

South Atlantic Alliance (SAA)

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria and guidance will be used by the Alliance and its Evaluators to review both Detailed Letters of Intent (DLoIs) and Proposals seeking Alliance endorsement letters.

Criterion #1: Applicability of proposed project to regional program goals (25%)

- Will the proposal advance South Atlantic Alliance regional priorities and regional CMSP efforts? Does the proposal address Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) Framework and Guiding Principles (http://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF_FinalRecs.pdf)?
- Does the proposal address an Area of Special Emphasis as described in the FFO?
- If applicable, does the proposal clearly identify South Atlantic Alliance goals for CMSP development?

Criterion #2: Degree of collaboration, partnership, and engagement (25%)

- Does the proposal demonstrate collaboration across institutions and states in the region?
- Does the proposal identify and engage a diversity of partners and expand existing partnerships?
- Does the proposal directly involve key stakeholders in project design and describe how they will be engaged in project activities, including CMSP activities where applicable?
- Does the proposal reflect strong support from project partners?
- Does the proposal demonstrate direct involvement from entities directly engaged in the South Atlantic Alliance?

Criterion #3: Relevance and expected benefits from project results (20%)

- Will relevant data, information, products, and/or decision-support tools needed to concomitantly address selected regional priorities from the Alliance Action Plan and NOAA's CMSP interests be generated and developed?
- To what degree will the results of the work benefit the key stakeholders?
- Does the proposal identify outcomes that are focused and realistic given the time frame and scope of the project?
- Will the proposal result in benefits that are region-wide or transferable to other ROP and CMSP priorities and regions?

Criterion #4: Technical, organizational, and scientific merit (15%)

- Does the proposal identify clear goals and objectives?
- Are the efforts proposed achievable within the time frame and budget levels proposed?
- Is the approach technically sound and/or innovative; are the methods appropriate for the stated goals and objectives?
- Does the proposed approach incorporate current guidance, organizational, scientific, and/or technical advancements in the design and implementation of the proposed work?
- If geospatial data are to be acquired, does the proposal promote interoperability with other components of regional and national geospatial systems? Has a thorough search been conducted to ensure that data do not already exist that can meet the intended purpose of the proposed acquisition? Will the data be collected to national and/or international standards and specifications that promote multipurpose uses in the future per Federal Geospatial Data

Committee standards and the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act of 2009? Does the proposal comply with Executive Order 12906, *Coordinating Geographic Data Acquisition and Access: The National Spatial Data Infrastructure*?

Criterion #5. Overall qualifications of the funding applicants (10%)

- Are the investigators qualified and is the organizational framework appropriate to conduct a project of the nature and scope proposed?
- Are investigators from other agencies and institutions within the region included as key personnel on the project to capitalize on available expertise and promote a regional approach?
- Does the proposal adequately address the capacity of the applicant and partners to implement proposed work?
- Does the proposal adequately define how participation and accountability among principal investigators and partners will be sustained to support continued progress and success?

Criterion #6. Project costs and metrics (5%)

- Does the proposal demonstrate that the budget is commensurate with project needs?
- Is the cost effectiveness of the proposal optimized through strategic partnerships with collaborating institutions, agencies, or private sector partners?
- Are the budget and budget justification adequately detailed to determine how requested funds will be used (e.g., salary, equipment, supplies, travel, etc.)?