

List of Frequently Asked Questions pertaining to OER's 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Question: When are the pre-proposal and full proposal due?

Response: Pre-proposals are due on June 18, 2020 at 11:59 pm EDT via email. Full proposals are due on October 22, 2020 at 11:59 pm EDT via (a) Grants.gov for non-federal applicants or (b) email for federal applicants. (Pre)proposals received after these deadlines will not be considered.

Question: How do I submit my pre-proposal that is due on June 18 at 11:59 pm EDT?

Response: All pre-proposals, including the [required cover sheet](#), must be emailed to oer.ffo2021@noaa.gov. In the email subject line, please state your last name along with the words "ocean exploration pre-proposal", e.g. "Jones ocean exploration pre-proposal". Adobe PDF format is preferred.

Question: Can I submit a full proposal if I didn't submit a pre-proposal?

Response: No, a pre-proposal is required in order to submit a full proposal.

Question: Can I submit a full proposal if I was discouraged after the pre-proposal submission?

Response: Yes.

Question: When is the webinar about the Funding Opportunity?

Response: The webinar was held on May 6 at 1:00 pm EDT and has been posted on the website [here](#).

Question: I cannot attend the webinar. Will the presentation be available to me afterwards?

Response: The webinar was recorded and has been posted on the website [here](#).

Question: Are the three Program Priorities listed in the NOFO the same as the Priority Themes on the cover sheet?

Response: Yes, they are the same: ocean exploration, marine archaeology, and technology. The three Program Priorities listed in the NOFO are detailed descriptions of the Priority Themes on the cover sheet.

Question: How were the Program Priorities decided?

Response: The [Presidential Memorandum on Ocean Mapping of the United States Exclusive Economic Zone and the Shoreline and Nearshore of Alaska](#) outlines objectives related to ocean exploration for federal agencies. It is highly recommended that applicants read through the Memo and familiarize themselves with OER's [activities](#).

Question: Can I check more than one topic area on the cover sheet?

Response: No, you must choose one topic area that best represents your project. This does not preclude you from submitting a proposal that covers more than one topic. Each topic area on the cover sheet has corresponding qualifications on geographic location and water depth in the NOFO that must be applied when evaluating the application.

Question: Does the area of interest for the NOFO include the entire U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and potential U.S. Extended Continental Shelf (ECS)?

Response: Areas of interest for the NOFO are waters under U.S. jurisdiction, including the entire U.S. EEZ and areas of interest to the [U.S. ECS Project](#), some of which have already been mapped.

Question: Does the area of interest for the NOFO include the Great Lakes?

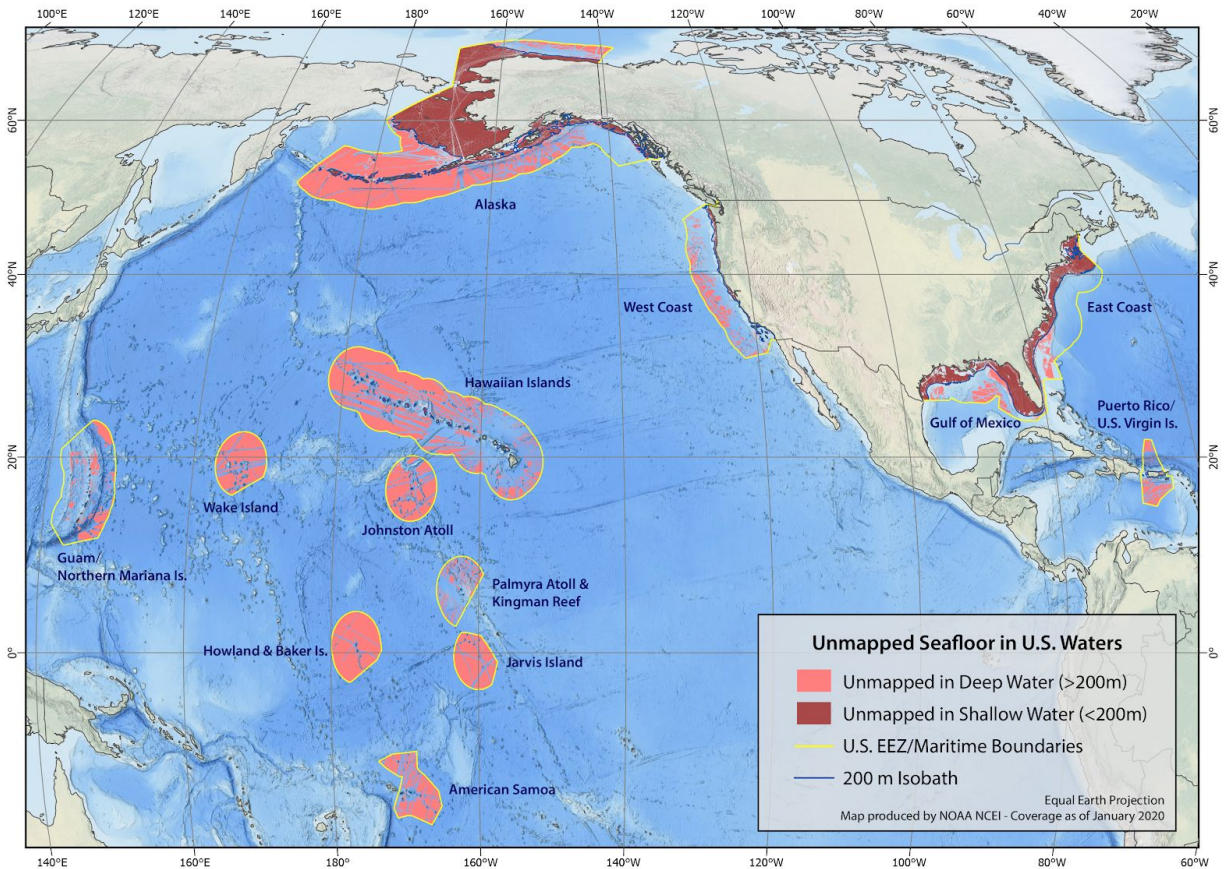
Response: U.S. law generally treats the Great Lakes as part of the nation's "maritime jurisdiction". Therefore, the Great Lakes are of interest for the NOFO. The same depth limitations apply to the Great Lakes as ocean areas; projects must be conducted in waters deeper than 200 meters for the ocean exploration and technology themes. Marine archaeology projects in the Great Lakes may take place at any water depth.

Question: Are both nearshore and offshore areas of interest for the NOFO?

Response: There is no requirement related to distance from shore other than the boundaries of U.S. jurisdiction. However, technology testing can be conducted outside of these boundaries. Additionally, proposed work must be conducted in, or applicable to, water depths of at least 200 meters with the exception of marine archaeology proposals.

Question: Where are the unmapped areas and bathymetric gaps of the U.S. EEZ?

Response: Please refer to the map below created by the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (updated January 2020). For those looking for more detail, please visit the [NOAA Bathymetric Data Viewer](#) and [NOAA bathymetric gaps data](#). A useful resource for overlaying available bathymetry to other data layers in GIS is additionally available [here](#).



Question: What is the maximum award amount? Is there a minimum amount?

Response: The proposal budget must be between \$75,000 to \$750,000 total (one to two-year awards). Any proposal budget that is not within this range will not be considered.

Question: How should ship time and platform costs be accounted for in a proposal?

Response: Ship time and platform costs must be included on the cover sheet, which is required for both pre- and full proposals. At the pre-proposal stage, a short budget justification can be included. A more detailed budget justification and table are required for full proposals. Note: ship time on NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* will not be funded through this funding opportunity.

Question: Should I include a UNOLS Ship Time Request Form with my full proposal?

Response: If the project is planned to utilize a UNOLS asset, it is encouraged, but not required, to submit a UNOLS Ship Time Request Form at the full proposal stage.

Question: Can I write a proposal that involves analyzing previously collected data?

Response: Yes, there is no requirement to collect new data. Previous proposals that have been successful highlight the innovative methods and technology used for data analysis.

Question: Are applicants from non-academic institutions eligible to apply for this funding opportunity?

Response: Eligible applicants are U.S.-based institutions of higher education; non-profit institutions; state, local, and tribal governments; federal agencies; for-profit organizations; and U.S. territories that possess the statutory authority to accept funding for this type of work. It is highly encouraged that first-time applicants familiarize themselves with NOAA and OER's missions, and review [previously-funded projects](#) to see what types of proposals have been successful in the past.

Question: Can foreign nationals be supported through this funding opportunity?

Response: The only way foreign nationals may be supported through this funding opportunity is with a subaward in collaboration with an eligible U.S.-based entity.

Question: May I send my proposal to the Program Manager for input before I submit?

Response: No, this may give you an unfair advantage. However, you may reach out to the Program Manager for general questions about preparing your submission.

Question: What happens to unfunded proposals? Are they kept for consideration in future calls?

Response: OER does not typically retain unfunded proposals for future consideration. Proposals should be re-submitted and re-competed for each call.

Question: (Non-federal applications only) Do I really need to submit each section of my proposal separately into Grants.gov rather than one single document?

Response: Yes, you do. This is how the system requires proposals to be submitted.