

National Science Foundation (NSF) Support for DWH-Related Oil Spill Research: Coastal and Ocean Environments

Donald L. Rice, Program Director
Chemical Oceanography Program
Division of Ocean Sciences
National Science Foundation

Gulf Oil Spill Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana
2 November 2010



Federal Agencies With Major Interest in Conducting or Sponsoring DWH Oil Spill Research:

- NOAA
- EPA
- USGS
- NASA
- NIH
- NIEHS
- DOD
- NSF



What is different about NSF?

- NSF does not itself carry out research.



What is different about NSF?

- NSF does not itself carry out research.
- NSF is the federal agency charged specifically with funding BASIC RESEARCH in the non-medical sciences.




What is different about NSF?

- NSF does not itself carry out research.
- NSF is the federal agency charged specifically with funding BASIC RESEARCH in the non-biomedical sciences in the non-governmental sector.
- NSF does not normally support pollution studies dealing with assessment, monitoring, or mitigation.



The three fundamental things needed before submitting a research or education proposal to NSF:

1. A **well-defined** basic research question and/or educational objective, a credible plan for pursuing it, professional credentials, and adequate institutional facilities.
2. The NSF home page address: Just type **nsf.gov** and your browser will take you there.
3. A copy of the **most recent** *Grant Proposal Guide* (available on-line in PDF format).



To which NSF Program(s) should a proposal be submitted?

- The fundamental rule: The scientific objective(s) of the proposal determine(s) the appropriate NSF program(s) for submission.
- To find the right NSF program(s): Go to the NSF website and drill down to “program level” and read the program description(s). *[More on this, next slide]*
- If in doubt, send an email to or call the appropriate program officer(s) for guidance.



NSF Directorates Most Likely to Have Standing Science Programs Relevant to Marine Oil Spill Research & Education

- GEO: Geosciences (Divisions of **Ocean Sciences**, Earth Sciences, Atmospheric Sciences)
- MTS: Mathematics and Physical Sciences (especially the Divisions of **Chemistry** and Physics)
- BIO: Biological Sciences (Divisions of Environmental Biology, Molecular & Cellular Biology, and others)
- ENG: Engineering (especially Division of **Environmental Engineering** programs)
- SBE: Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (programs in several divisions)



Types of NSF Proposals Appropriate for Securing Funding for Oil Spill Research

- Regular proposals to standing core NSF Programs.
- Proposals submitted in response to special topical solicitations (“Program Announcements, “RFPs”)
- Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) proposals
- Predoctoral and Postdoctoral training proposals
- Award Supplements
- REU Supplements
- EAGER proposals
- RAPID proposals

Remember: For NSF

**Think BASIC RESEARCH and SCIENCE
EDUCATION.**

After reading the information available on the NSF website, if you have any doubt about the appropriateness of your research or educational idea for NSF funding, contact an NSF program officer in the appropriate program or programs.



www.nsf.gov