

Project Selection Criteria (Management Projects)

The DMR will initially determine whether a submitted proposal is eligible and whether the application contains all required information. After this initial screening, the DMR will use the following criteria to rate and rank proposals received in response to the notice of funding availability and proposal guidelines. The maximum number of points is (100) one hundred. Each criterion is assigned a weighted percent. The weighted percentage creates a distinction between the different criteria and their level of importance within the application. Each proposal will be judged on its own merits using the following criteria.

The criteria and maximum weighted points for each criterion are provided below:

| <u>Categories</u> | <u>Weighted Percentage</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Merit | 20% |
| Performance Competence | 10% |
| Relevance | 30% |
| Technical Approach | 15% |
| Linkages | 10% |
| Budget | 15% |

Explanation of Categories

Merit – Intrinsic scientific value of the proposed work and the likelihood that it will lead to fundamental advancement or that it will have substantial beneficial impact on the marine resources of the state.

Performance Competence – The capability of the investigator and collaborators to complete the proposed work as evidenced by past research accomplishments, previous cooperative work, timely communication, and sharing of findings, data and other research projects.

Relevance – Does the project focus on one of the topics of coastal/marine resources and management issues and meet the goals of the Tidelands Trust Fund Program? Is the project consistent with the Mississippi Coastal Program? What are the deliverables of the project and how will they enhance Coastal Resources or management issues.

Technical Approach – Availability of focused objectives and complete, but efficient strategy for making measurements and observations in support of the objectives. The approach is sound and logically planned throughout the cycle of the proposed work.

Linkages – Connections to existing or planned studies, or demonstrated cooperative arrangements to provide or use data or other research results towards meeting the mission and programs of the Department of Marine Resources. Does the project enhance or support participation in boating, fishing, hunting, wildlife watching, or other outdoor recreational activities? Does the project enhance access to coastal ecosystems and view sheds? Does the project enhance or support educational activities?

Budget – Is the budget complete and appropriate for the scale of the project? What resources are needed to successfully carry out and manage the project? Does it identify any cost savings, e.g. in-kind services or volunteer labor? Does it show total cost, as well as the amount being requested? Does it provide itemized breakdown associated with major activities? Is there a close match-up between the scope of work and budget request? Does it mention how long term maintenance will be funded?