



## Guidance Questions for Lenfest Ocean Program Grant Review

The questions below are specific to the Lenfest Ocean Program to help program officers determine whether a project is a good fit. They are intended as guidance questions to review proposals and spur discussion. Not all projects will have an affirmative answer for every question, although each question should be considered. The list below does not include other grant review criteria required by The Pew Charitable Trusts, such as budgetary limits, host institution suitability, appropriate deliverables, as well as other institutional considerations.

<b><u>Consideration</u></b>	<b><u>Questions to Guide Discussion</u></b>
<b>Relevance</b>	<p>Does the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fit with program priorities (focal areas) and the LOP model?</li> <li>• Address an existing problem or fill a knowledge gap?</li> </ul>
<b>Project Team/ Qualifications</b>	<p>Has the research team demonstrated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skill sets needed to address the research questions?</li> <li>• Expertise/experience/willingness to learn engagement approaches?</li> <li>• Credibility with the relevant audiences (scientists/decision-makers/stakeholders)?</li> <li>• Productive relationships with proposed partners, target audiences, and/or intended users of the information (hereafter: users), or do they have a plan to develop them?</li> </ul> <p>If an interdisciplinary approach or working group is proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the research team capable of leading a group and integrating knowledge across disciplines?</li> <li>• Do they detail why this approach is needed and what skill sets, geographic regions, or other factors will need to be considered when inviting members?</li> </ul>
<b>Scientific/Technical/ Research</b>	<p>Are the research questions focused and appropriate for the scale of the project?</p> <p>Is the research approach, including the specific methods, the best way to address the research questions, given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the state of the science in this field?</li> <li>• the targeted decisions being informed?</li> <li>• the stakeholder/user audiences?</li> </ul> <p>Are the research methods feasible given available data and other factors?</p> <p>Is the research approach, question, or engagement approach novel or innovative?</p>

<p><b>Usable Science</b> “Did the project idea come from a useful place?”</p>	<p><u>Research:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is it clear how new information is intended to be used to inform decision-making?</li> <li>• Do the research questions address specific needs of identified users/audiences?</li> <li>• Have the users/primary decision-makers participated in the development of the project or research questions?</li> <li>• Based on the decision-making landscape, what is the potential for the new information to be accepted by targeted users and integrated into decisions?</li> </ul> <p><u>Timeliness/Scale:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will the proposed research produce information that can be used at appropriate geographic and governance scales for the intended users?</li> <li>• Can new information be provided in time for a decision-making window?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Project Engagement</b> “After funded, how will stakeholders be involved in the project?”</p>	<p>Are individuals who can influence use of information engaged in the project as it is underway? Or, is there an effort to include them?</p> <p>Are engagement activities described in the proposal (workshops, calls or meetings with stakeholders, or collaboration on data)? Is the approach sound, practical and appropriate?</p> <p>Have potential challenges to engagement been identified and/or discussed?</p>
<p><b>Budget</b></p>	<p>Is the budget appropriate for the scale of the project?</p> <p>Does the budget include funds for engagement (team meetings/stakeholder briefings)?</p> <p>Has the research team budgeted time to participate in engagement events?</p>