

**CRITERIA APPLICABLE IN EVALUATING PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS  
IN THE NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM**

- 1. Rationale** - the degree to which the proposed activity addresses an important issue, problem, or opportunity in development, use, or management of marine or coastal resources.
- 2. Scientific or Professional Merit** - the degree to which the activity will advance the state of the science or discipline through use and extension of state-of-the-art methods.
- 3. Innovativeness** - the degree to which new approaches to solving problems and exploiting opportunities in resource management or development, or in public outreach on such issues will be employed; alternatively, the degree to which the activity will focus on new types of important or potentially important resources and issues.
- 4. Qualifications and Past Record of Investigators** - degree to which investigators are qualified by education, training, and/or experience to execute the proposed activity; record of achievement with previous funding.
- 5. User Relationships** - degree to which users or potential users of the results of the proposed activity have been brought into the planning of the activity, will be brought into the execution of the activity, or will be kept apprised of progress and results.
- 6. Relationship to Sea Grant Priorities** - degree to which the proposed activity relates to priorities in guidance provided in documents of the National Sea Grant Office or in descriptions of special focus programs.
- 7. Programmatic Justification** - the degree to which the proposed activity will contribute, as an essential or complementary unit to other projects, to reaching the objectives of a sub-program in a state, regional, inter-institutional, or national sea grant program or the degree to which it addresses the needs of important state, regional, or national constituencies.