



May 26, 2011

Dr. Syma A. Ebbin, Research Coordinator
Connecticut Sea Grant College Program
University of Connecticut - Avery Point
Marine Science Building
1080 Shennecossett Road
Groton, Connecticut 06340-6048

Subject: 'Human Dimensions of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems' Request for Proposals

Dear Dr. Ebbin:

The Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) recognizes the value of pursuing social science research to support coastal and marine ecosystem management. Social science research at a regional scale will improve our understanding of the economic, social and cultural drivers that influence our values, perception of the health of our ecosystems, and can inform more effective management techniques and ways to change social behavior.

NROC would like to take this opportunity to endorse proposals that advance projects that are regional in scope and address and inform our most pressing coastal and ocean challenges.

We strongly encourage the selection of a proposal that considers NROC's priority coastal and ocean management issues:

- **Ocean and coastal ecosystem health**, such as: data development projects that support ecosystem-based management and coastal and marine spatial planning, development of metrics and indicators to measure coastal and ocean ecosystem health and climate change, actions in support of a pilot coastal climate change land conservation project, projects that support efforts and increase visibility of regional ocean and coastal ecosystem health initiatives and work groups.
- **Coastal hazards resilience**, such as: projects that promote regional dialogue on broad-scale adaptation strategies for responding to the effects of sea-level rise or projects that act on data acquisition priorities and user-friendly tools needed to support planning for and responses to coastal hazards.
- **Ocean energy siting and planning**, such as: projects that promote communication between government and non-governmental entities regarding ocean energy planning initiatives.
- **Regional coastal and marine spatial planning**, such as: .projects that provide spatial human use information and stakeholder engagement, pilot projects for evaluating ecosystem services and tradeoffs, identification of governmental efficiencies to be gained through CMSP, or projects that assess/identify governance mechanisms for CMSP.

For more information on these priority issues and some of the actions NROC has identified, please see our committee work plans that can be found at: <http://collaborate.csc.noaa.gov/nroc>

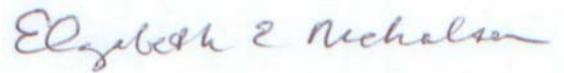
Once proposals are accepted, NROC stands ready to assist in further project design to ensure management application in the areas outlined above.

As NROC's current state and federal co-chairs, we thank you for this opportunity to support human dimension projects for the Northeast region.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Ted Diers in blue ink.

Ted Diers, 2010-11 State Chair
New Hampshire Coastal Program

Handwritten signature of Elizabeth E. Nicholson in blue ink.

Betsy Nicholson, 2010-11 Federal Chair
NOAA Coastal Services Center