

Generic notes for all project teams—Please review these notes carefully before preparing your Phase 2 response: Overall Phase 1 requests exceed total available resources for ship time, labor and expenses, so adjustments are necessary to arrive at a balanced budget. Please review the information below and feel free to ask the Management Team (MT) for clarifications should questions arise while preparing your Phase 2 response. Project-specific feedback follows this general information.

Ratings

There is no need to prepare a Phase 2 response for those projects given a “1” rating. Nevertheless, be aware that while the MT fully supports the proposal as-is, it is possible budget cuts may be necessary pending final budget, labor, and ship time balancing.

A rating of “2” means some action or response from the project team is required. In most cases, the MT has made specific recommendations that will result in a modified, workable version of the project plan, and the project team is asked to implement those changes. In other instances, it may be possible for the project team to suggest alternative project revisions, and these will be considered during Phase 2 reviews. If you plan to suggest project revisions differing from those requested by the MT, you are strongly encouraged to discuss those changes with the listed MT contact prior to submitting your Phase 2 response.

A rating of “3” means the project will not be supported in 2019 for reasons given and so no response is needed.

Direct expenses

Total requests exceed available funds by >\$1.5 million and so an overall budget reduction during Phase 2 is necessary. Please review your budget requests carefully to determine if any savings are possible, and if so, revise your budget accordingly. In some cases, the MT feedback provides specific suggestions/guidance/instructions on reductions for Phase 2, but all project teams are also asked to consider ways to reduce costs where possible and appropriate.

Labor hours

Accounting has determined a target number of total hours available by individual across projects. This number accounts for accrued vacation time, holidays, sick leave, other leave, etc. Feedback may include a request to alter hours to reach this target number.

If you are entering budget on a grant, please confirm that the labor hours budgeted for those listed in the grant will be the actual working hours charged to the grant in 2019, not counting any vacation, holiday, sick, or other leave expected for 2019. If fewer hours are charged to the grant during the course of 2019 than what is entered in the budget, MBARI's overall budget will be negatively impacted. Therefore, we ask that you be mindful of the hours budgeted and realize that you are committing to these hours being charged to the grant in 2019.

Engineering

As in previous years, requests for engineering labor exceed the number of allocable hours. Please ensure that requests have been carefully scoped and, if possible, reduce those requests. Where applicable, prioritize engineering tasks and indicate in your response which tasks may be deferred or removed. Please see Doug Au if you have any questions or need further information.

Some reductions/changes in engineering resources have already been identified by the MT. These changes are detailed in the project-specific feedback below. Please review these changes carefully and enter these revisions in the budget system, as appropriate, for your project. If there are concerns about the suggested changes to resources or project scope thus far, please include details in your Phase 2 response and provide justification for any requests. Again, please reach out to your MT contact if you would like to discuss your response prior to the Phase 2 deadline.

Video Lab

There is insufficient support to accommodate all 2019 project requests for annotation, more detailed analyses, and related projects. In addition to changing divisional and institutional priorities and needs, project requests for technical upgrades, annotation, and related work have continued to grow every year resulting in a significant backlog of video that needs to be annotated. Where applicable, please prioritize annotation and other requests for Video Lab time. In addition, we are unlikely to be able to accommodate as many requests for video lab personnel to provide shipboard support at sea in 2019.

Final notes

Please be sure to enter all budget revisions (labor, ship, expense) in the web budget system, as necessary, prior to the Phase 2 deadline (Thursday, September 6 at 8:00 a.m.).

All written Phase 2 responses should be sent directly to Mandy Allen via email.

901910 Plankton taxonomic groups from AUVs

Rating: 1

MT contact: Jim Barry

Management Team Feedback:

Monique,

Thank you for the very clear, organized, and interesting proposal to characterize phytoplankton communities from AUV cores payload sensors. This is an excellent follow-on proposal from the 2017 feasibility study. Your progress on the feasibility study was excellent and the 2019 plan stemming from that work is thorough and reasonable. It will be great to have you back at MBARI after your sojourn in France.

With Ben Raanan's oversubscription on other projects, this effort will not start until mid-2019, when you return to the US. In addition, hopefully Ben's time can be minimized to help coordinate activities, then substitute Mike McCann in mid-year to initiate STOQS studies. Ben's development work could start in the beginning of 2020.

For Phase 2 please address the following:

Please reduce Ben's time from 180 hours to 40 hours.