
National Sea Grant Law Center announces 2007 grant winners

OXFORD, Miss. -- The National Sea Grant Law Center has awarded $550,000 in competitive grants for legal research and outreach projects as part of the center’s 2007 grant competition.

The 11 projects selected for funding address marine issues relevant to the National Sea Grant Program’s mission of conducting research, education, training and extension projects to foster environmental stewardship, long-term economic development and responsible use of America’s coastal, ocean and Great Lakes resources.

The grant competition program is funded by the National Sea Grant College Program and administered by the National Sea Grant Law Center at The University of Mississippi.

Funded projects will develop courses to improve understanding of wetlands and fisheries laws; study the governance structure of the new Northwest Hawaiian Islands National Monument, working waterfront laws in Maine and the public trust doctrine in South Carolina; and organize workshops on cooperative harvesting agreements and community-based management.

This year’s grant competition attracted applicants from universities, nonprofit organizations, commercial organizations and state governments. The Law Center received 28 full proposals seeking over $1.7 million in funding.

Stephanie Showalter, director of the National Sea Grant Law Center, was impressed with the number and quality of the received proposals.
“The overwhelming response to our grant competition underscores the great need for non-advocacy legal research and training to help coastal managers and the public understand and utilize existing legal frameworks designed to protect fragile coastal resources,” she said.

The National Sea Grant Law Center was founded in 2002 to provide legal research and outreach services to the Sea Grant community and its constituents. The Law Center conducts research on coastal and marine laws and policies, organizes Continuing Legal Education classes and other training courses, and disseminates information to coastal and ocean policymakers.

The following is a list of the funded projects:

**Northeast**

Tracey Crago, Woods Hole Sea Grant Program, *Development of a Course to Enhance Understanding of Wetlands Protection Laws and Legal Authority of Coastal Conservation Commission in Massachusetts*, $40,000.

Kristen Fletcher, Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program, *Fisheries for the Bench*, $50,000.

Rita Heimes, *University of Maine School of Law, Cooperative Harvesting Agreements Workshop for New England Groundfish Fisheries*, $38,082.

Judith McDowell, Woods Hole Sea Grant Program, *Effectively Managing Coastal Floodplain Development: Using Case Studies on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, to Develop a National Model Floodplain Bylaw*, $20,000.


**Southeast/Gulf of Mexico**


**Great Lakes**

Brian Ohm, University of Wisconsin, Model Coastal Management Ordinances for Great Lakes Coastal Communities, $58,483.

West Coast

Alison Rieser, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Monumental Questions: Governing the Northwestern Hawaii Islands, $75,000.

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