

<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	<b>Sea Grant Consortium</b>	
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	<b>P260</b>	<b>SECTION: 48</b>



**Fiscal Year 2020-21  
Agency Budget Plan**

**FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY**

<b>OPERATING REQUESTS (FORM B1)</b>	<b>For FY 2020-21, my agency is (mark "X"):</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
<b>NON-RECURRING REQUESTS (FORM B2)</b>	<b>For FY 2020-21, my agency is (mark "X"):</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
<b>CAPITAL REQUESTS (FORM C)</b>	<b>For FY 2020-21, my agency is (mark "X"):</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.
<b>PROVISOS (FORM D)</b>	<b>For FY 2020-21, my agency is (mark "X"):</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
<b>PRIMARY CONTACT:</b>	M. Richard DeVoe	(843) 953.2078	<a href="mailto:rick.devoe@scseagrant.org">rick.devoe@scseagrant.org</a>
<b>SECONDARY CONTACT:</b>	Ryan C. Bradley	(843) 953.2076	<a href="mailto:ryan.bradley@scseagrant.org">ryan.bradley@scseagrant.org</a>

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2020-21 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	<i>Agency Director</i>	<i>Board or Commission Chair</i>
<b>SIGN/DATE:</b>		
<b>TYPE/PRINT NAME:</b>	M. Richard DeVoe	Dr. Harris Pastides

*This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.*

Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget Request Executive Summary

Agency Code: P260  
 Agency Name: Sea Grant Consortium  
 Section: 48

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Undergraduate Resilience Research Scholars Program	30,000				30,000					0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Convert Temp Grant Positions to FTEs					0		3.00			3.00
3							0					0.00
4							0					0.00
5							0					0.00
6							0					0.00
7							0					0.00
8							0					0.00
9							0					0.00
10							0					0.00
11							0					0.00
12							0					0.00
13							0					0.00
14							0					0.00
15							0					0.00
16							0					0.00
17							0					0.00
18							0					0.00
19							0					0.00
20							0					0.00
21							0					0.00
22							0					0.00
23							0					0.00
24							0					0.00
25							0					0.00
26							0					0.00
27							0					0.00
28							0					0.00
29							0					0.00
30							0					0.00
TOTAL BUDGET REQUESTS			30,000	0	0	0	30,000	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	3.00

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## FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	1
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Undergraduate Resilience Research Scholars Program</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>General: \$30,000</b> <b>Federal:</b> <b>Other:</b> <b>Total: \$30,000</b>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2020-21? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	N/A
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark “X” for all that apply:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

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<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<p><b>1.1.1; 1.1.2; 1.1.3; 1.1.4; 2.1.1; 2.1.2; 2.1.3; 2.1.4; 2.1.5; 3.1.1; 3.1.2; 3.1.3; 3.1.4</b></p> <p>The <b>Undergraduate Resilience Research Scholars Program</b> will support all five statewide enterprise strategic objectives as the issues of <u>undergraduate education and diversification</u> of the emerging workforce, <u>resilience</u> (including public health and safety, security, and critical infrastructure) to the threats of changing climate and weather, and the efficient delivery of sound scientific information to <u>support government decision-making and an informed citizenry</u>. More specifically, the Program will enhance agency performance efforts to meet the mission and programmatic goals of the Consortium, will address needs of the Consortium’s diverse constituencies throughout the state, and will generate highly qualified and well-trained professions to enter the workforce in this emerging field. Measures of success will be generated in consultation with the undergraduate research offices of the Consortium’s member institutions.</p>
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*What specific strategy, as outlined in the FY 2019-20 Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency’s accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS</b>	<p>The agency would be the recipient of these funds; which will be then be made available to Consortium member institutions to support up to 10 undergraduate resilience scholars per year from diverse backgrounds via a competitive nomination and selection process. The Consortium Agency Head is now working with the undergraduate research offices at six of its member institutions to develop the implementation strategy and nomination process for selecting successful scholars.</p>
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*What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?*

**JUSTIFICATION OF  
REQUEST**

Request

The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium and its member institutions will initiate and support the **Undergraduate Resilience Research Scholars Program** to engage students from diverse backgrounds in novel aspects of resiliency research and outreach projects and activities in South Carolina.

The Consortium requests \$30,000 in state recurring funds to support the **Undergraduate Resilience Research Scholars Program**. The Consortium will provide an additional \$20,000 in federal Sea Grant College Program funds, available through its FY18-21 quadrennial Sea Grant College Program award.

Background and Justification

All communities face the risk of being impacted by hazardous events, including hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and droughts. How quickly and successfully an impacted community can recover from such an event determines its resiliency. Rather than just reacting to an event and recovering slowly, a resilient community plans ahead in order to reduce its disaster risk. This includes identifying a community's vulnerabilities to hazards and increasing its adaptive capacity or its ability to respond to hazards or changing conditions in a flexible manner. An informed and prepared community that has decreased its vulnerabilities by increasing its adaptive capacity will face fewer natural, societal, and economic impacts in the face of a hazardous event compared to a less resilient community.

Resiliency in coastal communities is especially important in the southeast United States, as these communities face a multitude of stressors, including coastal storms, heavy precipitation, tidal and nuisance flooding, sea level rise, and increasing pressure from growing populations, development, and gentrification. More than 50% of the U.S. population now lives in coastal watershed counties, a 45% increase from 1970-2010. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, average population growth in South Carolina from 2010-2013 was 3.2%, with much higher rates in coastal counties. In fact, three of the eight S.C. coastal counties are among the fastest growing in the nation (between 6.5 to 9.1%). Along with growing populations comes increasing pressure of development. Developing coastal lands can place more and more critical infrastructure and people at risk to hazards in both urban and rural settings, and impact the ecosystems which provide natural risk reduction.

The South Carolina coast is the center of the state's \$16.5 billion tourism industry and supports seaports that contribute over \$45 billion in annual economic activity. For these economic reasons, along with many others, it is vital to maintain and increase our coastal communities' resiliency in a manner that supports continued population and economic growth and diversification. While many local communities have recognized the need to be resilient and are taking steps to identify their vulnerabilities and increase their adaptive capacity, there are still many knowledge gaps and limited ideas which serve as barriers to their actions. Cutting-edge research in a variety of areas, such as marine-related energy sources, climate change, coastal processes, energy efficiency, hazards, storm water management, and nature-based tourism, can provide communities with information needed to increase their resiliency.

Finally, and more importantly, there is a growing need to train the next generation of natural and social scientists, engineers, and technicians to assume jobs in both the public and private sectors to serve the needs of municipalities, communities, and

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neighborhoods. Exposing undergraduates to opportunities to conduct relevant, cutting-edge resilience research will foster increased interest in such job opportunities. Thus, the need for diversifying the workforce to enhance our ability to reach these wide-ranging audiences becomes more critical each and every day.

The **Undergraduate Resilience Research Scholars Program** will address questions important to resilient communities and economies. Resilience Scholars will conduct projects to address contemporary resilience issues and opportunities as identified, for instance, by the Governor’s Floodwater Commission, the State Water Plan initiative, local government planning, and the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium in its strategic plan titled *The Changing Face of Coastal South Carolina: Building a Resilient Future*.

The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium Board of Directors reviewed and approved this request at its meeting on August 6, 2019. In addition, this request is consistent with a suggestion provided by an external National Sea Grant Site Team in its quadrennial performance review draft report (dated September 9, 2019) of the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, that the agency create undergraduate and graduate state fellowship programs to further workforce development and capacity building efforts in the state.

*Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.*

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## FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	2
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Covert Temp Grant Positions to FTEs</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>General:</b> <b>Federal:</b> <b>Other:</b> <b>Total: \$0</b>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2020-21? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	3
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark “X” for all that apply:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority # _____	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<b>1.1.1; 1.1.2; 1.1.3; 1.1.4; 2.1.1; 2.1.2; 2.1.3; 2.1.4; 2.1.5; 3.1.1; 3.1.2; 3.1.3; 3.1.4</b>  This transition request will support the Consortium’s overall mission and corresponding goals and objectives. These three TGE positions have been staffed for a number of years and their conversion to FTE positions will stabilize agency staff capabilities to support increasing demands for agency products and services. In addition, due to challenges in retaining professional staff due to relatively low compensation, transition of these TGEs into FTEs will increase the stability and marketability of these positions going forward. No funding is necessary to implement
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this conversion; staff in these positions will continue to be evaluated through the EPMS process as they have been evaluated in the past.

*What specific strategy, as outlined in the FY 2019-20 Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?*

**RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS**  
Not applicable, as no additional funds are required to support the transition of these positions from TGE to FTE employees.

*What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?*

**JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST**

Demands for the Consortium's products and services (information, assistance, and guidance) continue to increase as more people move to the coast, additional development pressures results, and the use of the state's economically important coastal and marine resources increases. As a result, the Consortium has been able to justify the creation of new professional positions in an attempt to meet this demand. Through creative approaches and frugal spending, the Consortium has obtained the resources necessary to support and sustain these positions through our core federal funding obtained through our quadrennial Sea Grant College Program budget and, in some cases, from recurring State Appropriations.

The three positions to be converted cover critically important core competencies which are in increasing demand by our diverse stakeholders; the three Consortium positions are the (1) Coastal Climate and Resilience Program Specialist, funded by National Sea Grant and the CISA program at the University of South Carolina since 2006, (2) Marine Education Program Specialist, which has been supported by the Consortium with National Sea Grant and the National Science Foundation from 2008 to 2015 and with National Sea Grant support since, and (3) Coastal Resilience Program Specialist, a newer position established with additional funding provided by National Sea Grant and the College of Charleston's Lowcountry Hazards Center starting early in 2019 to build its capacity to address critical issues with respect to flooding issues related to changing climate and weather impacts.

These positions, as all Consortium positions, are unique in their own right and represent critical components of the Consortium's core programmatic functions as detailed in the agency's strategic plan. The plan, which is written and updated every four years, is formally approved by the Consortium's Board of Directors and the NOAA Sea Grant College Program, and available via the agency's website (<https://www.scseagrant.org/wp-content/uploads/SCSGC-FY18-21-Strategic-Plan-02-08-17.pdf>). The incumbents of these positions perform vital mission support functions and are embedded in the agency's long-term programmatic plans in the areas of climate and weather resilience and scientific literacy and workforce development; topics that reflect critical core competencies requires of all Sea Grant College programs nationwide.

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The Consortium has had a total of 14 FTE positions since its inception in 1980; and has never (to our current recollection) requested an increase in the number of state FTE positions. However, the need to build additional capacity, supported with a mix of state recurring appropriations and long-term federal NOAA Sea Grant funds, to address the ever-increasing demands by our stakeholders for our products, services, and assistance is as strong as its every been. The agency has recently filled its two remaining FTE position vacancies with the hiring of its Information Technology Specialist and its Resource Economist Program Specialist (with partial support provided by the state of South Carolina) and thus has no more FTE vacancies available. And to emphasize, the Consortium is not requesting any additional state recurring funding funds to convert the three positions from TGEs to FTEs.

The staff employed as TGEs within our agency are hired as full-time, and all TGE incumbents are provided similar state benefits programs as our FTE employees. However, we feel that the employees we have hired into these TGE positions deserve to receive the full suite of benefits that accrue to staff in FTE positions; this transition will provide more stability and comfort deserving of these employees, and enhanced marketability when these positions become vacant in an ever-increasing time of employee turnover (both here at the Consortium and elsewhere).

*Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.*

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## FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>48.New</b> <i>Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list for FY 2020-21 (or mark "NEW").</i>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Retention of Accrued Leave for Personnel Converted from Temporary Grant Employee Positions to Full-time Equivalent Positions</b> <i>Provide the title from the FY 2019-20 Appropriations Act or suggest a short title for any new request.</i>
<b>BUDGET PROGRAM</b>	<b>I. Administration</b> <i>Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.</i>
<b>RELATED BUDGET REQUEST</b>	Convert Temp Grant Positions to FTEs <i>Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2020-21? If so, cite it here.</i>
<b>REQUESTED ACTION</b>	<b>Add</b> <i>Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.</i>
<b>OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED</b>	N/A <i>Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?</i>
<b>SUMMARY &amp; EXPLANATION</b>	<p>The Consortium has had a total of 14 FTE positions since its inception in 1980; and has never (to our current recollection) requested an increase in the number of state FTE positions. However, the need to build additional capacity, supported with a mix of state recurring appropriations and long-term federal NOAA Sea Grant funds, to address the ever-increasing demands by our stakeholders for our products, services, and assistance is as strong as it's ever been.</p> <p>Consortium staff employed as Temporary Grant Employee (TGE) positions within our agency are hired as full-time employees, and all TGE incumbents are provided similar state benefits programs as our Full-time Employee (FTE) positions including the accrual of annual and sick leave time. Without this proviso, these TGE incumbents would forfeit all leave accrued from service at the Consortium and counteract our initial objective to provide more stability and comfort deserving of these current employees.</p>

*Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.*

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<b>FISCAL IMPACT</b>	<p>Not applicable, as no additional funds are required to support the transition of these positions from TGE to FTE employees; thus there is no fiscal impact to transfer the accrued leave.</p>
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*Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.*

<b>PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT</b>	<p><b><u>The S.C. Sea Grant Consortium is authorized to allow current personnel who are transitioning in FY2020-21 from Temporary Grant Employee (TGE) to Full-time Employee (FTE) status to transfer all accrued annual and sick Leave from their TGE positions to their FTE positions.</u></b></p>
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*Paste FY 2019-20 text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.*

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**FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION  
CONTINGENCY PLAN**

<b>TITLE</b>	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
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<b>AMOUNT</b>	\$22,672 <i>What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount (minimum based on the FY 2019-20 recurring appropriations)? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.</i>
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<b>ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS</b>	N/A
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*How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?*

<b>PROGRAM/ACTIVITY IMPACT</b>	<p>This plan, if implemented, would result in a 16.1% reduction of the agency’s operating funds, which currently total \$140,873. Of this total amount, \$115,086 is allocated for our office space lease for FY2020-21; the remainder supports our office equipment rentals, state insurance premiums, utilities, IT equipment replacement, IT hardware, software, and security support. A reduction of \$22,672 would greatly restrict the ability of the agency from meeting our administrative, fiduciary, and programmatic responsibilities, and could potentially affect our current five-year lease agreement (signed by the state and our landlord, the Washington Light Infantry, in May 2016). As of July 1st, 2019, the cost for our leased space is an extremely cost-effective \$19.67 per square foot.</p>
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*What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?*

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<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>The loss of 16.1% of our operating funds would jeopardize the agency’s ability to meet its administrative responsibilities, would impact the ability of the agency to meet its programmatic and fiduciary responsibilities, and could affect our current office lease agreement (see Program/Activity Impact).</p>
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*Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.*

<b>AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS</b>	<p>The Sea Grant Consortium is not proposing to implement any cost savings measures over \$50,000 for the upcoming fiscal year.</p>
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*What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than \$50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?*