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## Research Funding Request Proposal

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Jacquiline Cousto  
Grant Supervisor  
International Marine Studies Institute  
Box 12567  
Vancouver, BC V5K 0A1  
Canada

Ms. Cousto,

Please accept this application for a \$40,000.00 (USD) grant to fund a study of the damage done to the Great Barrier Reef by the grounding of the vessel Xerxe5 in 20xx.

We believe that it is crucial to analyze and document such reef damaging incidents and publish results and recommendations for the benefit of the international community.

We believe the estimates we've enclosed will be valid for approximately six months. Any monies received but not actually expended for our study will be contributed to our nonprofit organization for further research. We hope to receive funding and begin our study soon.

Sincerely,

Lara Cross  
Marine Biologist  
Healthy Seas Forever  
555-555-5555  
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# PROJECT

## GREAT BARRIER REEF DAMAGE STUDY

Prepared for: Jacqueline Cousto  
Grant Supervisor

Prepared by: Lara Cross  
Marine Biologist

### DESCRIPTION

On April 4th, 20xx, the transport ship, Xerxe5, ran aground within the Great Barrier Reef natural refuge. Healthy Seas Forever is seeking funding to travel to the reef, gather data and perform experiments to determine extent of damage to the reef. Results will be used to assist the reef in recovery and how to prevent similar damage in the future.

We will contact you shortly to follow-up with this request as our window of opportunity to study the newly damaged site is very narrow.



# PROBLEM STATEMENT

We have identified the following issue to be investigated:

**WHAT IS THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE TO THE CORAL REEF CAUSED BY THE TANKER COLLISION?**

On April 4th, 20xx, the transport ship, Xerxe5, ran aground within the Great Barrier Reef natural refuge. Although we know that damage was done to the reef and fuel was spilled, we do not now understand the extent of the environmental damage, so we cannot develop an effective recovery plan or make recommendations for avoiding this type of situation in the future.

See the Research section of this proposal for information about tasks to be carried out to resolve this question.





# DATA

To determine the extent of the damage done to the reef by the grounding of the vessel Xerxe5, we still study the following data.

## EXISTING DATA

We have the reports of the grounding accident, the reported position, the damage to the ship, and the estimates of lost fuel and cargo.

## COLLECTED DATA

We anticipate collecting more exact mapping data with our dive teams and research vessel, as well as up to 100 samples of surface plants/animals, up to 100 samples of sand in the damage area, and up to 100 samples of water taken near the surface of the reef. All samples will be examined and tested for contaminants.

Exact numbers of data and samples may vary because we do not currently have an accurate description of the extent of the damaged area. See the Mapping page for more information about how divers will create an accurate map and gather samples. See the Experiments page for more details on tests to be conducted.





# MAPPING

To understand how much damage has been done to the reef, it's crucial to have a good map of the area.

We will begin with the latest topographic map of the seafloor created by sonar imagery in 1999. Using GPS units on the dive boat, we will position our vessel at the coordinates first reported by the grounded vessel to begin our survey.

## METHODOLOGY

The dive vessel will drop a team of three divers into the water. One diver will be equipped with the new UnderSeaPC Computer, which will display the topographic map overlaid with a writable plastic sheet. This diver will mark the visibly damaged area on the map and number positions where photos are taken. The second diver will be equipped with an underwater camera, and will be responsible for taking photos. The third diver will carry sample bags and tools to take samples of visibly damaged plants, surface sands, and water immediately above the reef to check for contaminants. Any tiny animals that appear to be damaged by the collision will also be collected. The third diver will be responsible for marking positions at which samples are taken on the map, and for numbering samples accordingly.

The dive team will conduct their investigation for 50 minutes or until they are running low on air, at which time they will mark their position on the reef with an anchored balloon, and surface. The dive vessel will retrieve the divers at this new location, noting GPS coordinates and correlating them on the map. Dive team #1 will confer with Dive Team #2, and then spend the next hour writing reports of their observations.

While Dive team #1 rests and records their observations, Dive team #2 will enter the water and begin their survey at the point that the first dive team surfaced. They will perform the same tasks as Dive team #1 in the adjacent area of damage.

## SCHEDULE

Each dive team will do three dives per day, weather and sea conditions permitting. We anticipate that mapping and collecting samples will take 2-3 days.

## RESULTS

A detailed map showing the current condition of the reef will be created for future use. This map will be available to the international marine community.

See Experiments for a description of tests to be performed on the collected samples.



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