
Halifax Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement Joint Learning Opportunity: Questions and Answers

Introduction

This document provides a summary of the *Question and Answer Info Session* on June 25, 2024 as well as any questions received via email. For any additional questions, please reach out to the Joint Learning Opportunity (JLO) Management Team at Innovation@COVEocean.com.

Questions and Answers

How many proposals will be awarded and how much is the average award?

Carbon to Sea Initiative will divide \$250,000 USD amongst awardees. The number of awards will be determined by those assessing the proposals. We expect award sizes to be in the tens of thousands of dollars.

Can a proposal be submitted that outlines different scopes with different budgets?

Yes. As we seek to explore the scientific, technical and social aspects that advance the knowledge around the potential for Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement (OAE), we are pleased to review proposals that include scaled versions of a project, from MVP to larger scale, to enable us to assess within the context of a multiplicity of proposals. That said, please ensure your proposals meet the page limit (ten pages maximum).

Will there be a deadline extension?

The alkalinity addition is scheduled to run August to December. JLO awardees will need time to make arrangements in order to be ready to conduct their research as early as August, if timelines can support. While this opportunity operates on a very tight timeline, there is likely to be future opportunities with more generous time frames.

Are letters of support required and do they count towards the 10 page maximum?

Letters of support are optional and can not be prepared by the Joint Learning Opportunity partners. It will be up to you and your team to develop the most compelling proposal you can. Ideally, any supporting documentation will be included within the ten page limit, however, if you need to include them as an addendum you may do so. We encourage concise proposals.

Are priorities given to applicants who identify as a minority or Indigenous?

Proposal assessment is based on robust evaluation criteria, such as scientific merit and benefit to the community. For this year's JLO, we did not ask for an EDI statement as part of the proposal because we want to encourage young companies to apply who might not yet have an EDI statement. If your company or affiliation has an EDI statement, please do include or reference it in your proposal.

Do proposed projects need to start in August 2024 and what is the ideal timeline for proposed research?

Proposed projects can be of any length (weeks to months) and start at any time during the alkalinity addition (August to December 2024).

Are there any special considerations given to students or early career applicants?

Students applying to the JLO need their supervisor's consent to be eligible to apply. We encourage early career applicants to collaborate with others and submit a joint proposal.

Does a proposed project need to include field studies or will laboratory experiments including locally-collected samples be considered, too?

Proposed projects that advance the scientific, technical, and social understanding of OAE and/or address any important aspects of the planned field studies in the Bedford Basin will be considered. Details regarding alkalinity addition are described in [2024 OAE Field Trial Activity Detail](#) (hyperlinked in the [RFP](#)). Alkalinity concentrations are expected to vary throughout the duration of the field trials.

Are members of the Ocean Alk-align team eligible to apply?

Yes.

Is priority given to the novelty of proposed projects?

Novelty is considered as part of the evaluation criterion regarding the impact the proposed research brings to the OAE field. Proposal application guidelines can be found [here](#).

How should an applicant demonstrate the willingness to collaborate with Halifax researchers?

Research proposals that are complementary to the research being conducted in the Bedford Basin from August to December and align with the direction provided in the [Joint Learning Opportunity RFP](#) will be considered.

Can applicants expect to get feedback during the award selection period?

If the team that is reviewing your proposals has questions, they may reach out to you for clarification around certain details, however please ensure your proposal is complete as-is.

Will JLO partners provide assistance to deploying/maintaining sensors and instruments from JLO awardees during their projects?

Please include the cost of a head count to administer any staff required for the project execution, in addition to the project team.

Who is funding the JLO?

Funding is provided through the Carbon to Sea Initiative and the funding for successful proposals will be managed by COVE.

Does a proposed project need to be exclusively referring to research in Halifax?

No, any proposed projects that advance the existing body of knowledge of OAE in the Halifax region are within the scope of this RFP. Comparison studies can be considered “within the scope”, if they provide research that helps close knowledge gaps beyond the scope of the existing and planned OAE field trial activities.