculture gear and technology.

In March 2021, Sea Grant Consortium and Coastal Carolina University (CCU) Burroughs & Chapin Center for Marine and Wetland Studies (BCCMWS) secured funding from the National Sea Grant College Program to establish a new joint-funded resilience position. The Coastal Processes Program Specialist provides technical expertise necessary to expand our capabilities, broaden our reach, and provide a wider range of services to the many constituencies which are requesting science-based information and technical assistance about coastal processes – the connection between upland watersheds and the ocean, coastal hazards, and enhancing resilience to these hazards. In consultation with key stakeholders and constituencies, the Coastal Processes Program Specialist extends science-based information to coastal communities, resource managers, and interest groups in South Carolina and the region and works with researchers to develop outreach extensions for their projects. The position contributes to research motivated by community needs and provides hands-on operational and technical support for constituents and solicits funding as needed to support projects through the development of grant proposals. Topical areas of work include coastal response to storms and sea level change, coastal and riverine flooding, coastal engineering, coastal hazard adaptation, community resilience, and other synergistic focus areas.

The need to build additional capacity to address the ever-increasing demands by our stakeholders for our products, services, and assistance is as strong as it’s ever been. Currently, the agency does not have any full-time (FTE) vacancies nor anticipate any additional openings as of September 2023. These positions are currently employed as full-time temporary grant employees (TGEs) within our agency and incumbents are provided similar state benefits programs as our classified FTE employees. However, we feel that the employees we have hired into these TGE positions deserve to receive the full suite of benefits that accrue to staff in FTE positions; this transition will provide more stability and comfort deserving of these employees, and enhanced marketability when these positions become vacant in an ever-increasing time of employee turnover (both here at the Consortium and elsewhere). And to emphasize, the Consortium is not requesting any additional appropriations, nor authorization to convert these two (2) positions from TGE to FTE classification.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Sea Grant Consortium		
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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	2
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Engaging Smaller Communities with Technical Assistance
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$83,875 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$83,875
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2024-2025? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	1.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>Fiscal Year 2022-23 Strategic Planning and Performance Measurements: 1.1.1; 1.1.2; 1.1.3; 1.1.4; 1.1.5; 2.1.1; 2.1.2; 2.1.3; 2.1.4; 2.1.5; 3.1.1; 3.1.2; 3.1.3; 3.1.4</p> <p>The Consortium’s FY2024-25 funding request will fill a critical gap in the agency’s ability to effectively engage with these communities and provide them with technology and resources needed to enhance their resilience to climate hazards. This request supports the agency’s mission and goals, and therefore would support all three of the agency’s management and administrative goals and corresponding strategies and objectives. The Consortium is seeking recurring funding to enhance:</p> <p><u>Programmatic Impact:</u> A chief function of the agency is to provide science-based information on issues and opportunities to improve the social and economic well-being of our coastal citizens while ensuring the optimal use and conservation of our marine and coastal natural resources. As an expert in planning and implementing effective community engagement across our strategic areas, the agency provides valuable on the ground perspective and experience in carrying out effective extension programs and in providing priority information to stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Societal Impact:</u> The Consortium works with and supports a number of the agency’s partners and stakeholders (including SC OR- South Carolina Office of Resilience, SCDHEC-Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, SCDNR-Marine Resources Division</p>
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as well as industry-based partners, organizations and individuals) to utilize coastal applied science to benefit the economic growth, public safety, and support of maritime business and industries. This added capacity will allow the agency to improve our effectiveness in engaging communities and the transfer of information to our constituents for their benefit. This information will allow decision-makers to better evaluate the options before them as they balance plans for accommodating future growth, preparing for hazards, fostering economic development, and providing for natural resources conservation.

Economic Impact: As the Consortium shares tools and information with our constituents, it prepares them to make decisions that benefit the economic development of our businesses and communities and ensure efficient investments to remain resilience to changes in weather, tides and storms. The Consortium measures economic benefits and reports the figures to the NOAA National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) as well as to our state entities.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

These funds will allow the Consortium to hire a full-time Coastal Watershed Community Engagement Specialist (Program Coordinator II) to more effectively engage with are smaller communities and provide them with technology and resources needed to enhance their resilience to climate hazards.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

Request: Sea Grant Consortium requests \$83,875 in recurring state appropriations and a full-time (FTE) classified position to establish a new Program Coordinator II position based on the following projected annual expenditures.

\$55,210 (agency midpoint salary/wages for a band five position; approximately 25% above minimum)

\$25,465 (employer contributions based on Department of Administration's Rate Table)

\$3,200 (operational costs calculated from current actual annual costs of software/subscriptions, most recent IT equipment replacement expenditures, plus an additional \$500 in miscellaneous supplies)

Justification: The Sea Grant Consortium is a partnership of its nine member institutions working to generate, translate, and apply coastal and marine scientific information into action to ensure the health and wellbeing of our coastal communities as engines of economic growth, conservers of ecosystem services, and servants to all segments of society in a rapidly changing world. The Consortium's work encompasses diverse issues relevant to local, regional, and national priorities, including healthy coastal ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, weather and climate resiliency, sustainable coastal communities and economies, and environmental literacy and workforce development.

The Sea Grant Consortium reports to both the NOAA National Sea Grant Office and to the State of South Carolina. Due to the success of our program in obtaining resources to build our research and engagement portfolios we identified and reported to NSGO 95 impacts and accomplishments, 50 products, 21 trainings and \$13,636,096 in economic benefits (reported to NOAA through their requested calculation format) from these projects for the state for in 2021. These activities are benchmarked against our strategic plan. Success is critical in leveraging the funding and resources needed to conduct this level of output for our stakeholders.

The growth of the state's population, particularly in the coastal counties expands the need for community engagement. Between 2020-2022 Horry County had the highest population growth (almost 30,000 new residents) of SC counties with Charleston and Beaufort Counties included in the top 10 counties for growth. As this growth increases our constituent base, with it comes the need for increased engagement and education. South Carolina is threatened by a combination of socioeconomic pressures, as well as vulnerability to the impacts of climate hazards, including drought, salinity changes, increased heavy rainfall events, temperature extremes, stormwater flooding, riverine flooding, and sea level rise. While the coast experiences many of these impacts, they are also experienced in counties that are influenced by

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

the ocean in coastal watersheds

In an effort to more effectively engage with these communities and provide them with technology and resources needed to enhance their resilience to climate hazards, the Consortium created the Coastal Watershed Community Engagement Specialist position. The Coastal Watershed Community Engagement Specialist has been supporting two major projects. The Specialist partners with the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) to expand the network of water level sensors in the Pee Dee River area. The Coastal Watershed Community Engagement Specialist has engaged with several coastal watershed communities to understand their water level sensor needs and has successfully worked with communities to install 3 new sensors in Bennettsville, McClellanville, and Rosemont. Other plans for installation are in progress and waiting on proper approvals from SCDOT. In the future there is need to expand this work to other watershed focusing on impacts specific to coastal watersheds.

The Specialist also supports a project funded by the NOAA Climate Program Office Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) focused on understanding the impacts of buyout programs in rural communities by coordinating and facilitating interviews and focus groups with community members. This valuable work has expanded the Consortium's connections with rural and underserved communities in South Carolina.

Due to the success of the Coastal Watershed Community Engagement Specialist, SECOORA recognized the Consortium as a regional leader in the expansion of the water level sensor network, and has now requested that the Specialist coordinate regional efforts across North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. It is helpful for SC communities to exchange information across the region. Another area of planned work portfolio expansion is the Specialist's support of watershed climate resilience planning efforts in the Salkahatchie watershed region in collaboration with the SC Office of Resilience. Following the release of the South Carolina Strategic Statewide Resilience and Risk Reduction Plan and taking place over the next two years, this watershed-based climate resilience planning effort will be the first of its kind in South Carolina. This collaborative effort to benefit the state of South Carolina will greatly benefit from the engagement expertise and relationships of the Specialist.

The Consortium has seen great value in supporting the Coastal Watershed Community Engagement Specialist position, which has brought enhanced community engagement capacity to South Carolina and has allowed the Consortium to develop new relationships and partnerships. Moving forward, the Consortium envisions the Specialist as an expert in planning and implementing effective community engagement across our strategic areas – providing valuable on the ground perspective and experience in carrying out effective extension programs and in providing priority information to stakeholders.

In order to ensure the longevity and continuity of the position, build upon the success to date, and enhance the engagement capacity of the Consortium, the Consortium is requesting state funds to support this position. This will allow the Specialist to continue nurturing existing relationships and expand new ones in these communities and enable the Specialist to support community engagement efforts across multiple programs. Without this support, the Consortium is unable to satisfactorily provide resources to the communities we serve. At the time of this request, the Consortium has no existing vacancies and thus requests an additional classified fulltime employee position as well as the required funding to support the position.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Sea Grant Consortium		
Agency Code:	P260	Section:	48

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	3
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Staff Changes to Meet the Coastal Science Literacy Needs of a Growing Population
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$70,285 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$70,285
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2024-2025? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	1.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>Fiscal Year 2022-23 Strategic Planning and Performance Measurements: 1.1.1; 1.1.2; 1.1.3; 1.1.4; 1.1.5; 2.1.1; 2.1.2; 2.1.3; 2.1.4; 2.1.5; 3.1.1; 3.1.2; 3.1.3; 3.1.4</p> <p>The Consortium’s FY2024-25 funding request will fill a critical gap in the agency’s ability to effectively engage with the increasing number of coastal educators and families in community learning and restoration activities as well as provide information to improve science literacy and workforce development. This request supports the agency’s mission and goals, and therefore would support all three of the agency’s management and administrative goals and corresponding strategies and objectives. The Consortium is seeking recurring funding to enhance:</p> <p><u>Programmatic Impact:</u> A chief function of the agency is to provide science-based information on issues and opportunities to improve the social and economic well-being of our coastal citizens while ensuring the optimal use and conservation of our marine and coastal natural resources. As an expert in planning and implementing effective community engagement and education across our strategic areas, the agency provides valuable information and training to formal and non-formal educators as well as families and communities seeking to improve their own science literacy.</p> <p><u>Societal Impact:</u> The Consortium works with and supports a number of the agency’s partners and stakeholders (including SC OR- South Carolina Office of Resilience,</p>
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SCDHEC-Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, SCDNR-Marine Resources Division as well as industry-based partners, organizations and individuals) to utilize coastal applied science to benefit the economic growth, public safety, and support of maritime business and industries. This added capacity will allow the agency to improve our effectiveness in engaging communities and the transfer of information to our constituents for their benefit. This information will allow decision-makers and community members to better evaluate the options before them as they balance plans for accommodating future growth, preparing for hazards, fostering economic development, and providing for natural resources conservation.

Economic Impact: As the Consortium shares tools and information with our constituents, it prepares them to make decisions that benefit the economic development of our businesses and communities through improvement of marine and coastal science literacy in our students, families and communities. The Consortium measures economic benefits and reports the figures to the NOAA National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) as well as to our state entities.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

These funds will allow the Consortium to hire a full-time Marine Education Program Assistant (Curriculum Coordinator I) to more effectively engage with the increasing number of coastal educators and families in community learning and restoration activities and to provide information to enhance marine and coastal science literacy and workforce development.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

Request: Sea Grant Consortium requests \$70,285 in recurring state appropriations and a full-time (FTE) classified position to establish a new Curriculum Coordinator I position based on the following projected annual expenditures.

\$45,910 (agency midpoint salary/wages for a band five position; approximately 25% above minimum)

\$21,175 (employer contributions based on Department of Administration's Rate Table)

\$3,200 (operational costs calculated from current actual annual costs of software/subscriptions, most recent IT equipment replacement expenditures, plus an additional \$500 in miscellaneous supplies)

Justification: The Sea Grant Consortium is a partnership of its nine (9) member institutions working to generate, translate, and apply coastal and marine scientific information into action to ensure the health and wellbeing of our coastal communities as engines of economic growth, conservers of ecosystem services, and servants to all segments of society in a rapidly changing world. The Consortium's work encompasses diverse issues relevant to local, regional, and national priorities, including healthy coastal ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, weather and climate resiliency, sustainable coastal communities and economies, and environmental literacy and workforce development.

The Sea Grant Consortium reports to both the NOAA National Sea Grant Office and to the State of South Carolina. Due to the success of our program in obtaining resources to build our research and engagement portfolios we identified and reported to NSGO 95 impacts and accomplishments, 50 products, 21 trainings and \$13,636,096 in economic benefits (reported to NOAA through their requested calculation format) from these projects for the state for in 2021. These activities are benchmarked against our strategic plan. Success is critical in leveraging the funding and resources needed to conduct this level of output for our stakeholders.

The growth of the state's population, particularly in the coastal counties expands the need for community engagement. Between 2020-2022 Horry County had the highest population growth (almost 30,000 new residents) of SC counties with Charleston and Beaufort Counties included in the top 10 counties for growth. As this growth increases our constituent base, with it comes the need for increased education. South Carolina is threatened by a combination of socioeconomic pressures, as well as vulnerability to the impacts of climate hazards, including drought, salinity changes, increased heavy rainfall events, temperature extremes, stormwater flooding, riverine flooding, and sea level rise. While the coast experiences many of these impacts, they are also experienced in counties that are influenced by the ocean in coastal watersheds and experienced by all the state's residents who spend some time in the

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

coastal area of South Carolina. This position will enhance the agency's ability to effectively engage with the increasing number of coastal educators and families in community learning and restoration activities as well as provide information to improve science literacy and workforce development.

Sharing the applied science and information developed by Consortium members and our staff benefits our communities, businesses and individuals. We have increased need to communicate this information to all of these groups and to develop and employ communication tools and approaches that reflect program needs and priorities, and that will advance the role of science in effective stewardship and management of coastal resources. As an expert in planning and implementing effective community engagement and education across our strategic areas – the agency also provides valuable information and training to formal and non-formal educators as well as families and communities seeking to improve their own science literacy.

While the Consortium has had part-time Marine Education Program Assistants on an off over the last 8 years, in 2022 a full-time 30-hour position was established on grant funds to expand a K-12-based From Seeds to Shoreline© program to families and communities. We have many inquiries from families on how they can be involved in learning about our coast while restoring coastal ecology that will not only provide habitat to wildlife and seafood but also provide protection from storms. The program has been very successful. Additionally, the Assistant coordinates single- and multi-day educator professional development workshops, collaborating with partners and schools as well as produces the Educator Science Café series and BioDiscovery Project with both formal and non-formal educators. The Assistant is already identifying new opportunities to incorporate research priorities of the Consortium into marine education programs and products and developing and broadening relationships within historically marginalized communities within S.C. by extending the Consortium's marine education programs and resources in Title 1 schools. The assistant evaluates programs to gauge the effectiveness of the Consortium's current marine education efforts and identify new opportunities for the future. The work has been valuable and is needed. With the growth in population bringing both new residents and new teachers to our state, it is important to retain this position as a standard 37.5 hours/week asset for the state.

Under the direction of the Marine Education Specialist, the Marine Education Program Assistant will coordinate K – 12 student programs and outreach, educator professional development opportunities, and community science and stewardship projects reflective of the Consortium's five focus areas (healthy coastal ecosystems, weather and climate resilience, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, sustainable coastal development and economy, and scientific literacy and workforce development) and current research priorities including, but not limited to: coastal resilience, marine debris and water quality, ecosystem dynamics, and career pathways.

Without this support, the Consortium is unable to satisfactorily share the resources produced by the agency with a full range of our citizens, business and visitors to our state. At the time of this request, the Consortium has no existing vacancies and thus requests an additional classified fulltime employee position as well as the required funding to support the position.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

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FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION CONTINGENCY PLAN

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
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AMOUNT	\$32,360
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What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.

ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	N/A
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How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?

PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	<p>This plan, if implemented, would result in a 13.1% reduction of the agency's operating funds, which currently total \$246,528. Of this total amount, approximately fifty-four percent (54%) is allocated for our office space lease in Fiscal Year 2023-24 (\$132,412); the remainder supports our office equipment rentals, state insurance premiums, utilities, IT equipment replacement, IT software needs, and information security support. A reduction of \$32,360 would greatly restrict the ability of the agency from meeting our administrative, fiduciary, and programmatic responsibilities.</p>
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What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?

SUMMARY	<p>The loss of 13.1% of the agency's operating funds would jeopardize the agency's ability to meet its administrative responsibilities, would impact the ability of the agency to meet its programmatic and fiduciary responsibilities, and could affect our current office lease agreement (see Program/Activity Impact).</p>
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Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.

**AGENCY COST
SAVINGS PLANS**

The Sea Grant Consortium is not proposing to implement any cost savings measures over \$50,000 for the upcoming fiscal year.

What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than \$50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?

Agency Name:	Sea Grant Consortium		
Agency Code:	P260	Section:	48

FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE	Reducing Cost and Burden to Business and Citizens
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	\$0
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What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeal or revision of regulations.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

METHOD OF CALCULATION	N/A
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Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.


REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES	N/A; outside of the nominal collection of registration fees to support programs and events hosted by Sea Grant Consortium (FY2023-24 Proviso 48.2), the agency does not implement fees or fines in order to carry out its mission and goals.
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Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?

REDUCTION OF REGULATION	N/A; the Sea Grant Consortium does not have, or need, authority to promulgate or implement regulations.
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Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?

SUMMARY	N/A
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Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?