Environmental Compliance (EC) for Applicants

General information

- The NOAA Environmental Compliance Questionnaire (NOAA ECQ) document is required for NOAA funding opportunity applicants.
- From the NOFO: A pdf version is available in the NOAA NEPA website: NOAA-Grants-Questionnaire (direct link) and a fillable version is available in the IOOS Environmental Compliance page.
- Although the NOAA ECQ states Expiration Date: 11/30/2024, the document is still valid.
- NOFO instructions state:
    - to copy information from other parts of the application.
    - Questions 1-14 are required to be completed
    - Questions 15+ ---- Complete as applicable to the proposed activities. If not applicable, state not applicable or N/A, but do not leave blank.
- What to include: The 5 W and H, these are divided into specific questions.

NOAA ECQ	What to include (5W and H)
Proposed Activity - **Information**: Q 1-2 1. Describe the proposed activity… Proposed Activity Details and Impacts: Q 14	**who**: The applicant is responsible for the activities, including those of sub-awardees. **why:** Importance of the work being conducted **what**: Activity (e.g., installation/deployment of a new sensor/buoy/platform, laboratory research with live organisms) **how:** Broader explanation of the "what."
Proposed Activity - **Location**: Q 3-7	**where**: e.g., lat/long, map, description of the area
Proposed Activity - **Timeframe**: Q 8-9	**when**: e.g., specific dates, months, seasons

- **Question 1:**
    - We recommend including a list of the activities proposed to be funded with the award and complete the questionnaire - be as specific as possible for NOAA to assess environmental impacts and determine environmental requirements.

    - We recommend using the same list throughout the document to answer the questions. If there is not enough information at the time of application for the proposed activity, a separate ECQ shall be provided if the proposal is awarded.
- **Question 2:**
    - Each application is reviewed independently from prior applications or awards.
    - Applicants may reference a prior award. If doing so, ensure to include the agency and award number.
- **Question 13:** We recommend including a list of all permits and authorizations, indicating the status of the permits. Applicants are required to include with their application package copies of permits/authorizations received.
- **Question 14:** There are resources in the IOOS Environmental Compliance page to assist identifying, among other things, historic properties, managed and protected species, habitat. If the applicant determines there is no effect on a species, for example, the applicant must ensure to include a justification for this determination.