

**NWX-DOC CONFERENCING (US)**

**Moderator: Kara Meckley  
June 2, 2015  
2:00 pm CT**

**Coordinator:** Welcome and thank you for standing by. I would like to remind all parties that your lines have been placed on listen-only until the question-and-answer portion of today's conference.

At that time if you're wishing to ask a question, please press star 1 on your touch-tone phone and please be sure your telephone is unmuted and clearly record your name at the prompt so that your question may be introduced.

Today's conference is being recorded. If you should have any objection, you may disconnect at this time. It is now my pleasure to introduce your first speaker today, Ms. Kara Meckley, Chief for the Habitat Protection Division in NOAA Fisheries. Thank you, ma'am, you may begin.

**Kara Meckley:** Thank you. Good afternoon and welcome to the external stakeholder Webinar overview of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service and National Ocean Service Fiscal Year '15 resilience grants programs. Thank you for your interest in these funding opportunities and for your patience as we get all of you signed-in to the Webinar and audio connection.

I'm Kara Meckley from the Office of Habitat Conservation in NOAA Fisheries. Joining me in leading this call are Tisa Shostik and (Melanie Gainge), also from the NMFS Office of Habitat Conservation as well as Adam Stein and Elaine Vaudreuil from the National Ocean Service Office for Coastal Management.

Just to remind you want to let you know that we are recording this Webinar so that it can be posted and available on our public NOAA resilience grants Websites for all potential applicants to access.

All parts are currently muted and our operator will provide instructions once again at the end. Today we'll be talking about both the NOAA Fisheries and National Ocean Surface competitive federal funding opportunities or FFOs and I'll start with just a little background on what resiliency is followed by introducing the NMFS FFO.

Across the two programs NOAA will provide up to \$9 million total for the grants selected under these FFOs. The purpose of today's information session is to help all interested individuals understand these two funding opportunities and the difference between them so that you know best which federal funding opportunity is most appropriate for a proposal you'd like to submit.

The definition of resilience that you see here at the bottom of the slide is based on the National Resource Council and is the basis for both of the NOAA FFOs. We see these two federal funding opportunities as complementary programs.

The ecosystem resilience FFO from NOAA Fisheries will focus on the development of healthy and sustainable coastal ecosystems through on the ground habitat restoration projects.

The regional coast resilience FFO from the National Ocean Service will focus on developing resilient coast communities and economies through planning and policy implementation and Adam will explain that focus in more depth in just a few moments. Many projects may be eligible for both FFOs but projects that are strong in one competition will likely be weak in the other.

The evaluation criteria and point weights assigned to the criteria are different between the two federal funding opportunities so it's important that applicants pay close attention to the specific evaluation criteria details that are provided within each FFO. Whether a project type is completely ineligible for one or both competitions will be covered later in our presentation today.

Focusing on the NOAA Fisheries coastal ecosystem resilience grants, you'll notice that this FFO features a focus on our NMFS core mandates and authorities that drive our work including the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act and the Endangered Species Act in addition to its primary resiliency focus.

Successful applications will focus both on creating resiliency for coastal ecosystems to benefit communities as well as on species protected and managed by these two primary mandates.

This slide further lists the four priorities within the NMFS FFO including an emphasis in on-the-ground restoration, a demonstrated socioeconomic benefit, increasing ecosystem function that also reduces hazards for communities and lastly showing partnerships among the stakeholders.

And I want to highlight that we're aiming for projects that can implement on-the-ground actions within the first year so that we can demonstrate results and

the positive impact of this program as soon as possible. A planning project would be eligible for this FFO but would not be a priority for lack of an on-the-ground habitat restoration focus.

And while both FFOs favor projects with multiple stakeholders, since successful NOAA Fisheries applications will be on-the-ground projects, these projects aren't expected to be multi-jurisdictional as might be the case with the regional nature of the National Ocean Service FFO. This slide shows potential project types and are examples only and not an exhaustive list.

If an applicant can demonstrate that their proposed habitat restoration project improves resilience for coastal ecosystems to decrease the vulnerability of surrounding communities, it should be put forward for consideration under this funding opportunity regardless of habitat or project type.

As you all know, the FFO is currently available on grants.gov and applications will be due on July 2nd. We recognize this is a short timeframe but we want to award projects as soon as possible and as such have limited the application period to 45 days.

We expect that strong on-the-ground habitat restoration project applications that can begin implementation within this first year will be projects that already have substantial planning in place and we also strongly recommend that applicants do not wait until that July 2nd deadline to begin the application submission process through grants.gov.

There are several steps needed to setup an organization's grants.gov account prior to submission so please keep this in mind in developing your submission timeline. The dollar amounts shown here are the minimum and maximum

federal requests. Applications below or above these limits will not be reviewed and we do not have flexibility outside this range.

We expect that typical award amounts will range from \$500,000 to \$1 million and a cost match is required at a 2-to-1 ratio for example a \$500,000 funding request must propose a minimum of \$250,000 in non-federal match for a total project cost of \$750,000 for the project.

Applications with no non-federal match or non-federal match that does not meet the minimum amount will not be reviewed. As far as project eligibility all organization types are eligible as long as it's not another federal government agency or an individual. Your project must increase the resilience of a U.S. coastal community.

Eligibility projects will be proactive and not in response to any kind of mitigation or court order and also land acquisition or beach nourishment projects are not eligible.

A state governor's office letter is required prior to award but not with the application on the July 2nd deadline. We know this will be tricky for some applicants to get so we're going to give you as much time as possible.

The due date for that letter is published in the federal funding opportunity and is July 31st which we expect should be after the proposal review period. If your state's governor will not provide a support letter for an individual project, please submit a letter from an official that is appointed by your governor and have that official copy the governor on that letter.

Many of you are likely familiar with the restoration competitions run by the NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation community-based restoration

program in past years including the Fiscal Year '13 coastal and marine habitat restoration grants so we wanted to highlight a key difference between these two funding opportunities.

Many of the same types of habitat restoration projects will qualify for this coastal ecosystem resiliency FFO; however, the main emphasis in this FFO is on increasing ecosystem resiliency to decrease the vulnerability of coastal communities.

Whereas the main focus of the community-based restoration program project is to implement restoration projects to benefit species that are managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Act as well as the Endangered Species Act.

And now I'm happy to transition to Adam Stein from the National Ocean Service Office for Coastal Management who will present information on the regional coastal resilience grants FFO and I'll also quickly remind everyone that we will open-up the discussion for questions at the end of Adam's presentation. Adam? Adam, if you're on mute, please unmute yourself.

Adam Stein: Thanks, good afternoon, good morning everyone. This is Adam Stein. I'm going to talk to you about the regional coastal resiliency grants program.

The three objectives of this program are to make coastal communities and economies more resilient by reducing risk and increasing their ability to recover and adapt, to inform decision-making using environmental, economic and social science information and lastly to employ regional approaches by engaging stakeholders and demonstrating collaboration and resource leveraging.

In the context of this program a regional approach is one that's defined one that is highly collaborative, leverages resources and mechanisms such as partnerships, builds coordination across jurisdictions and/or sectors and results in new or additional capacities across a broad geographic area.

For this competition regions can be defined as multistate, multicounty, multicity or town or multisite. Next slide, please. Priority will be given to projects that address strategies and relevant plans.

Those plans may include but are not limited to land and ocean use plans, community development, resource management, resource protection, hazard mitigation, predisaster recovery or other similar plans. Priority will also be given to projects that leverage available resources.

Those resources may come from across government, industry and NGOs and may include but are not limited to program investments, partnerships, data, tools, trainings and funding or in-kind match from non-federal sources and lastly priority will be given to projects that use clear evaluation measures. Next slide, please.

Potential project activities include those which identify and address priority data information and capacity gaps, develop tools to inform sound, science-based decisions in support of regional efforts to plan for a resilient ocean and coastal economy, acquire and integrate socioeconomic information with physical and biological information, to improve the assessment of risk and vulnerability for planning and decision-making, understand how hazards and changing ocean conditions affect coastal economies including existing and emerging sectors that depend on the ocean and coasts. Next slide, please.

Potential project activities also include those which developed information and approaches needed for improved risk communication and necessary tools, technical assistance and training tailored toward enhanced resilience, evaluate the costs, benefits and trade-offs of systems-based development or redevelopment approaches that incorporate those natural defenses and hard structural solutions and lastly those activities which support the development of sustainable recovery, redevelopment and adaption plans and implement programs and projects that incentivize rebuilding and development approaches which reduce risk and increase resilience.

Next slide, please. Eligible applicants for this competition include regional organizations, nonprofit organizations, private entities, institutions of higher education and coastal, state, territorial, tribal and local governments.

Regional organizations are defined as those entities that operate at a multistate, multicounty or multicity or town scale such as councils of government. Next slide, please.

Full applications are due on July 24th. The award minimum and maximum award amount for the competition is \$500,000 up to \$1 million for federal funds. The award period for projects may be between 12 and 36 months and like the National Marine Fisheries' competition, a 2-to-1 ratio of federal to nonfederal contributions are required. Next slide, please.

We did want to mention the future of NOAA's resilience funding. The President's FY '16 budget provides \$50 million to NOAA to identify and support resilience projects. The majority of that would be directed to the National Ocean Service with some funding for the National Marine Fisheries Service to fund on-the-ground coastal ecosystem resilience projects.

And important consideration for the regional and coastal resilience grants programs is that proposal is not funded in Fiscal Year 2015, may be considered for funding in another fiscal period with NOAA repeating the competitive process outline in this announcement. Next slide, please, so here we've included contacts for these individual programs.

On the left you'll see contact for the Fisheries Service. Questions not addressed on this teleconference today can be addressed to (Melanie Gainge) for the Fisheries Service FFO or to myself Adam Stein or (Lisa Wore) for the regional resilience grants competition. Kara, I think I'll turn it back to you to open the Q&A.

Kara Meckley: Great. (Emily) would you like to remind everyone of the instructions for asking a question, please?

Coordinator: Thank you. At this time anyone wishing to ask a question or make a comment, please press star 1 on your touch-tone phone. Please be sure your telephone is unmuted and clearly record your name at the prompt so your question may be introduced. Once again it is star 1 if you wish to ask a question. One moment, please. And our first question comes from (Don Allen). Your line is open.

(Don Allen): Hi. Yes, this is (Don Allen), Eureka, California. I was just wondering about the process of getting the letter from the state governor, you know, since we're looking at a July 2nd timeline, you know, we've got basically a little less than a month, I was just looking for some tips on how to go about getting that letter.

(Melanie Gainge): Hi John, this is (Melanie Gainge) so we want to make sure that everybody is playing close attention to the fact that we do not require the letter with your application. We were very aware that that was going to be a challenging

timeframe to meet so while your applications are due on July 2nd, we don't need to see those letters until July 31st and that is published in the FFO.

We don't have any specific guidance on how you go about that because that depends on each agency or organization type but as Kara mentioned if you are finding that you can't get in touch with the governor's office and they are not able to provide support letters for individual projects, please be in touch with somebody who's been appointed by the governor, have them write that letter and copy the governor's office on that letter.

(Don Allen): Okay, thank you.

(Melanie Gainge): Thank you.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from Monique Derfuss.

Monique Derfuss: Yes, hi, Monique Derfuss, Conservation International. Thank you both very much for the presentation, it's very helpful, very clear. Quick question on funding, you mentioned the FY '16 available funding for grants. If you could repeat that figure and then also put it in perspective for us, comparing it to the available funds for grounds for FY '15? Thank you.

Adam Stein: Sure. Go ahead.

(Melanie Gainge): Go ahead, Adam.

Adam Stein: The FY we have up to \$9 million in funding for this current fiscal year for both programs and the President has requested in the FY '16 budget \$50 million, 5-0.

Monique Derfuss: Excellent, thank you very much.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (D.J. Brandowski).

(D.J. Brandowski): Yes, this is (D.J.) with the (Huroch) tribe in Northern California. My question is in regards to how far within the watershed can a project be implemented, on-the-ground implementation dollars spent in terms of, you know, interfacing with the coastal tributary?

(Melanie Gainge): Thanks for that question. For the coastal ecosystem resiliency grants, if you consider your community to be a coastal community, please convey that in your application.

You will notice that there are evaluation criteria under importance and applicability section that also address whether or not the species benefited by your restoration project are species that it's within the National Marine Fisheries Service jurisdiction to care for and so that's your second thing to pay attention to in those evaluation criteria.

This is (Melanie Gainge). My contact information is on the screen and if you have more specific questions about your project, please feel free to give me a call.

(D.J. Brandowski): Thank you.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Joel Gereline).

(Joel Gereline): Hi. My question has to do with the match funding. I'm wondering if we're applying for a second phase of a project that's already in process, thinking of a marsh restoration project for example or even an adaptation planning project

that is building on an earlier completed phase, is it possible to setup the project start date so that we can count match that's already been expended for the earlier phase of the project?

(Melanie Gainge): Again this is (Melanie Gainge) with NOAA's restoration center. You are right in that match does have to be generated within the award period and that will be true for both competitions. There are generally limits on how far in advance is the start date you could potentially request some pre-award costs.

Also each of these funding opportunities suggests a start date and for the fisheries on-the-ground restoration funding opportunity, that start date is October 1st. I would again suggest that you give me a call afterwards to discuss the particulars there.

(D.J. Brandowski): Thank you.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Lauren Land).

(Lauren Land): Hi. My question is related to the NOAA regional resilience grant. Are funds eligible to be spent on actual construction?

Adam Stein: This is Adam. No. These are not funds that are intended for construction. I think there may be cases where if they were a very minor amount of funds depending on the specific construction requirement but the intention as you'll see in the evaluation criteria construction project would likely not be very competitive.

(Lauren Land): Okay, thank you.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Julie McDonald).

(Julie McDonald): Hi. I am wondering if there can be more than one application from a single applicant?

(Melanie Gainge): Yes, there can. There are no limits on the number of applications from any one organization, one geographic region, anything like that. For both of these opportunities though please review at the back of the funding opportunity you're going to see selection factors.

And what you will see in that list of selection factors is that once the selecting official has a ranked list, they are able to skip over projects and not fund things in ranked order so it would probably be unusual to fund two proposals from one applicant but they are both eligible and it is possible that we might fund two applications from one applicant.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Lisa Stratton).

(Lisa Stratton): Hi. I was you sort of answered this with your start date of October 1, 2015. A lot of times the review process takes six months and so I wasn't sure if a project that's currently planned to start October 2016 would be competitive or should we apply and hope to get funding in the 2016 round?

(Melanie Gainge): So is that question specifically directed to the coastal ecosystem resiliency grants, we are looking for projects that can start within about 12 months of your start date. Your start date does not have to be October 1st. There's some leeway there so if you have a project that you believe would go to construction in October of 2016, it does seem like something that would be competitive.

(Lisa Stratton): Great, thank you very much.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Megan Mackey).

(Megan Mackey): Hi. I actually just wondered whether the PowerPoint presentation would be available to us?

(Melanie Gainge): Yes, it will.

(Megan Mackey): Awesome.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Julie Maldonado).

(Julie Maldonado): Yes. I was wondering if it's possible for communities from two different regions to apply together for a cross-regional collaboration?

Adam Stein: Yes, that is certainly an eligible activity and I would again direct you to the evaluation criteria to ensure that the project concept aligns with those evaluation criteria but yes, that would certainly be eligible.

(Julie Maldonado): Thank you.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Amanda Campbell).

(Amanda Campbell): Hi. I was wondering around Washington, D.C. It looks like it's not on the list of eligible beneficiaries of this grant. Is that true?

(Melanie Gainge): I believe for both competitions, all coastal states including D.C., is that correct for NOS as well, would be eligible. Let me double-check quickly. It's definitely eligible for the coastal ecosystem resiliency grants and we're double-checking on the regional coastal resiliency program.

Woman: The regional coast resilience grant does not include the District of Columbia.

Adam Stein: Any chances to was there a reason that that geography was eliminated?

Woman: I think the eligible states and territories generally aligned with those that are eligible under the Coastal Zone Management Act.

(Amanda Campbell): Oh, okay, got you. Thank you.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Mariah Kelly).

(Mariah Kelly): Yes, hi. This question is for Adam. He had given a definition of collaboration and said that it was multistate, multicounty, multicity or town and I'm wondering does that include multi-institution or multi-higher ed institutions specifically?

Adam Stein: Yes, absolutely. In terms of project stakeholders, there are criteria that incentivize working across multiple institutions as well as working across multiple geographies.

(Mariah Kelly): Okay, thank you.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Kerry Williams).

(Kerry Williams): Yes, thank you. I'm (Kerry Williams) from the (Toledo) tribes in Washington and I think (Megan Massey) probably asked my first question that was for the materials would be available. I had them sent to me but they wouldn't open so I'd really like to get a fresh copy with the criteria.

But the other question is in the funding with the, you know, categories, use for facilitation or is there limitations on the types of requests you can make?

(Melanie Gainge): That - this is (Melanie) - and I'm going to speak specifically to the coastal ecosystem resiliency grants. I think that there are no particular types of costs that I can tell you off the bat would be denied. Those are in general based on federal grants regulations so I would recommend that you give me a call and we can discuss the types of costs that you're thinking about.

(Kerry Williams): Okay, do you have a number to actually call you at?

(Melanie Gainge): My number, this is (Melanie Gainge) and my number is up on the screen right now.

(Kerry Williams): Yes, I'm not getting a screen, that's part of the problem.

(Melanie Gainge): Okay, do you have the federal funding opportunity?

(Kerry Williams): Yes.

(Melanie Gainge): Okay, my number is in there as well as is my e-mail address.

(Kerry Williams): Okay, and yes, I have - the reason I asked you the question - was I did talk to (Robin O'Malley) from USGS and (Will Stout) from NOAA on discussions they've had at CEQ on funding for different types of facilitation when you're doing broad categories of state and local government, private individuals, businesses and so on.

And they were not sure what types of limitations might be in place but what I mean to ask in this particular funding that question but I'll call you.

(Melanie Gainge): Thank you.

(Kerry Williams): All right, thank you.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next comes from (Juliet Hart).

(Juliet Hart): Hi there. I have questions about the potential collaborators on projects. Are you allowed to have international collaborators if they're not necessarily the prime on the proposal?

Adam Stein: For the regional coastal resilience grant competition, yes. International partners are welcome to serve as project team members and collaborators as long as they're not receiving funding.

(Melanie Gainge): And for the coastal ecosystem resiliency grants program, just a reminder that the project has to be occurring in a U.S. coastal community so that but there's no restriction on having an international collaborator if that's valid for that project.

(Juliet Hart): Okay, so that just to be clear, they can be a partner but they can't receive any of the funding?

Adam Stein: Correct.

(Melanie Gainge): That varies. That is correct for the NOS competition that Adam mentioned. They would be eligible to receive funding let's say salary funding for the fisheries competition.

(Juliet Hart): Okay, great, thank you very much.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Tony Rios).

(Tony Rios): Hi, calling from the town of Islip from New York. My question is related to the watershed. We have approval from New York State for two watershed projects that we're going to begin shortly. I was wondering can I use those funds as matching funds?

And the second question is if you can explain the in-kind allocation, what examples of some of those costs that could be shared.

(Melanie Gainge): Do you have a particular competition that you're more interested in so we can direct you...

(Tony Rios): Yes, yes, the coastal ecosystem resilience grant. You know, it's a watershed grant.

(Melanie Gainge): Okay, so your question involved what kind of in-kind match are eligible. In-kind match is often salary time that's maybe paid under a different funding source, sometimes volunteer time is considered in-kind match so there's no real restriction on what kind of in-kind contribution can be counted as match as long as that in-kind contribution is non-federal and occurs during the project period.

(Tony Rios): Okay.

(Melanie Gainge): So state funding would be eligible matching funds as well.

(Tony Rios): Would you happen to know if New York State would allow a reciprocal agreement where I could use federal funds for project, you know, because currently...

(Melanie Gainge): That is likely up to your other funding agency as to what kind of matching funds they accept.

(Tony Rios): Right, okay, because the project is already basically approved and, you know, this looks like I could actually expand it to include your funds. That'd be nice.

(Melanie Gainge): Thanks for your question and please do follow-up with me specifically for more details if you have further questions.

(Tony Rios): Okay, thank you.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Clarence Filarne).

(Clarence Filarne): Yes. My question is about the coastal ecosystem resiliency grant and I'm in the Great Lakes and I'm wondering what my eligibility is for projects in freshwater? I saw that one bullet about the ineligibility for projects that benefit only freshwater fish but that's sort of my situation so just wondering if you could comment on that.

(Melanie Gainge): Thanks for that question. We are going to clarify these frequently-asked questions, the frequently-asked questions for the coastal ecosystem resiliency grants program were posted at grants.gov with the application.

And so if you left your e-mail address there at grants.gov, you will get a notification when we update these frequently-asked questions and if you go ahead and contact me, I will put you in touch with some of our Great Lakes

staff specifically so that we can discuss your project but in general you're right, we do have to put some clarification in there about freshwater fishery projects in the Great Lakes. Thank you for asking that question.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Pippa Brashear).

(Pippa Brashear): Yes, I just had a very specific question about funding and interested in knowing if state CDBGDR funds can be used as a local match.

(Melanie Gainge): This is (Melanie Gainge). I don't know what those are so hopefully you can follow-up with me afterwards specifically either on the phone or via e-mail but in general states' funds are eligible match.

Adam Stein: This is Adam. The CDBG funds are provided by HUD which is a federal entity and so federal funding cannot be used to satisfy the nonfederal match requirement unless it's authorized to be used as nonfederal match and so again we will have to follow-up specifically on CDBG. I do not think that it could be used as nonfederal but again we'll be updating our FAQs and we'll be sure to include that.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Sarah).

(Sarah Potski): (Sarah Potski). This is (Sarah Potski) in the Pacific Islands and my question this is more directed to Adam Stein, several organizations may contain federal employees but are regional in nature. They contain federal and nonfederal members. Are organizations that contain federal membership on its roster not allowed to apply because of that federal membership even though the bodies may be comprised of both nonfederal and federal members?

Adam Stein: The actually PI - the actual applicant - who would be receiving the funds would need to be nonfederal but we are you'll see in the evaluation criteria we are incentivizing, promoting collaboration across jurisdictions, different types of organizations and stakeholders and so we certainly do expect there to be regional organizations I think is the way we described them within this competition to apply for funding.

It's important that the actual applicant who may be applying on behalf of that entity is nonfederal.

(Sarah Potski): Okay, so you guys are actually expecting applicants then from the regional planning bodies?

Adam Stein: Excuse me?

(Sarah Potski): I said you're actually you guys then are expecting applications from the regional planning bodies then?

Adam Stein: Yes, we think that our regional partnership groups as long as the actual applicant is nonfederal, they are certainly eligible.

(Sarah Potski): Excellent, thanks Adam.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Rebecca Esselman).

(Rebecca Esselman): Hi, yes. I'm interested in knowing I'm also a Great Lakes community person and for the regional coastal resilience grants, can the work include noncoastal communities if the outcomes build resilience in coastal communities?

Adam Stein: If the for example if the application is let's say a university or an NGO whose headquarters are not located in a coastal area but the work benefits coastal communities, yes. That would be an eligible applicant.

(Rebecca Esselman): We're a watershed group so we work in communities, you know, on water resource issues so it'd be flood impacts which involve working in communities upstream of our Great Lakes coast but that would build resilience in our coastal communities.

Adam Stein: Yes, I think those would be eligible activities. We would again I might suggest that you contact me at my through e-mail and over the phone and we could talk specifically. We also will be updating our FAQs with a link to a Website that will show for this competition show where our current division for coastal communities exists.

(Rebecca Esselman): Okay, thank you.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Alec Loncheski)'s location.

(Alec Loncheski): Hey, how are you? This is Captain (Al) with the American Littoral Society. My question is about habitat restoration and I'm just curious if they're going to have questions for having permits in place or being shovel-ready and if not, do we need to show proof that there's been regulatory interaction and also if we need other letters of support other than the governor's?

(Melanie Gainge): Thanks for that question. You'll see in the evaluation criteria and in the program priorities that there is an emphasis on projects that can go on the ground and get constructed within 12 months of your award start date.

So you don't necessarily need to have your permits in hand but it is generally a good idea to show that you've had some communications with the regulatory community and that they are supportive of your project. Was there a second follow-up to your question?

(Alec Loncheski): Yes, I just asked if we needed other sources or other letters of support other than the governor's.

(Melanie Gainge): It's listed in the FFO. It's something that would be beneficial to show that you have a lot of stakeholders and a lot of support for the project but there's nothing else that is required in order to make an award.

(Alec Loncheski): Thank you

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Kate Brimstone). I'm sorry, (Kate Brimrelis).

(Kate Brimrelis): That's okay so my question is sort of someone mentioned about the regional coastal resilience grant, how multijurisdictional projects might be prioritized. I'm wondering if that means that the project itself should be in different jurisdictions or the communities affected or even the project partners?

Adam Stein: I would direct you to the evaluation criteria. There are different ways that this is incentivized in regards to leveraging of resources from different say jurisdictions or institutional partners and then also within regards to your project partners and stakeholders.

(Kate Brimrelis): Okay.

Adam Stein: So - go ahead.

(Kate Brimrelis): Oh no, go ahead.

Adam Stein: I just wanted just to clarify that there are different ways than the evaluation criteria to gain points to make your concept more competitive in both leveraging resources and involving multiple stakeholders.

(Kate Brimrelis): Okay, and then I actually had a secondary question if I can throw that out about the same grant. You said that that funding is available for planning and I don't think anyone has asked us yet but if that planning applies to like construction planning or as well as environmental documentation and those types of requirements.

Adam Stein: We have not specified in regards to planning which types of planning activities are eligible or ineligible.

(Kate Brimrelis): Okay.

Adam Stein: So I would again need to direct you to the evaluation criteria to ensure that whichever planning activity you may propose supports the program priorities.

(Kate Brimrelis): Okay, thank you.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Jill Andrews).

(Jill Andrews): Yes, thank you. My question is in regard to the coastal ecosystem resiliency program. The principle objective of that FFO is to strengthen resilience of coastal ecosystems and to decrease the vulnerability of communities to extreme weather.

And we just wanted to make sure we understood how communities was defined. In there are you referring to human communities specifically or human and animal/plant?

(Melanie Gainge): You want to make sure that your project is benefiting human communities but you're going to do that through doing some sort of ecosystem restoration that is also going to benefit animal communities or plant communities.

(Jill Andrews): Okay, thank you.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Bobby Morris).

(Bobby Morris): Thank you. I'm calling to just clarify two points. One was it's my understanding that you said you cannot have construction. With respect to the coastal ecosystem resilience grant, would an artificial reef that has been permitted and mapped qualify as construction or would that be appropriate?

(Melanie Gainge): Yes, let's go ahead and clarify that, this is (Melanie) so speaking in regards to the coastal ecosystem resiliency grants program, we do expect people to construction habitat restoration on the ground for that funding opportunity. For the regional coastal resilience grant, Adam I'll let you respond about construction funding.

Adam Stein: No, we do not expect to be funding construction projects with the regional coastal resilience.

(Melanie Gainge): Did that clarify?

(Bobby Morris): And I'd like a clarification on one more point that you said. The other one you said that you cannot fund anything with respect to beach nourishment and I'm

wondering if a project that might impact positively a town with respect to dredging and moving sand to prevent flooding would qualify under Adam's area?

Adam Stein: Under the regional coastal resilience grants?

(Bobby Morris): Yes.

Adam Stein: Beach nourishment would not be an eligible activity for that competition either.

(Bobby Morris): It's not eligible?

Adam Stein: No.

(Bobby Morris): Okay, okay, thank you so much.

Adam Stein: Thank you.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (David Barnett).

(David Barnett): I had the same question about application to the Great Lakes region. I think you've already addressed it, thank you.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Dawn York).

(Dawn York): Yes, this is (Dawn York) from (Cape View River Watch) on the (Cape View River) in North Carolina. (Melanie), I appreciate the presentation you guys have done a great job. One quick question I have with regards to bidding-out

contractors or consultants that will be actually either implementing or constructing the habitat restoration project.

Is there a bidding requirement through NOAA that the applicant would have to go through in order for the consultant to be hired on to implement the project?

(Melanie Gainge): Issues related to procurement be it of contractors or anything else are going to be determine by the federal grants regulations. Those are in the Code of Federal Regulations in 2 CFR 200 and I can help you with that kind of issue on a one-on-one basis but in general the federal government supports competition.

(Dawn York): Great, thank you so much.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Lillian Johnson).

(Peter Ridalla): Yes, hi this is (Peter Ridalla) with (Lillian Johnson). We'd like to follow-up a little bit more on the beach nourishment prohibition in the ecosystem resiliency program. Dune restoration, I'm wondering if dune restoration independent of beach fill may qualify for ecosystem restoration.

And the second part is if you can discuss this prohibition with respect to the near-shore placement of sand in the bar system to act as a feeder to the beach and also to the dune system?

(Melanie Gainge): Thanks for asking your question. I do think this one is probably one better handled offline on a one-on-one basis so please do call me. This is again (Melanie Gainge) and my contact information is up on the screen and in the FFO.

As a small point of clarification, a dune restoration project would be an eligible project type but I understand that it might be tricky to figure-out where one ends and the other begins so that's why I'd like to discuss that individually.

(Peter Ridalla): Thank you (Melanie).

Adam Stein: (Emily) if I could pause and provide one point of clarification on the question related to construction projects. Within the regional coastal resilience grant competition, those activities that are location-specific for example a project seeking a small amount of funding for construction or a site-specific planning or redesign, those are eligible.

However, they must demonstrate broader - be able to demonstrate - some broader geographic impact beyond that particular site. Thank you.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Laura Ingerman).

(Laura Ingerman): Yes, I just had a clarification question on the coastal resilience grants. I heard no construction so there's the evaluation criteria is on things that can demonstrate, you know, recovery or building resilience so are you considering either sea level rise, adaptation plans and, you know, more planning documents and maybe economic resilience analyses?

Are those considered sufficient deliverables or are you looking for something that's a little bit more on the ground in terms of weighting the evaluation criteria?

Adam Stein: Those would certainly be eligible activities and I do think that whether it would be developing an additional plan or implementing strategies from existing plans and those are certainly the types of activities that this competition is intended to support.

In regards to the clarification again on construction, a project that would be proposing a major construction effort to address say impacts to one of the environmental drivers we've listed such as sea level rise in one particular location is not likely to score well because it would not likely result in broader geographic impact.

And so I think the point here is that a small-scale pilot project that required some construction costs as long as for it to be competitive it would need to this construction cost would be eligible but for that project to be competitive, it would need to have broader geographic impact across additional sites or jurisdictions or geographic areas.

And again if you have specific questions on the particular activity, I'm happy to take that through e-mail or phone.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Ray Newby).

(Ray Newby): Nonfederal cost share, is there limitation under both of these grant programs as to how much can be provided through work in-kind?

(Melanie Gainge): For the coastal ecosystem resilience grants program, there is no qualification or restriction on in-kind versus cash match and I will let Adam answer that question for his competition.

Adam Stein: That would be the same case for ours. There would be no restriction on the in-kind.

(Ray Newby): Okay, under the coastal ecosystem resilience grants, can the value of sediment be used as part of the nonfederal cost share?

(Melanie Gainge): I'm going to follow-up with you specifically on that one. That is not a straightforward answer but thank you for asking that and do give me a call.

(Ray Newby): Okay, thank you.

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from (Julie Decker).

(Julie Decker): Hi. About the resiliency grant, it was mentioned that people that applied that did not receive in FY '16 didn't necessarily have to reapply in a competitive process the following year. Could you expand a little bit more about that?

Adam Stein: Sure, that was for the regional coastal resilience grants competition. We have allowed the flexibility for those applicants that score well and we're not able to fund them because of our limitation of available resources. We would have the discretion to be able to fund those projects if additional funds are appropriated in FY '16. Does that clarify, does that answer your question?

(Julie Decker): Yes, thank you very much.

Coordinator: Thank you and our next question comes from (Mariska).

(Mariska Veramone): Hi, yes, this is (Mariska Veramone) from the Pacific Island fishery science center. I have a question about ecosystem modeling. I mean, I can see

ecosystem modeling fit under both of these programs and I was wondering if you think it fits better on the one or the other.

(Melanie Gainge): This is (Melanie Gainge). Ecosystem modeling might be a part of an eligible grant under the coastal ecosystem resiliency program but you would have to have a much larger and the portion of that be on the ground restoration.

(Mariska Veramone): I see.

Adam Stein: And I would provide a similar answer for the regional coastal resilience grants competition that ecosystem modeling on itself would likely not be competitive. It could be an eligible activity within a much broader project.

(Mariska Veramone): Okay, thank you.

Coordinator: Thank you and at this time I'll hand the call back to our speakers for closing remarks.

Kara Meckley: Thank you very much. We appreciate all of your questions and interest in these two federal funding opportunities and look forward to seeing your applications in the next one to two months. Thank you very much for joining today.

Adam Stein: Thank you, everyone.

Coordinator: This does conclude today's conference. Thank you so much for joining. You may disconnect at this time.

END