**Request for Proposals for the 2021-2023 “Oceangoing Research Vessel Program”**

*Date of Issue*: March 15, 2021

*Due Date*: April 16, 2021, 5:00pm, Pacific Time

*Target Date for Notice of Award*: May 7, 2021

Oregon State University (OSU) requests proposals for the use of the OSU’s research vessels to conduct research and study of the waters of the Pacific Coast. Pending approval by the Oregon legislature, the State of Oregon is planning to provide approximately $350,000 under the “Oceangoing Research Vessel Program” in each year of the biennium beginning on July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023.

New for this biennium only: OSU is planning to transition operation of the *R/V Oceanus* to the *R/V Taani*, the new NSF-funded Regional Class Research Vessel. The *R/V Oceanus* is scheduled to be taken out of service at the end of 2021, and the *R/V Taani* may be ready for service in fall 2023. Therefore, neither OSU large research vessel is available for 2022 and the first half of 2023. Based on this transition schedule, proposals for work on *R/V Oceanus* during the second half of 2021 are encouraged. Suggested dates for the 10 days total available in this first half of the biennium are below. For 2022 and the first half of 2023, proposals are welcome that make use of OSU’s *R/V Elakha* and *R/V Pacific Storm*. More details about these vessels are provided below. Lastly, there is a chance that *R/V Oceanus* will be in operation through early 2022, but that decision will not be made for some months. We appreciate proposer’s flexibility during the transition to the *R/V Taani* and look forward to the outstanding capabilities of this new state-of-the-art research vessel.

We also recognize that any needed UNOLS-led, COVID-19 restrictions may still limit use as we enter the new biennium in July 2021. We encourage proposers to stay in touch with current COVID-19 guidelines by visiting the UNOLS web site and directing any questions to OSU’s Marine Superintendent, Kaya Johnson (contact information below). There is also the possibility of more remote participation if COVID-19 restrictions limit the scientific party size; please contact OSU’s Marine Technician Superintendent, Andrew Woogen (contact information below) for additional details.

Potential areas of research include, but are not limited to:

1. Mapping the seabed in Oregon’s territorial sea, as defined in ORS 196.405;
2. Analyzing marine ecosystems, including but not limited to existing marine reserves, existing marine protected areas, proposed marine reserves and proposed marine protected areas;
3. Analyzing the potential effects of climate change, including but not limited to ocean acidification;
4. Compiling comprehensive assessments of overall ocean health;
5. Understanding ocean dynamics, including but not limited to natural hazards such as tsunamis; and
6. Installing instruments to effectively monitor the impact of wave energy systems, marine reserves and marine protected areas on marine ecosystems and fish populations.

Educational activities might include, but are not limited to, university-level classes about oceanographic research and/or the techniques of making oceanographic measurements at sea. Graduate students enrolled in an Oregon public 4-year university are encouraged to consider submitting a proposal as Principal Investigator and/or to serve as Chief Scientist during the approved ship days.

Proposals for ship use away from the waters of the Pacific Northwest coast, that is, those that coordinate with OSU research vessel work in other parts of the world’s oceans, may be considered, but priority will be given to research proposed for Pacific Northwest waters, with particular emphasis on waters off the Oregon coast.

A list of previous projects supported by this program is available at:

<https://ceoas.oregonstate.edu/oceangoing-research-vessel-program> .

*Proposals for work from 1 July to 31 December 2021*

During 1 July to 31 December 2021, proposals that make use of OSU’s *R/V Oceanus* are welcome. At the current *R/V Oceanus* day rate, including a marine technician to assist in the use of shipboard scientific equipment and over-the-side operations, plus in-port charges this amounts to about 10 days of ship time per year. Given the number of ship days supported under this program and the intent to use them for a number of diverse activities, proposers are discouraged from asking for the entire allotment of ship days. Therefore, proposals for use of the *R/V Oceanus* should be submitted for projects that utilize up to, but not limited to, 5 days. Special circumstances may be discussed with the Chair of the Research Vessel Council (see *Review Process* and *Further Information* below).

The 177-foot *R/V Oceanus* is a mid-sized research vessel designed for expeditions lasting two to four weeks and accommodates a scientific party of up to 13, possibly increased by a few under special arrangements. Outfitted with three winches and a crane, the *R/V Oceanus* is often used for deploying oceanographic buoys and moorings and for hydrographic surveys, though it is capable of all types of chemical, biological, and geological studies. For further information about the *R/V Oceanus* capabilities, please see <http://ceoas.oregonstate.edu/oceanus/>.

Given the research vessel scheduling process, proposals asking for ship days in 2021 will need to fit those days into the draft *R/V Oceanus* 2021 schedule. Potential available days in the second half of 2021, subject to change, are in mid-August to late September, and from mid-November to the end of the year.

*Proposals for work from 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2023*

During 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2023, proposals that make use of OSU’s *R/V Elakha* and *R/V Pacific Storm* are welcome. Based on the day rates for these vessels, approximately 50-60 days may be available during this time period. Given the intent to use these days for a number of diverse activities, proposers are discouraged from asking for the entire allotment of ship days. A suggested target amount for an individual proposal is 5-10 days. Special circumstances may be discussed with the Chair of the Research Vessel Council (see Review Process and Further Information below).

The 54-foot *R/V Elakha* is a small research vessel designed for day use in coastal and estuarine waters, and has a small laboratory area, berthing for four, and a small galley. The *R/V Elakha* can accommodate a scientific party of up to 8 for trips less than 12 hours offshore, up to 2 for longer trips offshore where two operators will be required (limited by sleeping accommodations), and up to 13 for trips inside Yaquina Bay or other inland waters. Scientific capabilities include a 1,000-pound capacity A-frame and winch, and a flow-through water sampling system. For further information about the *R/V Elakha* capabilities, please see <https://ceoas.oregonstate.edu/rv-elakha> .

The 84-foot *R/V Pacific Storm* is a medium, steel-hulled research vessel with a 24-foot beam that is outfitted for year-round coastal service. The vessel can accommodate up to 7 people (beyond the crew) in 3 cabins for overnight and extended science missions up to 30 days duration. The R/V Pacific Storm has excellent low-speed handling and positioning. A 5-ton articulating A-frame on the stern can launch and recover small boats, moorings, and sampling equipment. Additional features include a dry-lab, knuckle boom with a 5-ton lifting capacity, and an aft deck area measuring 27’ long by 23’ wide. For further information about the *R/V Pacific Storm* capabilities, please see <https://mmi.oregonstate.edu/research-vessels> .

*Leveraging*

Please include information about what additional resources you will bring to augment the use of the research vessel days or how the proposed work will help you leverage further study. Examples include providing specialized sampling equipment to augment the OSU research vessel’s scientific equipment, providing education and/or outreach support, or plans for using the results obtained during the state-supported ship days as a basis for seeking further support.

*Who May Submit*

Proposals may be submitted by Oregon state agencies and by students and faculty at Oregon public 4-year universities. Collaborative proposals with Oregon community colleges or other educational entities, but led and submitted by Oregon state agencies or students and faculty at Oregon public 4-year universities are encouraged.

*Proposal Format and Submission*

Proposals should be a maximum of 5 pages including a 1-page Curriculum Vitae for the Principal Investigator. Appendices are not allowed, but use of Web URLs is allowed. Proposers use this [SMARTSHEET FORM Link](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/cf165524a26d4db2be1c9b5f05ac00cf) to upload your proposal

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/cf165524a26d4db2be1c9b5f05ac00cf>

* If you have any problems with the SMARTSHEET form – email [susan.emerson@oregonstate.edu](mailto:susan.emerson@oregonstate.edu)
* Make sure you check the box at the end of the form to send yourself a copy of your responses
* Want to make sure your application was received through SmartSheet? email [Susan.Emerson@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Susan.Emerson@oregonstate.edu) and I will confirm receipt of the application.

*Timeline*

Proposals are due by April 16, 2021, 5pm, Pacific Time. Successful proposers will be notified of their selection by approximately May 7, 2021. The Research Vessel Council will work with the Principal Investigator to schedule the use of a research vessel for selected proposals as part of the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System ship scheduling process (UNOLS, [www.unols.org](file:///C:\Users\Jack\Documents\OSU-ship\ResearchVesselCouncil\www.unols.org)).

*Review Process*

Proposals will be evaluated by the Research Vessel Council, consisting of seven members appointed by the President of Oregon State University. Members include a trained scientist with at least five years of marine research experience, one member who has expertise in marine operations or marine education, and one member from each of the following agencies: State Department of Fish and Wildlife; State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries; Department of Land Conservation and Development; and Department of Environmental Quality.

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the: (a) Proposal’s geographical area of study; (b) quality of the submitted management, research or educational rationale; (c) potential for leveraging future work; and (d) feasibility of accommodating the proposed work within the schedule of federally funded projects for the research vessel.

*Deliverables*

Data collected during ship days funded under this request using the *R/V Oceanus* general use shipboard scientific equipment (e.g., flow-through water property system, Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler, Conductivity-Temperature-Depth) will be reported to the national data archives (e.g., National Geophysical Data Center – NGDC, National Oceanographic Data Center - NODC) using the Rolling Deck to Repository system ([www.rvdata.us](http://www.rvdata.us)). Other data, in particular, those obtained using equipment supplied by the Principal Investigator, remain the property of the Principal Investigator although the Principal Investigator is encouraged to submit their data to appropriate national and state data archives.

The Principal Investigators selected under this announcement shall provide a summary of the research, scholarly findings and educational and outreach activities conducted using the allotted ship days to the Research Vessel Council no later than the first of September following the end of Oregon fiscal year during which they sailed (1 September 2022 for cruises between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022; 1 September 2023 for cruises between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023). Please include a list of all persons sailing aboard the OSU research vessels or directly benefiting from the proposed activities, including their affiliation and role. These summaries may be sent to the Chair of the Research Vessel Council whose contact information appears below.

*Further Information*

* For further information about the proposal process, questions about eligibility or suitability of potential proposals for use of OSU research vessels, please contact Research Vessel Council Chair Jack Barth (1-541-737-1607, [jack.barth@oregonstate.edu](mailto:jack.barth@oregonstate.edu)).
* For questions about OSU research vessel operational capabilities please contact OSU Marine Superintendent Kaya Johnson (1-541-867-0225, [kaya.johnson@oregonstate.edu](mailto:kaya.johnson@oregonstate.edu)).
* For questions about the capabilities of OSU’s research vessels’ scientific equipment and remote presence, capabilities please contact OSU Marine Technician Superintendent Andrew Woogen (1-541-737-4622, [andrew.woogen@oregonstate.edu](file:///C:\Users\barthj\Documents\OSU-ship\ResearchVesselCouncil\2021proposals\andrew.woogen@oregonstate.edu)).

Please note funding for this program is contingent on future appropriation from the Oregon Legislature. If funding is not approved at the expected level, OSU may issue no awards or a reduced number of awards.