

Iceland Ocean Climate Science Joint Learning Opportunity: Webinar Questions & Answers

Introduction

This document provides a summary of the *Question and Answer Webinar* on February 18, 2025 as well as questions received via email in advance of the session. For any additional questions, please reach out to the Joint Learning Opportunity (JLO) Management Team at jlo@rostrannsoknir.is

Pre-Webinar Questions

Can for-profit companies apply for JLO funding?

Yes, they are allowed. In the [2024 Halifax Joint Learning Opportunity](#) at least 1 of the awardees was a for-profit sensor technology company.

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

Carbon to Sea Initiative will divide \$300,000 USD amongst awardees. The number of awards will be a function of the strength and variety of the applications received, the input from the expert reviewers and the determination of the Management Team assessing the proposals. We expect award sizes to be in the tens of thousands of dollars.

How many proposals did we receive last year and how did we allocate?

16 proposals from slightly smaller budget, we received proposals ranging from \$5,000 - \$250,000 and awarded four proposals that ranged from \$20,000 to \$75,000

Webinar Questions

Can we provide more information about the biological monitoring already in place and the infrastructure available to support biological monitoring?

The fjord has been well characterized by baseline information from fish to plankton. For the experiment, it is planned to begin 2 weeks before any alkaline solution is added to create a baseline for that time. Monitoring for plankton will be done by collecting water samples to identify phytoplankton, net tows to collect zooplankton, fluorometers in several locations on the pier, the ship will have a CTD sensor, and autonomous vehicle will have a fluorometer which will characterize chlorophyll. Additionally water samples collected in multiple locations to identify plankton and zooplankton and associate parameters to understand what nutrients are present, the degree of underwater light, turbidity, and carbonate chemistry parameters like pH. Finally there

will be monitoring on the pier for macrofauna. For a more detailed summary of planned monitoring, see the [Field Research Overview](#).

What types of activities can be funded? Are there any restrictions on travel, shipping, equipment, people, etc.?

No restrictions but it is helpful to your cost-benefit analysis component of the selection criteria if applicants have in-kind funding available. There is a limit of 15% overhead, if applicants are applying with a university.

Approximately how many awards? (see also question above)

No set number, but in Halifax last year there were 4 awardees. This year's \$300k will likely be split among a similar number, not necessarily equal sizes, and there is some upper limit on the number of parties that are practical to coordinate between. Last year's proposals ranged from \$5k to \$250k and were granted between \$20k - \$75k.

Can the money be used to support the salary of a post-doc?

Yes.

What is the expected timeline for making data publicly available?

Depends on the type of data. Some data if it requires lab analysis or processing we will provide ample time to do the work, however if it is data from the sensor it is helpful to have it as soon as possible because it informs other analyses. Guidance is within months of being collected and well quality controlled. There is also an [OAE Field Data Protocol](#) that provides data management techniques as well to follow.

If the question is referring to when researchers should be required to submit data, it also depends on the type of data.

Who is already involved in taking biological samples?

During the trial, a marine research technician and possibly a master's student, the baseline data has already been collected and is being analyzed by another organization.

Are there mooring sites planned for monitoring buoys? Specifically related to permitting and mooring hardware considerations?

Yes, there is a buoy planned close to the release site and also at the pier there are fixed points for monitoring. Because the company that owns the pier has the right to deploy buoys there is no need for permits beyond what is already requested under the original permit application, but the JLO Management Team & Research Team would need to know what applicants want to put in.

Assuming the question is about sensors on the existing buoys we'll need to know as soon as possible because it will factor into the size of the cage that will hold the sensors.

What about permitting for ASVs or USV?

There is a channel for applying for a permit for the USV we have planned for our field trial, if an applicant is considering adding another one the permit could possibly extend to cover it.