

NOAA's Undersea Research Program (NURP)
CARIBBEAN MARINE RESEARCH CENTER

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FY2006

Undersea Research on Tropical and Subtropical Marine Ecosystems

As one of six NURP Centers under the auspices of NOAA's Undersea Research Program (NURP) (www.nurp.noaa.gov), the Caribbean Marine Research Center (CMRC) (www.perryinstitute.org) is presently soliciting proposals for undersea research in the Caribbean region for FY2006. The present announcement is soliciting pre-proposals for **three** specific funding opportunities:

- 1) **NURP funds for one to two year projects focusing on NOAA/NURP research priorities under the research theme of *Examinations of the effectiveness of 'no-take' marine protected areas to be initiated in 2006*; and**
- 2) **NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program (NCRCP) funds for one to two year projects (with one year preferred) that address the following priority research needs for the U.S. Caribbean: *overfishing, pollution, coral disease and bleaching, and invasive species, and the impact of these stressors on coral reef ecosystems. The evaluation of management effectiveness is also encouraged. Note that there is requirement of 100% non-federal match for these funds; and***
- 3) **University of Puerto Rico's Caribbean Coral Reef Institute (CCRI) funds for one or two year projects that address the following research priorities in Puerto Rico: *Basic assessment of resources, understanding reef processes, research to enhance the MPA process, water quality and coral reef health, dynamics of coral diseases and syndromes.***

These competitions are contingent upon CMRC receiving adequate funds from NOAA/NURP and CCRI receiving annual funding from Congress.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Please note that pre-proposals are required. See the *Proposal Guidelines for full description of the FY2006 Request for Proposals and instructions for submitting proposals; all documents will be available at www.perryinstitute.org.*

At this time we are soliciting pre-proposals for undersea research in the Caribbean for the year 2006 in the three funding opportunities outlined above.

For Funding Opportunity #3: Proposals will be accepted for work within Puerto Rico.

CMRC also encourages innovative uses of existing data and inter-site comparisons throughout the Caribbean. The *in situ* approach supported by NURP allows acquisition of otherwise unobtainable observations, samples, and experimentation related to NOAA's priority research objectives.

Eligible applicants are U.S. institutions of higher education, not-for-profit institutions, and state, local and Indian tribal governments. Proposals may include federal researchers as collaborators with a researcher who is affiliated with a U.S. academic institution, non-federal agency, or any other non-profit organization. Federal organizations may not charge federal salary, travel, or overhead, but other categories are appropriate. For proposals with a federal partner, the federal partner will receive funds through an inter-agency transfer (or intra-agency in the case of a NOAA partner) from the national NURP office. ***Note: Federal researchers are not eligible to apply for funds under the CCRI funding opportunity, but are encouraged to collaborate with eligible applicants.*** .

Pre-proposals are required and must be submitted by email by May 15, 2005. Pre-proposals will help ensure that appropriate research guidelines are addressed, and permit operations staff to evaluate feasibility. **Pre-proposal Requirements:** (1) All pre-proposals should be <3 pages and give a summary of the proposed research, describe research goals, address the methodological approach, estimate the level of support required, and include full contact information for the principal investigator; (2) for NURP/NCRCP, pre-proposals should also describe facilities/equipment requirements, outline time or logistic constraints, and give area of operations including depths; and (3) for CCRI, pre-proposals should address potential management applications. If you are interested in submitting a proposal that addresses any of these funding opportunities and you require further information please contact CMRC at pims@perryinstitute.org or 561-741-0192; for questions regarding CCRI pre-proposals may be directed to lillian@cima.uprm.edu or rappeldo@uprm.edu. **ALL Pre-proposals must be sent to pims@perryinstitute.org.**

Proposal budgets for NURP/NCRCP funded projects generally range from \$10-70K for direct scientific support. Smaller feasibility studies (<\$5K) may also be supported as program development projects (*see www.perryinstitute.org for details*). Proposals that have co-funding for data analysis and investigator salaries have the greatest rate of approval. Funding of the second year of proposals will be contingent upon progress and funding availability.

Proposal budgets for CCRI funded projects should range from \$30,000 to \$50,000, but larger budgets (up to \$115,000) may occasionally be considered. CCRI supports scientific research and monitoring of Puerto Rico's coral reef ecosystems. These activities are directly aimed at understanding the natural and anthropogenic processes and stresses affecting coral reef ecosystems and to enhance Puerto Rico's capacity for science-based management. CCRI is housed at the University of Puerto Rico and each year is allocated funds by Congress through NOAA's Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research (CSCOR). CCRI's Management Committee sets research priorities and makes final decisions concerning specific projects to fund. Support of research by CCRI is dependent upon the availability of yearly funding by Congress. CCRI will support one or two-year proposals. Funding of the second year of proposals will be contingent upon demonstrable satisfactory progress and funding availability. Therefore, two-year proposals must have milestones and delivered products scheduled for each year that meet program specifications (see Proposal Guidelines). One-year proposals will be scheduled for funding in the first or second year at the discretion of the CCRI.

On the basis of the pre-proposals, requests for final proposals will be issued together with final submission guidelines. **Final proposals are due at CMRC by August 1, 2005.** Following peer review of the proposals, projects will be ranked by technical review panels on the basis of scientific merit, contribution to NOAA/NURP and NCRCF or CCRI programmatic goals, contribution to research theme, management relevance, and logistical considerations. Investigators funded by NURP/NCRCF will be notified of the status of their proposals by January 2006. Investigators funded by CCRI will be notified of the status of their proposals in December 2005.

DEADLINE FOR PRE-PROPOSALS IS MAY 15, 2005

DEADLINE FOR FULL PROPOSALS IS AUGUST 1, 2005

Address proposals, questions, or comments to:

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Please see our web site (www.perryinstitute.org) for more details on our programs, information and guidelines for proposal preparation, previous research projects, publication list, and present research activities.