

An Overview of NOAA's FY2026 PCMHAB Funding Opportunity for Potential Applicants

[NOAA-NOS-NCCOS-2026-33016](#)

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Competitive Research Program

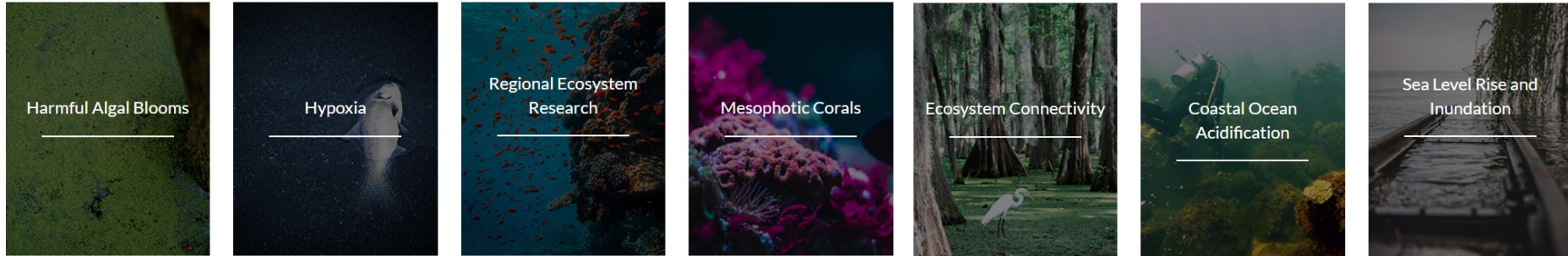
National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science



- Background
 - NCCOS Competitive Research Program
 - National Competitive HAB Programs
- FY2026 PCMHAB Program Priorities
- Award Information
- Eligibility
- Letter of Intent (LOI)
- Full Application/Proposal
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NCCOS CRP supports the development of actionable information and tools that improve how the nation protects, manages, and conserves ocean and coastal ecosystems.



NCCOS CRP funds projects that provide **actionable information** and **user-driven products** that enable resource managers to **assess management and policy strategies**, and to **improve understanding** of threats to ecosystems and communities.

Collaborative research process – resource managers, planners, policymakers, and impacted communities are **partners** or **advisors** on research projects.

Research outcomes must benefit society.



- **Harmful algal blooms* (HABs)** are marine and freshwater phytoplankton[†] that have proliferated to high[‡] concentrations, resulting in nuisance conditions or harmful impacts on marine and aquatic ecosystems, coastal communities, and human health through the production of toxic compounds or other biological, chemical, and physical impacts of the algae outbreak.
- **Programs**: ECOHAB - MERHAB - **PCM HAB**** - SEAHAB
- **Overarching objective**: To support the creation of actionable data, innovative tools, and essential products that facilitate the implementation of effective management and policy strategies. These outcomes are specifically designed to safeguard public health and ecosystems while promoting the economic vitality of affected communities.

* Consistent with HABHRCA 2017, 33 U.S.C. §4008(3)

† Includes microalgae, cyanobacteria, or macroalgae

‡ In relation to baseline or abundances observed during non-bloom or non-nuisance conditions, or in the absence of harmful impacts

**** FY2026 Funding opportunities are currently open**





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NCCOS Business Management Division Grants Support

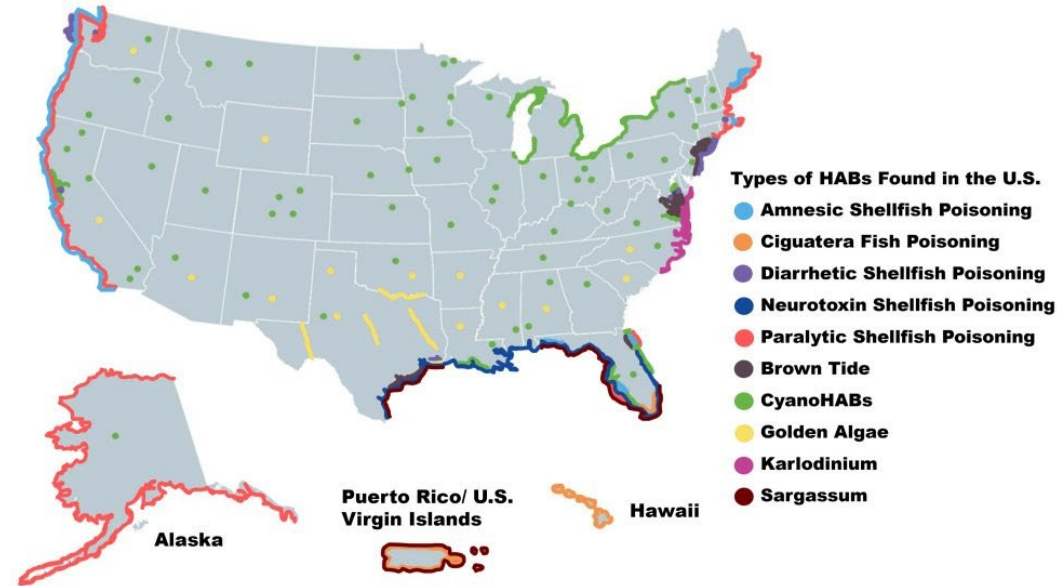
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PCM HAB Funding Opportunity Goals

Quick Overview of the PCM HAB program:

- Objective: To develop and transition technologies and strategies for **preventing/controlling** harmful algal blooms or **mitigating** their impacts.
- Goal: To **reduce the incidence and severity of HABs** by controlling their spread, and lessening their ecological and socio-economic impacts.
- Projects can be focused on **development, demonstration, and transfer of PCM** technologies, including understanding the socio-economic impacts of their applications.



Increase the number of technologies and approaches that are commercially available to control HABs in the Nation's coastal waters, estuaries, and the Great Lakes.

Focal areas*:

1. Promising technologies that have a **demonstrated ability to target HAB cells and toxins but have not yet been fully tested at the laboratory and mesocosm level**, such as those that have been assessed through the HCTI process and have been deemed suitable for further testing under PCMHAB
2. Proven technologies that have been **demonstrated to be able to control HAB cells and toxins but are still in need of large-scale field testing or that have been approved for other situations** (e.g., freshwater HABs, oil spills, etc.) and could be transferred to control HABs in the marine environment.

***Within the two focal areas, NCCOS/CRP will further prioritize support for projects that have identified a pathway scenario for their technology to transition to commercial application.**



[NOFO Section I.B. Program Priorities, p. 3]

\$2,500,000 anticipated in FY26
(pending availability of Federal appropriations)

3 to 5 Projects - Cooperative Agreements
Anticipated start date: March 1, 2027

Annual Budget:

Focal area 1: no more than \$500,000 per year for up to 3 years.
Focal area 2: no more than \$1,000,000 per year for up to 5 years.

MTAG - Required for selected projects (post-award)



Who can apply?

U.S. institutions of higher education, non-profits, state and local governments, tribal government entities, U.S. Territories, U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands institutions, and for-profit organizations

- Anyone that is technically qualified and has a great idea!
- Federal applicants are eligible - NCCOS researchers cannot be the lead PI
- No cost sharing or matching requirements

[NOFO Section III. Eligibility Information, p. 8]

A Letter of Intent (LOI) MUST be submitted for a full proposal to be considered.



Required Letter of Intent (LOI)

1. Tentative project title
2. Identify lead PI and provide contact info for all PIs
3. Approximate cost of the project
4. Statement of the problem and its management relevance
5. Brief summary of work to be completed, methodology to be used, and plan for transitioning results to application

Applicant(s) who do not submit an LOI are not eligible to submit a full proposal.

LOI Review

Is the proposed research responsive to FY2026 PCMHAB Program Priorities?

LOIs must be submitted to nccos.grant.awards@noaa.gov by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on April 14, 2026

Responses will be emailed ~1 week after receipt.

Full proposals encouraged only for relevant & competitive LOIs

1. Standard Form (SF)-424
2. Summary Title Page
3. Abstract
4. Project Description (15p/20p)
 - a. Proposed Research
 - b. Application to Management
 - c. Data Management Plan
5. References cited
6. Milestone Chart
7. Biographical Sketch
8. Current & Pending Support
9. List of Permits
10. SF-424A Budget Form
11. Budget Narrative
12. CD-511
13. SF-424B
14. Collaborator List (spreadsheet)

**Full proposals must be
submitted to grants.gov
by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on
May 14, 2026**



[NOFO Section IV.B.2. Full Application, (c) Required Elements, p. 9] - Single spaced, 12-pt, 1" margins

<https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/about/funding-opportunities/application-forms/>

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

1. Importance and/or relevance and applicability to program priorities (30%)
1. Technical/scientific merit (30%)
1. Overall qualifications of applicants (10%)
 - Capability of the investigator and collaborators to complete the proposed work
2. Project costs (10%)
1. Outreach and education (20%)

Timeline

LOIs DUE: On or before April 14, 2026

**LOI Responses: ~ 1 week from
submission**

Applications DUE: May 14, 2026

Panel Review: Summer 2026

Notification: On or before March 2027

Project Start Date: March 1, 2027



Advice to Potential Applicants

Read the NOFO, read the NOFO, read the NOFO!

Focus on the Program Priorities [Section I. B., p. 3]

Submit your LOI by email on or before the deadline – **April 14, 2026**

Contact the Program Manager or the Grants Manager if you have any questions, especially on:

- Applicability of your topic to program goals
- Appropriateness of region
- Eligibility of applicant or institution
- Preparing the budget, budget narrative or any other federal forms.

Submit the proposal through Grants.gov BEFORE the deadline, **May 14, 2026**

★ **If you are not submitting a proposal and have related expertise, please consider serving as a reviewer.**



Questions?

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Letters of Intent Due 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on **April 14, 2026**

Send to nccos.grant.awards@noaa.gov

Full Proposals Due 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on **May 14, 2026**

Submit on grants.gov

★ **Quick reference guide for NCCOS CRP applications:**

<https://cdn.coastalscience.noaa.gov/page-attachments/funding/FY24-Quick-Reference-Guide-for-NCCOS-CRP-Applications.pdf>

Forms & example application package:

<https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/about/funding-opportunities/application-forms/>

Send additional questions to:

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