Homework Assignment #4 (Due May 4, 2011)

We are about half way through the quarter, and you should be thinking about your final assignment. Graduate Students will write an NSF proposal on some topic in Biological Oceanography. Undergraduates can either write a standard (10 pages, more or less) term paper on some topic in Biological Oceanography, or can write a short (5 pages) proposal following guidelines such as for the Friends of Long Marine Lab Student Awards or the Earl and Ethyl Myers Trust Awards.

Graduate Students: you can choose to apply for a Pre-Doctoral Proposal or a Post-Doctoral proposal. If you are ineligible for NSF funding, you can choose instead to apply for a NOAA Nancy Foster Fellowship (US Citizens), NSERC (Canada), or US MEXUS (Mexico). See:


(for the other ones, ask me and I will provide the URL)

The primary difference is that the pre-doctoral proposal is 2 pages, with another 2 pages available for Previous Research Experience (where you can explain why you are qualified to carry out your proposal), while the post-doctoral proposal is 10 pages. (WARNING: it’s actually harder to write a good 2 page proposal, even though it’s short!)

Undergraduates: If you want to write a proposal, it should be something you could accomplish in about a year, with a small budget. You can assume that you are working in a PI’s laboratory (so you have access to all the equipment, etc. necessary for the project). Below are directions for the FLML award. You can use up to 5 pages rather than 2.

1. One-page cover sheet that includes:
   a. Your name, mailing address, phone number and email address
   b. Title of project or thesis
   c. One-sentence description of the project (the way you would explain it to a non-scientist)
   d. Your social security or student identification number
   e. The degree you are pursuing and the year in the program (e.g., senior, first-year Ph.D.)
   f. Name of your project or thesis advisor
   g. List any previous awards received related to this project/thesis and how you used them

2. Two-page proposal that includes:
   a. Introductory paragraph
      i. State the major thesis
      ii. State the significance to the research or education community
      iii. State the significance to the general public
   b. Details of your proposal
      i. What you are going to do
      ii. How you are going to do it
      iii. Where you are going to do it
      iv. When you are going to do it, including expected completion date
      v. What you expect to find
      vi. What you will do with the results
   c. Budget
      i. Describe/list the item or service (e.g., chemicals, four large batteries, boat time)
      ii. Cost
ASSIGNMENT: **graduate students** should turn in a Letter of Intent—these are often requested by funding agencies, are no more than one page, providing the title of your proposal, the people involved, and a short (abstract) description of the proposal goal, methods, and outcomes.

**Undergraduate students** should turn in the topic for their term paper or proposal, along with the citation for one peer-reviewed paper related to that topic and a brief (paragraph) summary of the paper. You can use any standard citation format (e.g. L&O, MEPS, Chicago Manual of Style, etc). To turn in on Weds:

1) Term paper or proposal topic  
2) One properly formatted scientific reference related to your topic  
3) A brief (paragraph) synopsis of the paper, emphasizing why it’s related/useful to your topic