

**NOAA's Undersea Research Program
HAWAI'I UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY
and
NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program**

**REQUEST FOR PRE-PROPOSALS
CY 2007 and CY 2008
for**

Coral Reef Research in U.S. Pacific Waters

The Hawai'i Undersea Research Laboratory (HURL), a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Undersea Research Program Center, in partnership with the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) is soliciting research pre-proposals for coral reef research for calendar years 2007 and 2008. Proposals should contain an in situ field component, which may include standard SCUBA or advanced diving practices (e.g., saturation, mixed gases, and rebreathers). Additionally, HURL and University of Hawai'i assets, including the R/V *Ka'imikai-o-Kanaloa* and the 900 m remotely operated vehicle *RCV-150*, may be available to support operations in remote areas.

THE OPPORTUNITY

This funding opportunity is for one to two year research projects that address one or more of the following key threats facing U.S. coral reefs: overfishing, pollution, invasive species, disease, climate change, and coral bleaching. Proposals should be geared towards management-oriented research to 1) develop a better understanding of the role of these threats in coral reef ecosystem decline; 2) predict the impacts from and responses of reef communities to these anthropogenic and natural stressors; and 3) design, test and evaluate the effectiveness of specific reef management measures. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how the scientific information, tools, or other products from the project would enable resource managers to address threats to reefs and advance conservation of coral reef ecosystems.

Geographic Regions of Interest. The waters of the Main and Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, America Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Pacific Remote Insular Areas, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

Examples of desired research areas that proposals may address:

- ◆ Define the role of keystone species within coral communities and determine how they sustain such roles through studies of their trophic and behavioral webs, physiological metrics in comparison to other guild members (including reproductive physiology), recruitment dynamics, and population dynamics.
- ◆ Study the life histories of economically important marine organisms associated with tropical coral ecosystems.
- ◆ Improve the understanding of how ecosystems function, including interrelationships between environments, populations, species, and individual organisms to predict how such systems will react to change.
- ◆ Develop and test approaches to restore damaged or degraded coral reefs.
- ◆ Develop models to accurately predict the effects of environmental changes (including natural events).

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Pre-proposals are required.

Eligible Applicants. Eligible applicants are U.S. institutions of higher education, not-for-profit institutions, and state, territory, and local governments. Proposals may include federal researchers as collaborators with a researcher who is affiliated with a U.S. 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.

Required Non-Federal Match. CRCP funds have a requirement of a **100% non-federal match**. Non-federal matching funds may be comprised of a variety of public and private sources and may include in-kind contributions and other non-cash support. In accordance with 48 USC 1469a(d), this match requirement is waived for governments of Insular Areas (i.e., jurisdictions of Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands).

Proposal Budgets. Proposal budgets for funded projects should range from \$50-70K for direct scientific support. All proposals must include necessary equipment costs (i.e., diving gear, boat rentals) in their budget. The 2007 day rate for the R/V *Ka'imikai-o-Kanaloa* with the 900m remotely operated vehicle *RCV-150*, is expected to be about \$21,000. This cost may be shared among several proposals for simultaneously scheduled work in a nominated area.

Funding of proposals is contingent upon HURL receiving adequate funds from NOAA. Multi-year funding will be awarded on an annual basis. Continuation of out-year funding will be contingent upon funding availability and the determination by the awarding agency that the selected proposal is on course to provide both interim and final products.

Pre-Proposal Submission Guidelines. Pre-proposals may be up to three single-sided pages in length (two-page pre-proposals are welcome), using 1 inch margins, double-spacing, and font no smaller than 12pt Times New Roman. Pre-proposals should contain a summary of the proposed research including: hypotheses to be tested; a brief description of the experiments and methods to be employed; any relevant time constraints; the area of operations including latitude, longitude, and depth; and an estimate the level of support required, including equipment costs to conduct the proposed research. This will ensure that appropriate research guidelines are addressed, and will permit operations staff to evaluate feasibility. **Pre-proposals are due to HURL on December 29, 2006.** These must be submitted electronically to hurl@hawaii.edu as standard PDF or Word files, or via postal mail as a CD with a hardcopy to the address listed below. Submissions will be acknowledged.

Final Proposals. Requests for final proposals will be issued on the basis of the pre-proposals. **Invitation for submission of full proposals will be issued on or about January 12, 2007. Final proposals are due to HURL by March 12, 2007.**

Inquiries should be directed to Dr. John R. Smith (808) 956-9669, jrsmith@hawaii.edu.

ADDRESS PROPOSALS TO:

CRCP Research
Hawai'i Undersea Research Laboratory
University of Hawai'i
1000 Pope Rd MSB 303
Honolulu, HI 96822
email: hurl@hawaii.edu