

COASTAL CONNECTIONS



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

A BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION FOCUSED ON TOOLS FOR COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGERS

JUNE / JULY 2006

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Don Scavia
Professor and Research
Associate Dean, University
of Michigan; Director,
Michigan Sea Grant Program

Hometown: Schenectady,
New York

Education: BS and MS
in environmental
engineering, Rensselaer
Polytechnic Institute; PhD in
environmental engineering,
University of Michigan

**Most fulfilling aspect of your
job:** Teaching and working
with graduate students on
understanding and addressing
complex environmental issues
through multidisciplinary
approaches.

**Most challenging aspect of your
job:** Balancing the demands of
serving our students through
teaching and advising, with
my desire to rekindle an active
research program and the
Sea Grant and associate dean
duties.

**One work-related
accomplishment you're proud
of:** Leading an Integrated
Assessment of Causes and
Consequences of Hypoxia
in the Gulf of Mexico and

Continued on Page 2

THIS ISSUE'S FOCUS

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND GRANT WRITING

Each year, governmental and nongovernmental organizations seek to make improvements to their programs through grants and funding. Where can people go to learn more about funding and grant opportunities, why is the information important to coastal managers, and what can make the difference between a successful and rejected grant application?

Grants (grants-in-aid) are programs funded by Congress that provide moneys to accomplish desired goals. Whether for a new project, education aid, or endowment funds, grants can provide the monetary security many organizations need.

"The objective is to funnel federal dollars to relevant issues and causes without creating another program. In other words, the focus is on efficiently helping to meet common goals," says Melissa Patterson, coastal management specialist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coastal Services Center.

Normally, sponsors award research grants for scientific, cultural, or charitable purposes. In general, grants can be very broad; the key is to find a compatible funding resource.

"One of first things you need to do is to make sure the goals and objectives of the project match the purposes of the organization you're applying to," says Patterson.

Grant Writing

Grants come in many different types, but they typically have two common features: they are awarded competitively and may require some kind of match. A cooperative match means the organization receiving the grant must supply something of value—either money or something in-kind (office buildings, volunteers, supplies, labor, etc.).

Before beginning the grant process, applicants must clearly understand the rules and guidelines. They must then organize the proposal, pay attention to details and specifications, use concise, persuasive writing, and request reasonable funding.

Successful grant writing involves the coordination of several activities, including planning, searching for data and resources, writing and submitting a proposal, and following up with the organization. Grant writing is a long and arduous process, but this hard work, along with some good fortune, can result in the funding of the project.

Profile continued from Page 1

helping to craft the primary goals of the subsequent management action plan.

One personal accomplishment you're proud of: Helping raise two wonderful daughters

Things you do in your spare time: Golf, kayak

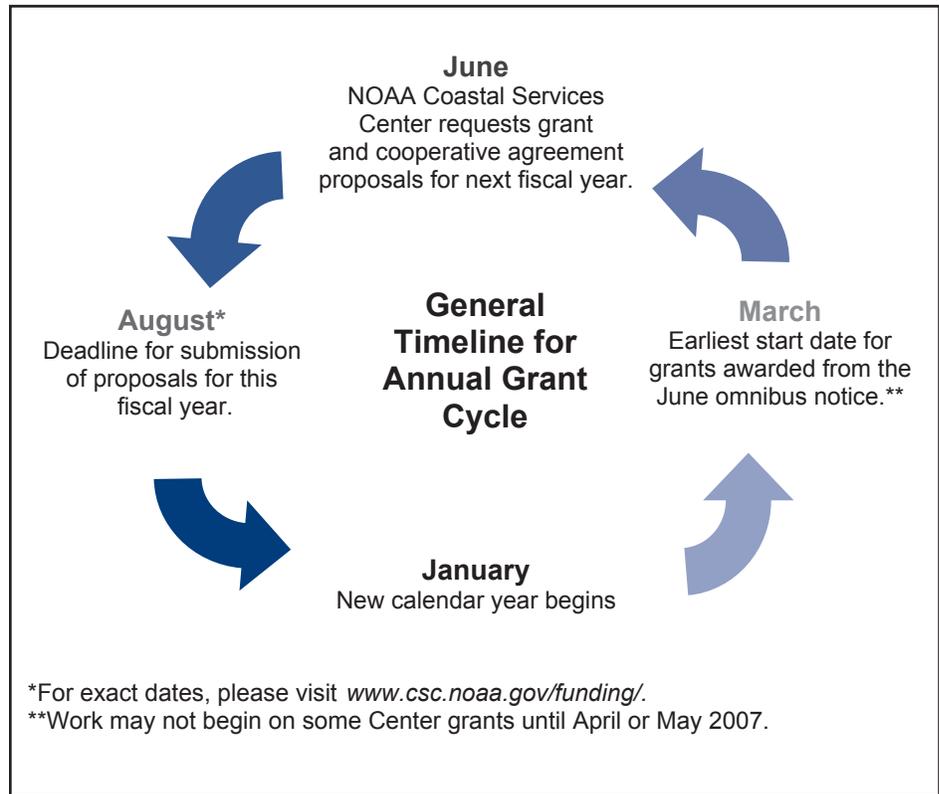
Family: Wife, Ellen Scavia; daughters (Sarah Mullins, MD, and Jessica Scavia, second year law school).

Favorite movie: *Big Fish*

"I began my professional career as a research scientist at NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab (GLERL) in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where I was also able to get my PhD in environmental engineering at the University of Michigan.

"After 15 years at GLERL, we moved to Maryland when I became the director of NOAA's Coastal Ocean Program, a competitive grants program focused on interdisciplinary coastal and Great Lakes research. As part of several NOAA reorganizations, I became first director of the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science and then the chief scientist for the National Ocean Service.

"After over 14 years inside the Beltway, I was given an opportunity to return to Ann Arbor and my alma mater. I have been professor and associate dean in the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment and the Michigan Sea Grant director for the past two years. The return to Ann Arbor has been terrific for Ellen and me. We have been able to rekindle old friendships and build new ones in what has been referred to as six square miles surrounded by reality!"



HOW TO FIND AND APPLY FOR GRANTS

What is Grants.gov?

Grants.gov is the federal government's system that allows anyone to find and apply online for grants and cooperative agreements. The Web site creates a centralized place to find and apply for more than 900 grant programs from the 26 federal grant-making agencies.

The Web site, led by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, lists grant opportunities totaling more than \$350 billion and provides all the appropriate forms needed for proposal submittals. Before using the Grants.gov system, new applicants must complete all the preliminary steps on the site. Return users can skip these preliminary steps. For instructions on how to apply for funding, visit the NOAA Coastal Services Center's Web site at www.csc.noaa.gov/funding/.

NOAA PROVIDES COMPETITIVE FUNDING

NOAA's Coastal Services Center provides funding for special projects undertaken by the coastal management community. These funds are available in the form of competitive grants and cooperative agreements.

Each fiscal year, NOAA announces available grant funding through an omnibus notice—a listing of all federal funding opportunities for one organization—published in the *Federal Register*. To eliminate confusion, the notice shows all of NOAA's competitive grant opportunities in one place, at one time.

Generally, only one notice goes out per year. However, the Center occasionally publishes additional notices if new funds become available.

The Center will publish its funding announcement for the upcoming fiscal year at the beginning of June, with proposals generally due 60 to 90 days

after publication. Applicants should submit grant proposals electronically using *Grants.gov*. Applicants without Internet access may submit hard copy application packages—which are also due by the same deadlines (sometime in August).

Click on www.csc.noaa.gov/funding/PDFs/Add_Expl_Defn_Tips_grants.pdf to help answer frequently asked questions, address common mistakes, and explain terminology.

ADDITIONAL FEDERAL FUNDING

Although the NOAA Coastal Services Center funds many projects each year, it simply does not have the funds to cover all grant requests. However, many other federal organizations provide sponsorships for research, grant options, and funding resources. A few of these Web sites are profiled here.

- NOAA's National Ocean Service and National Marine Fisheries Service, in cooperation with Restore America's

Estuaries, developed *A National Strategy to Restore Coastal and Estuarine Habitat* and funding opportunities: http://era.noaa.gov/htmls/era/era_projfund.html

- The NOAA Restoration Center developed the Community-based Restoration Program Web page to disseminate information about grant opportunities offered through its funding partnerships. Grant opportunities are posted continually as partnerships are developed and funding becomes available: www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/funding_opportunities/funding.html
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funds many efforts to conserve wetlands habitat, as well as sport fish, bird, and other wildlife species: www.fws.gov/habitat/ActivitiesList.htm
- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funds environmental education, natural resource management, habitat protection and restoration, and conservation policy development. Many grant opportunities are listed here: www.nfwf.org/programs.cfm

RESOURCES AND TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL GRANT WRITING

Wondering how your organization can apply for a much-needed grant? Need to research all the different funding opportunities and learn more about them? The NOAA Coastal Services Center's Web site provides a helping hand to coastal managers through information and tips on grant writing and funding opportunities. From beginner to expert, all users can find valuable information.

- **Common Pitfalls** – These links focus on identifying common mistakes grant seekers make and how to avoid them: www.csc.noaa.gov/funding/oops.HTML
- **Quick Refreshers**
These brief overviews of the grant writing process are good for a refresher or an introduction: www.csc.noaa.gov/funding/QuickRefreshers.html
- **In-Depth Grant Writing Guides** – These guides take grant seekers through the grant writing process start to finish. In general, the guides are easily printed for reading or reference. On-line tutorials listed here provide helpful tips, examples, and exercises: www.csc.noaa.gov/funding/GrantWriting.html

To find out more of what the Center can do for you, visit www.csc.noaa.gov/funding/.

Looking for Funds in All the Right Places?

The NOAA Coastal Services Center is seeking grant and cooperative agreement proposals for fiscal year 2007.

Visit this site to learn about these and other funding opportunities!

Now accepting applications
www.csc.noaa.gov/funding/

Coastal Connections is a publication of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Coastal Services Center, produced for the coastal resource management community. Each issue of this free bimonthly newsletter focuses on a tool, information resource, or methodology of interest to the nation's coastal resource managers.

Please send us your questions and suggestions for future editions. To subscribe or contribute to the newsletter, contact our editors at

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NEWS AND NOTES

California and the World Ocean 2006 Conference

The California and the World Ocean conference will take place September 17 through 20 in Long Beach, California. For more information, visit <http://resources.ca.gov/ocean/cwo06/> or contact cwo2006@completeconference.com.

Subcommittee Plan Now Available On-Line

The Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR) was formed in March 2005 as part of the ocean governance structure described in the president's Ocean Action Plan. SIMOR focuses on implementing ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes management actions that will benefit from interagency coordination. SIMOR's work plan is now available on-line at http://ocean.ceq.gov/about/sup_simor_workplan.html.

Honor Awarded to Sanctuary Superintendent

Billy Causey, superintendent of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, was recently selected by the University of South Florida to receive an honorary PhD in marine science. For more information, visit www.marine.usf.edu/FIO/.

Vacancies

Connecticut Sea Grant Program Seeks Director

The University of Connecticut is seeking a director of its Sea Grant College Program in Groton, Connecticut. For more information and requirements for the position, contact Leigh.Lafleur@uconn.edu or visit www.seagrants.uconn.edu.

Transitions

Elizabeth "Liz" Scheffler was recently named chief financial officer of the National Ocean Service... Jack Salas, manager of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Coastal Resources Management Office, will be moving on... Eldon Hout, director of the National Ocean Service's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, has retired... Capt. Roger Parsons, head of the Office of Coast Survey, has also retired; Capt. Steven Barnum has been named the new head of Coast Survey and will serve as the new goal team lead for the NOAA Commerce and Transportation goal... Jennifer Brewer has been named manager of the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

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