

Federal Funding Opportunity Overview: Process and Summary Information from 2014-2018

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Outline

- Overview of Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) process
- Overview of FFO proposal topics
- Summary information about the FFO from 2014-2018
- What's next for the FFO

OER FFO Process

Process steps for OER federal funding opportunity (FFO) announcements



OER FFO Process: Phase I

Process steps for OER federal funding opportunity (FFO) announcements



Phase I: FFO Created and Published

1. Based on identified mission needs and priorities, OER selects regions and/or topics for next fiscal year funding announcement
2. The FFO is published on Grants.gov
3. OER distributes the announcement using relevant listservs, OER website, social media, EX participants, etc.)

OER FFO Process: Phase II

Process steps for OER federal funding opportunity (FFO) announcements



Phase II: Pre-proposal Submission and Internal Assessment

1. Pre-proposals submitted directly to OER via email
2. Pre-proposals assessed by OER team using 4 criteria:
 1. Relevance to NOAA and OER missions and goals
 2. Scientific and technical merit
 3. Qualifications and competence of the applicants (including past performance on prior OER awards)
 4. Costs for specific items as well as the overall project cost (including value of cost-sharing and/or in-kind contributions)
3. Response provided to investigators encouraging or discouraging full proposal submission

OER FFO Process: Phase III

Process steps for OER federal funding opportunity (FFO) announcements



Phase III: Full Proposal Submission and Administrative Assessment

1. PIs can only submit a full proposal if they have submitted a pre-proposal
2. Full proposals from non-federal PIs submitted through Grants.gov
3. Full proposals from federal PIs are submitted through email to OER
4. Proposals must be received by the deadline—No exceptions
5. Submitted packages are reviewed for completeness before being considered for competition

OER FFO Process: Phase IV

Process steps for OER federal funding opportunity (FFO) announcements



Phase IV: Full Proposal Two Step Review

1. Mail review

- Each proposal is sent to a minimum of three mail reviewers (experts in their field and of the project topic)
- Mail reviewers use evaluation criteria published in FFO
- Reviewers must return their review by the selected date

2. Panel Review

- Selected panelists are experts in their field but must have a broad knowledge of all the topics covered by the FFO
- Panelists assess proposals using the FFO evaluation criteria, the mail reviews, and their own expertise and knowledge
- Each panelist discusses and scores every proposal
- Panel does not rank proposals or reach a consensus

OER FFO Process: Phase V

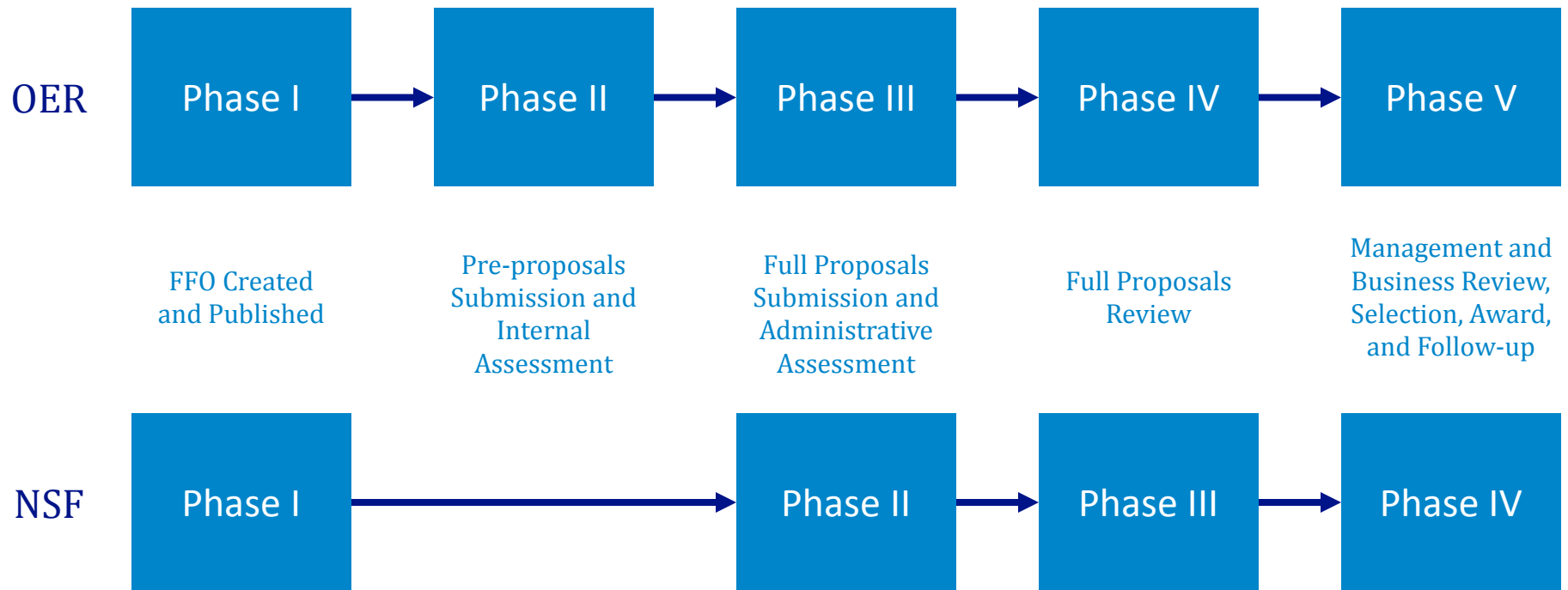
Process steps for OER federal funding opportunity (FFO) announcements



Phase V: Management and Business Review, Selection, and Award

1. OER ranks proposals using mail reviews and panel scores
2. Proposals are awarded based on final ranking, office priorities/budget constraints
3. OER negotiates budget with PIs if necessary; PIs revise proposals if necessary
4. NOAA Grants Management reviews and funds

OER FFO Process: NSF Comparison



OER FFO Process: Anticipated Timeline FY18*



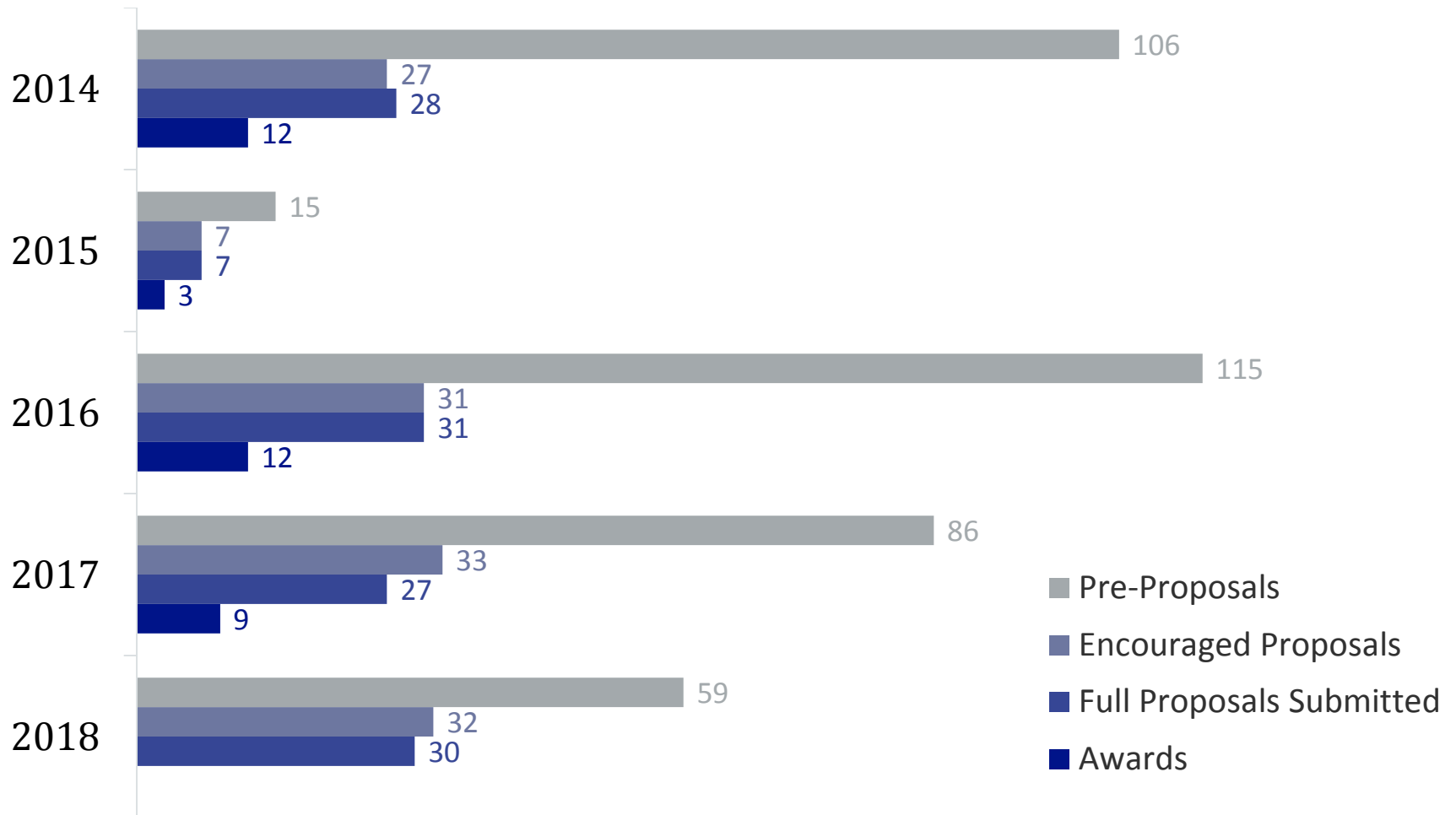
Potential new OER FFO timeline intended to allow applicants more time to prepare proposals and earlier disbursement of funds to awardees

* This time line depends on FY18 budget allocations

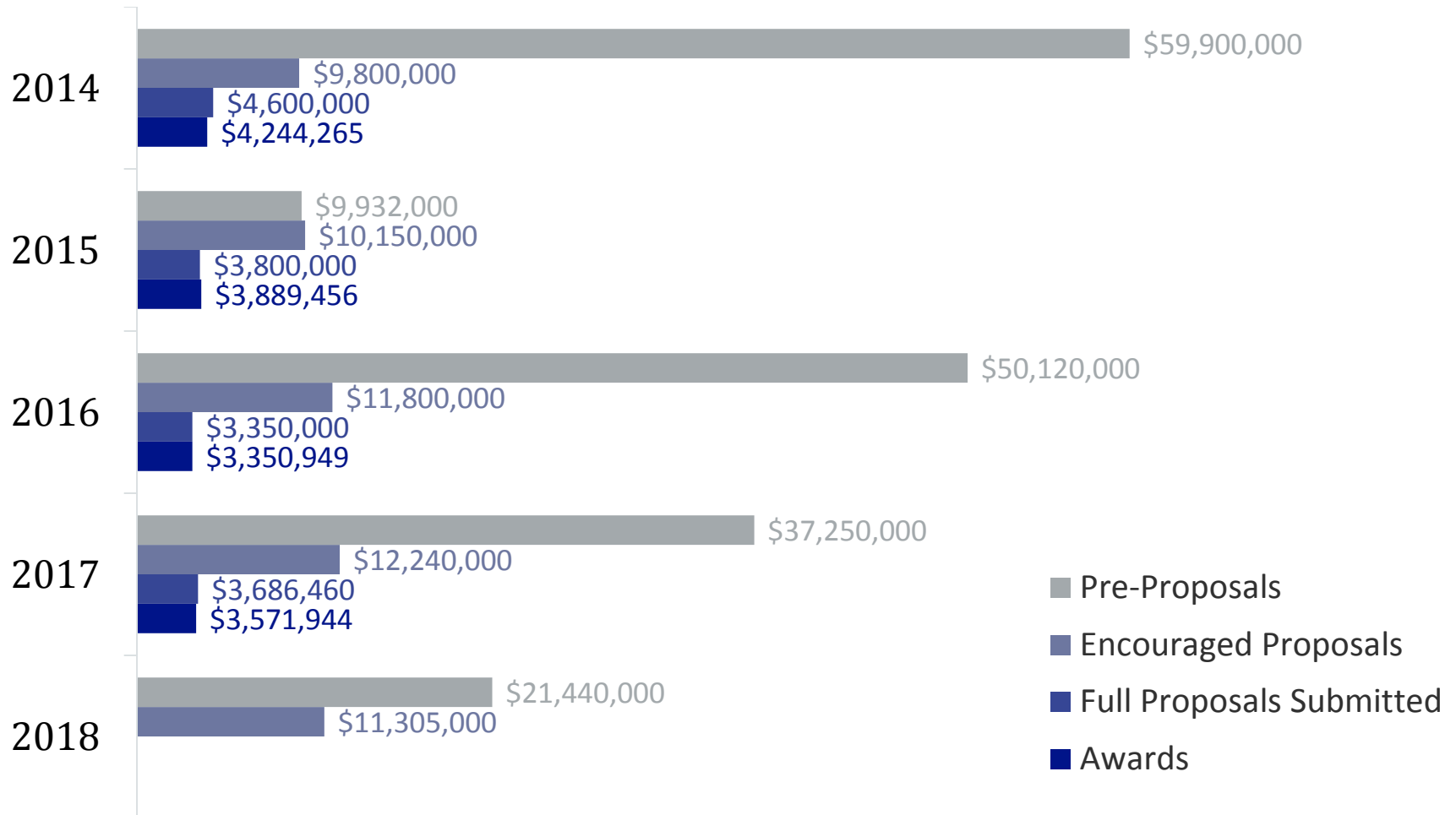
FFO Request for Proposal Topics

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Geographic Area	Gulf of Mexico Caribbean Arctic	Arctic ECS			Gulf of Mexico
Themes	Seafloor Mapping Habitat Characterization Oceanographic Processes Innovative Technology Applications Marine Archeology	General Ocean Exploration	General Ocean Exploration Innovative Use of Exploration Technologies Marine Archeology and Heritage	Water Column Exploration Seamounts WWII Marine Archeology Advanced Technology	General Ocean Exploration Marine Archeology Innovative Technology Applications

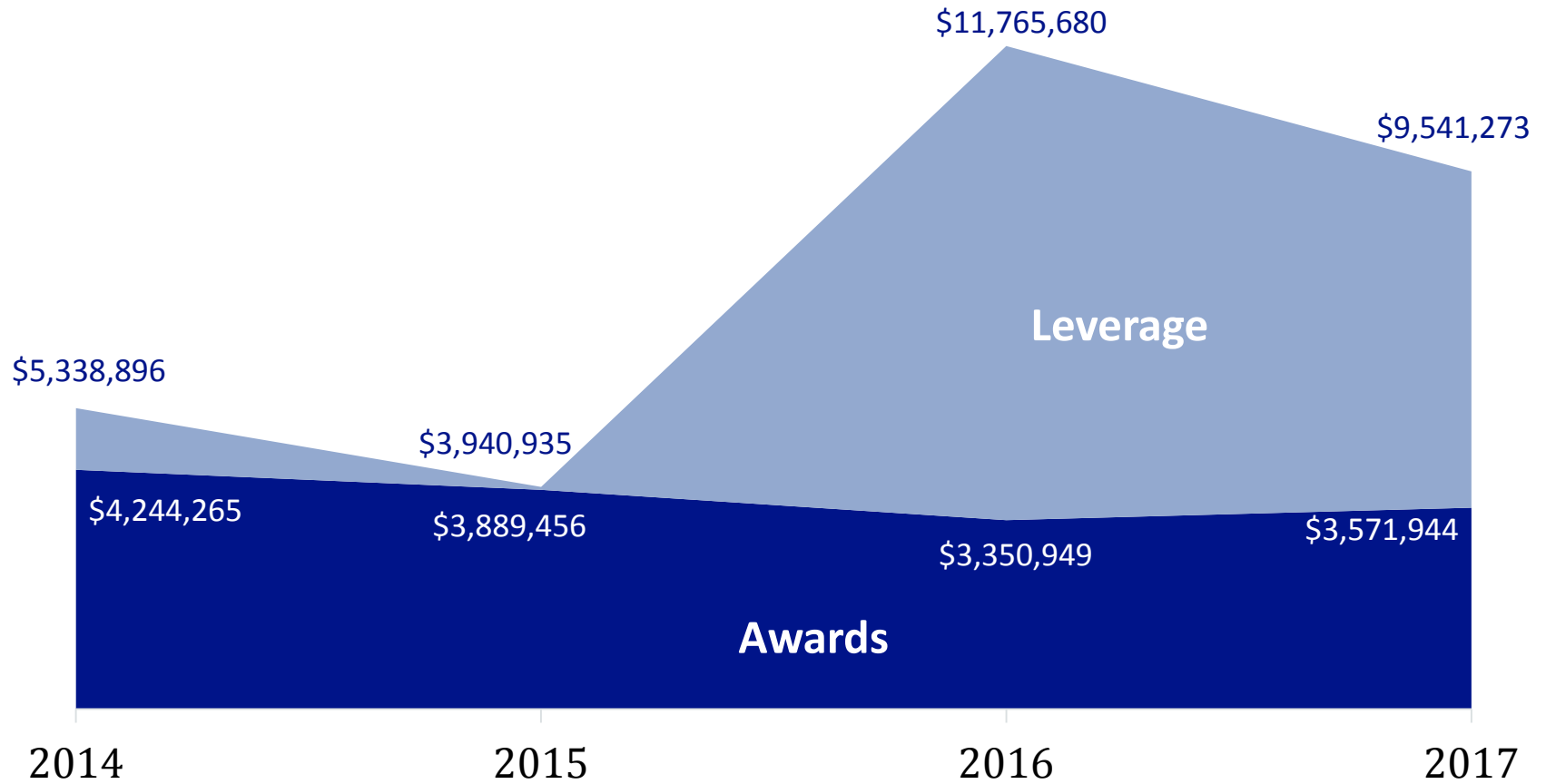
Numbers of Proposals and Awards



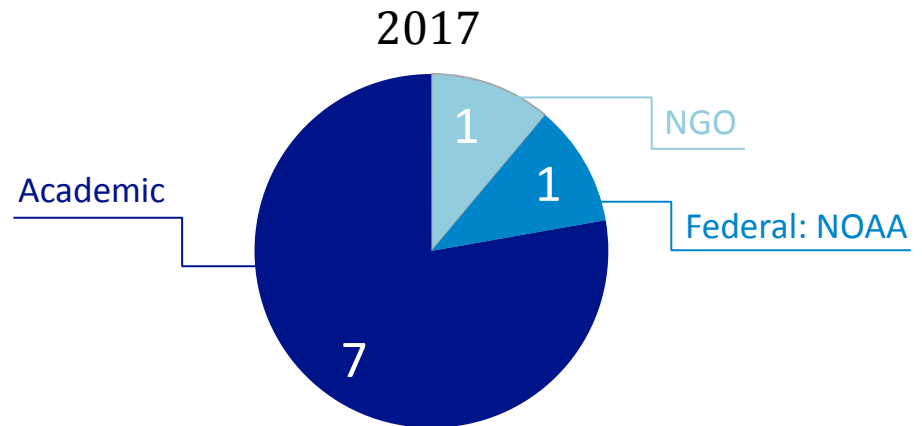
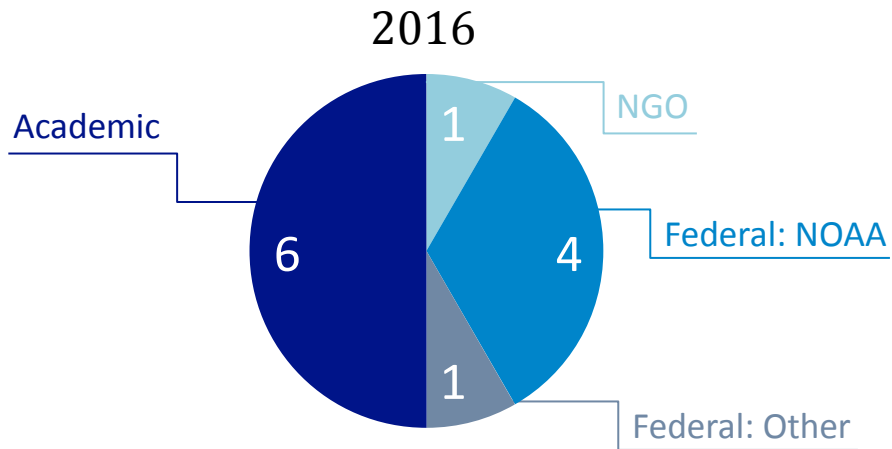
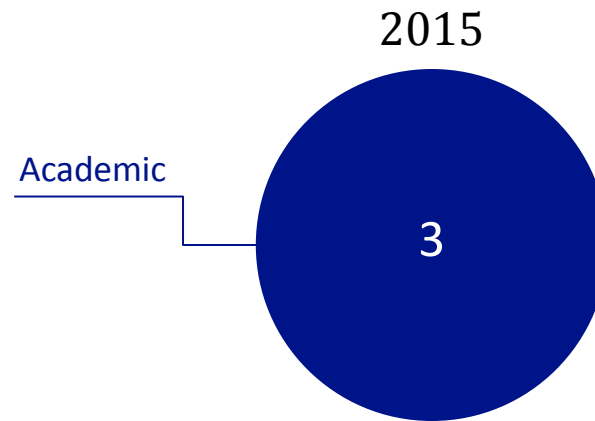
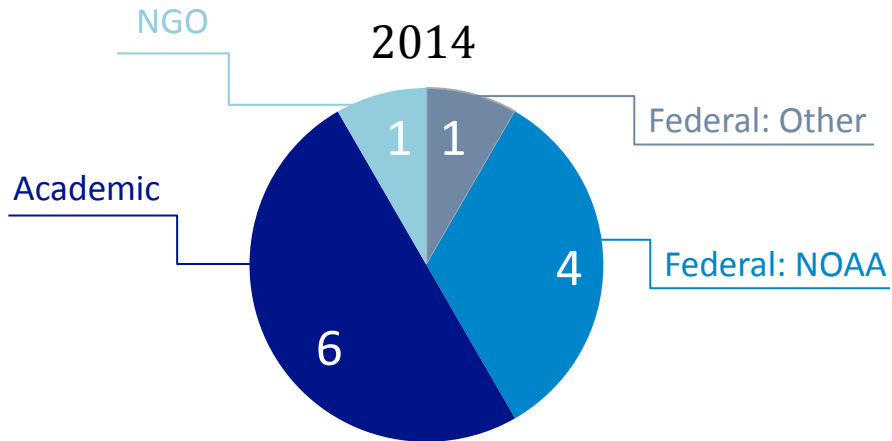
FFO Funding by Year



FFO Funding + Leverage By Year

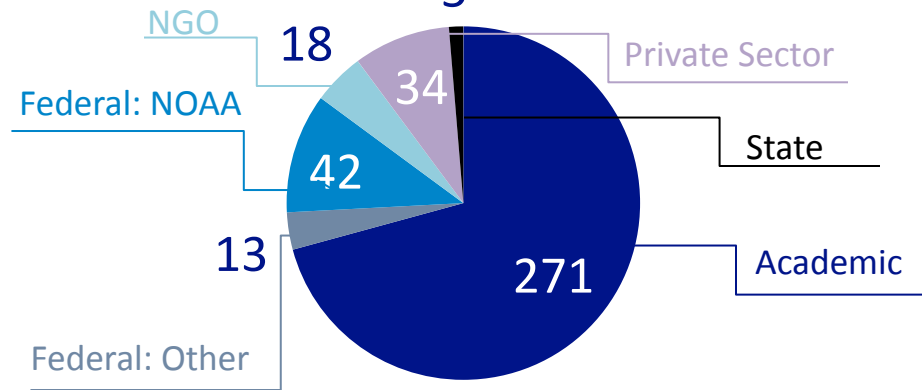


PI Affiliation by Year: Awards

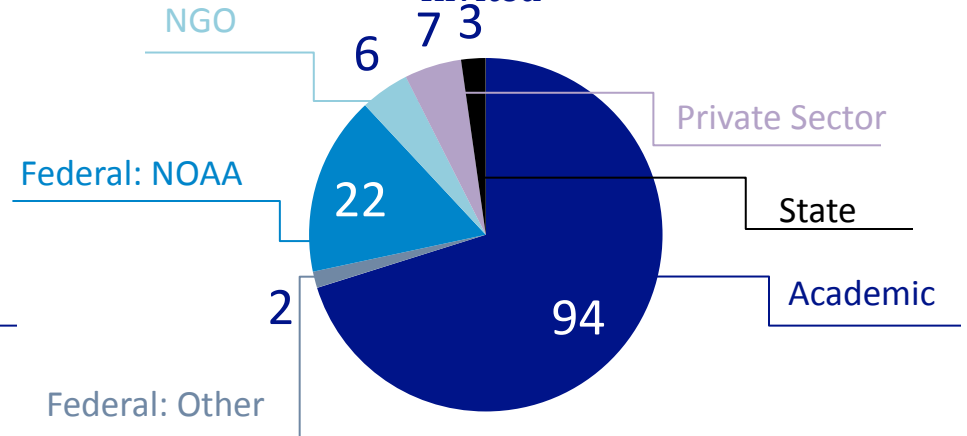


PI Affiliation 2014-2018*

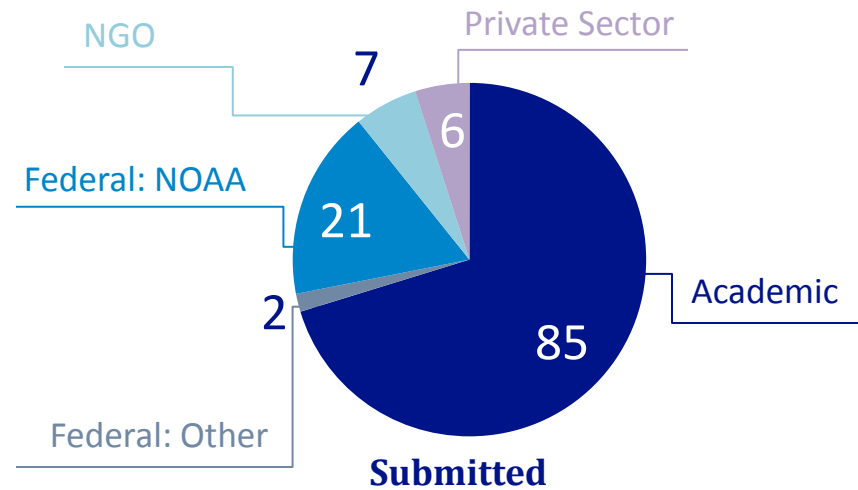
Pre-proposal



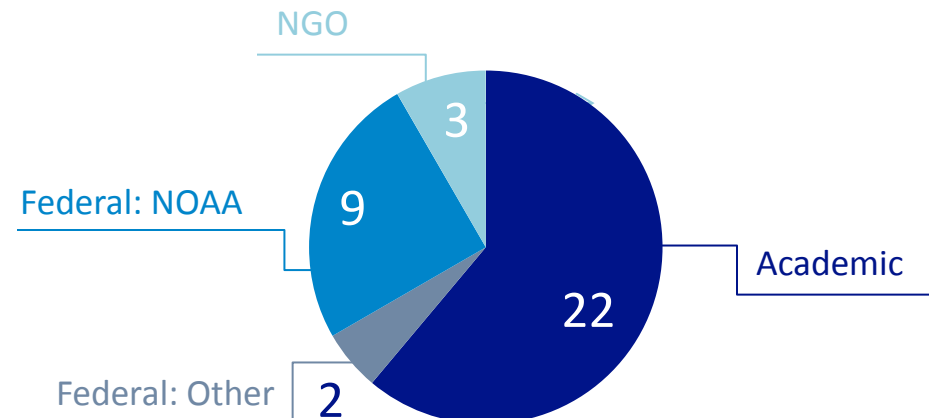
Invited



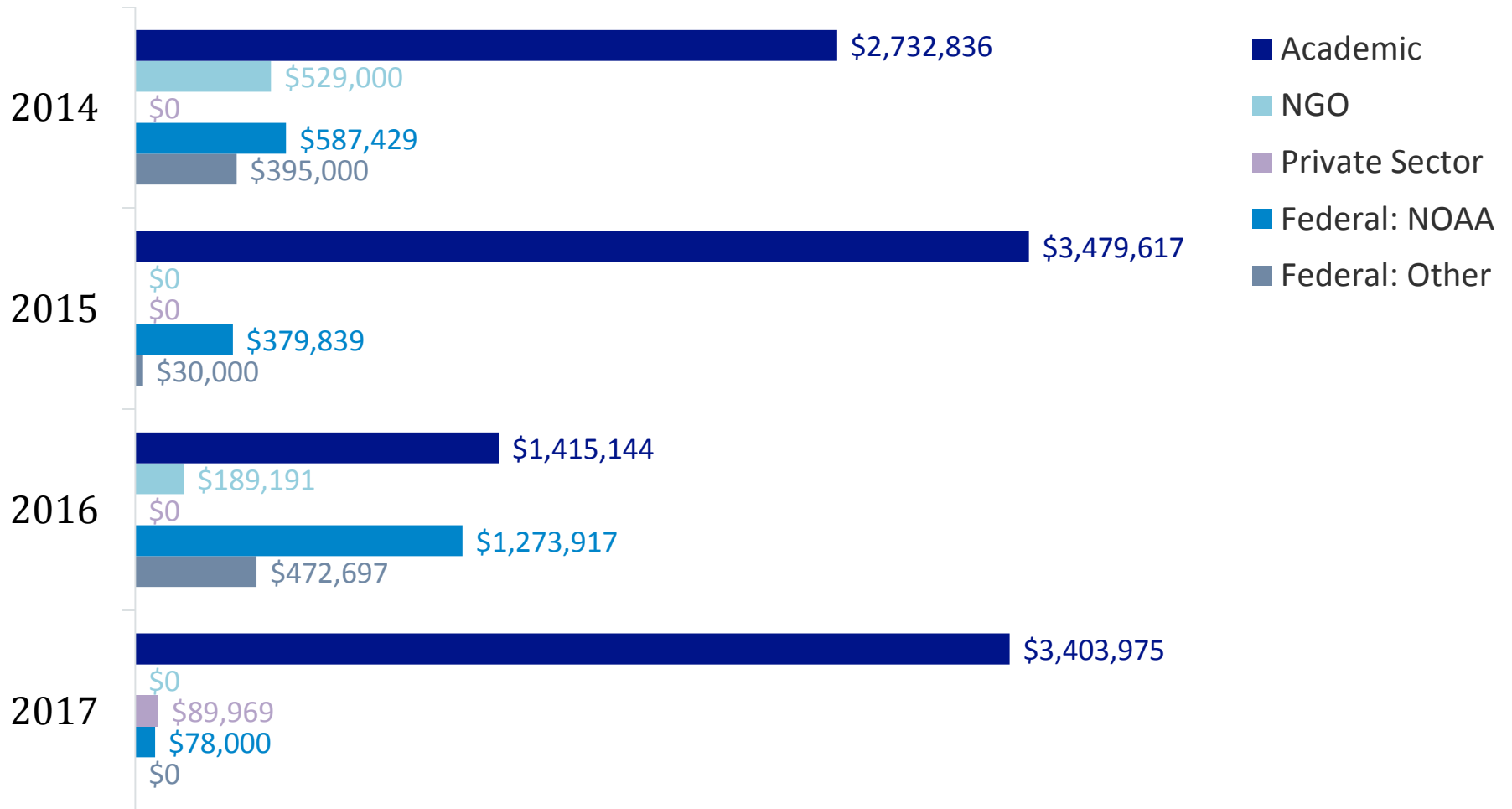
Submitted



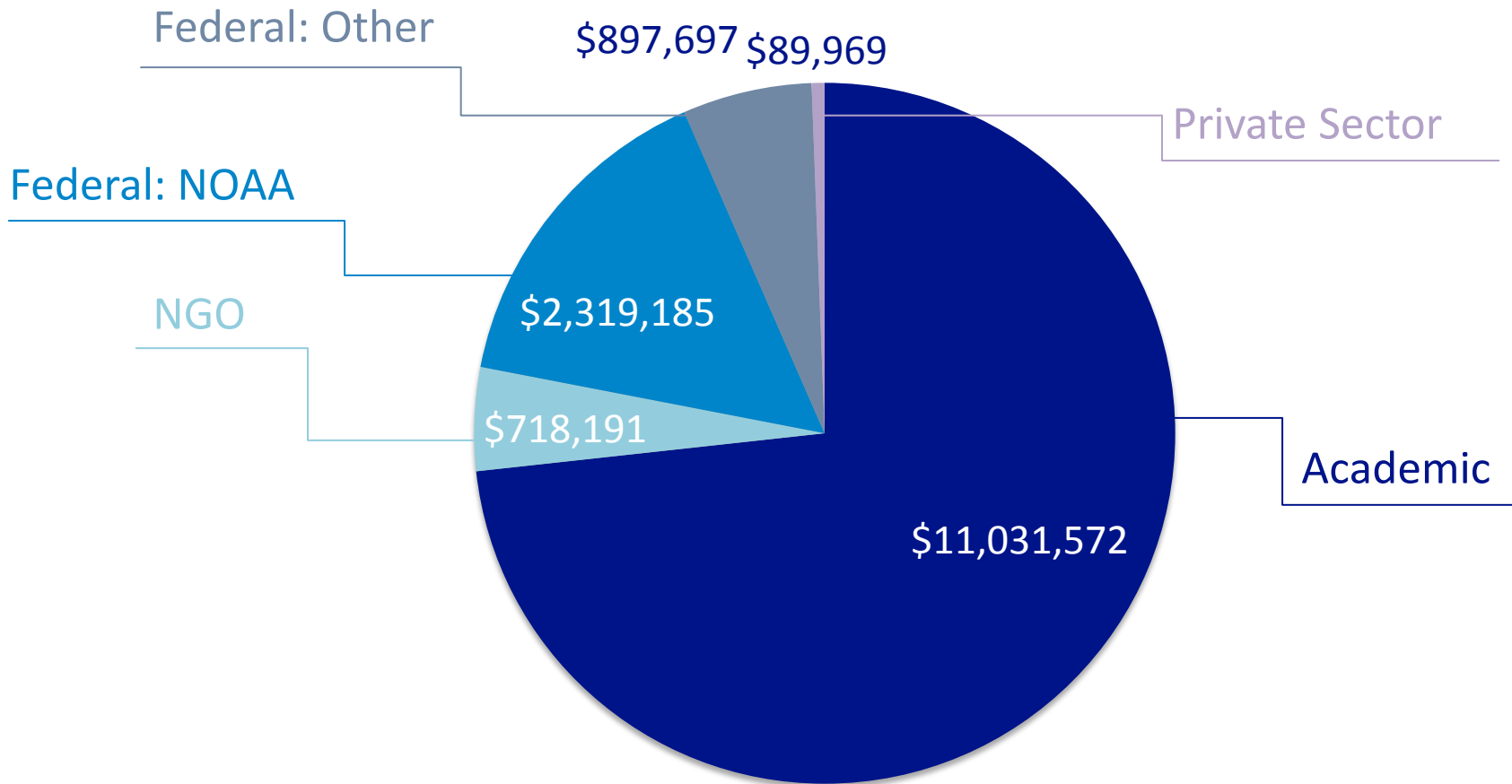
Awards*



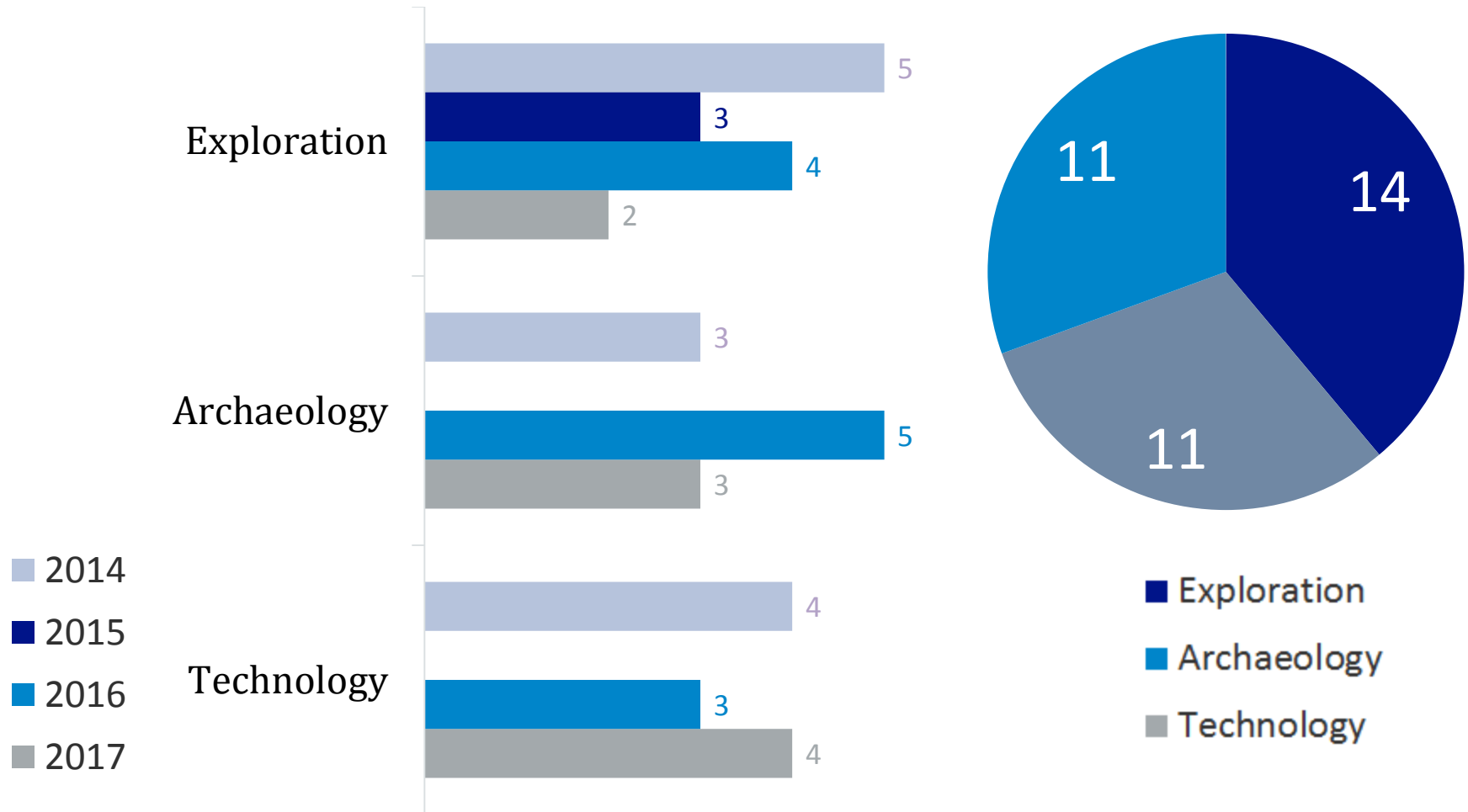
Distribution of Awards by Affiliation



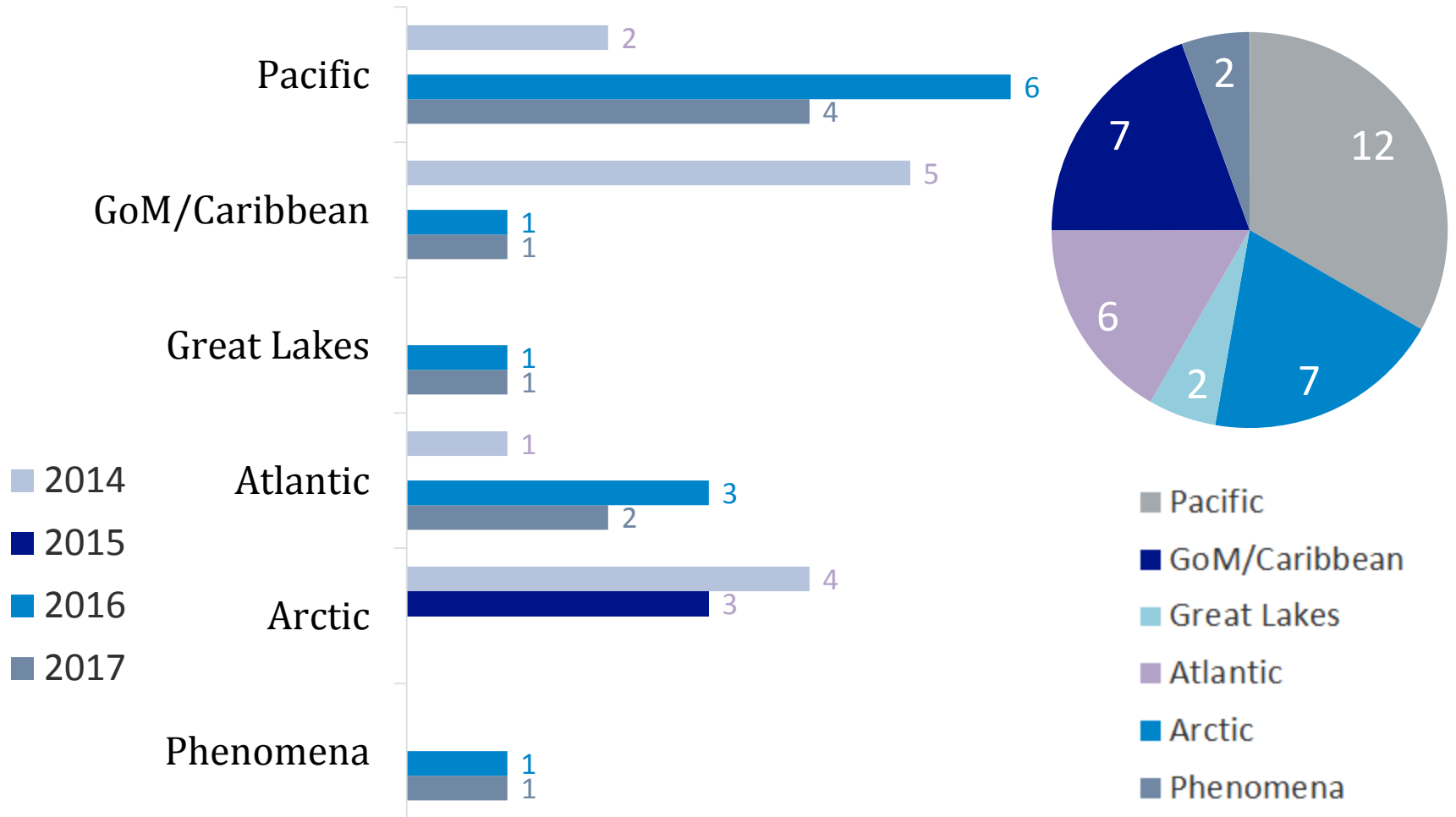
Awards by Affiliation 2014 - 2017



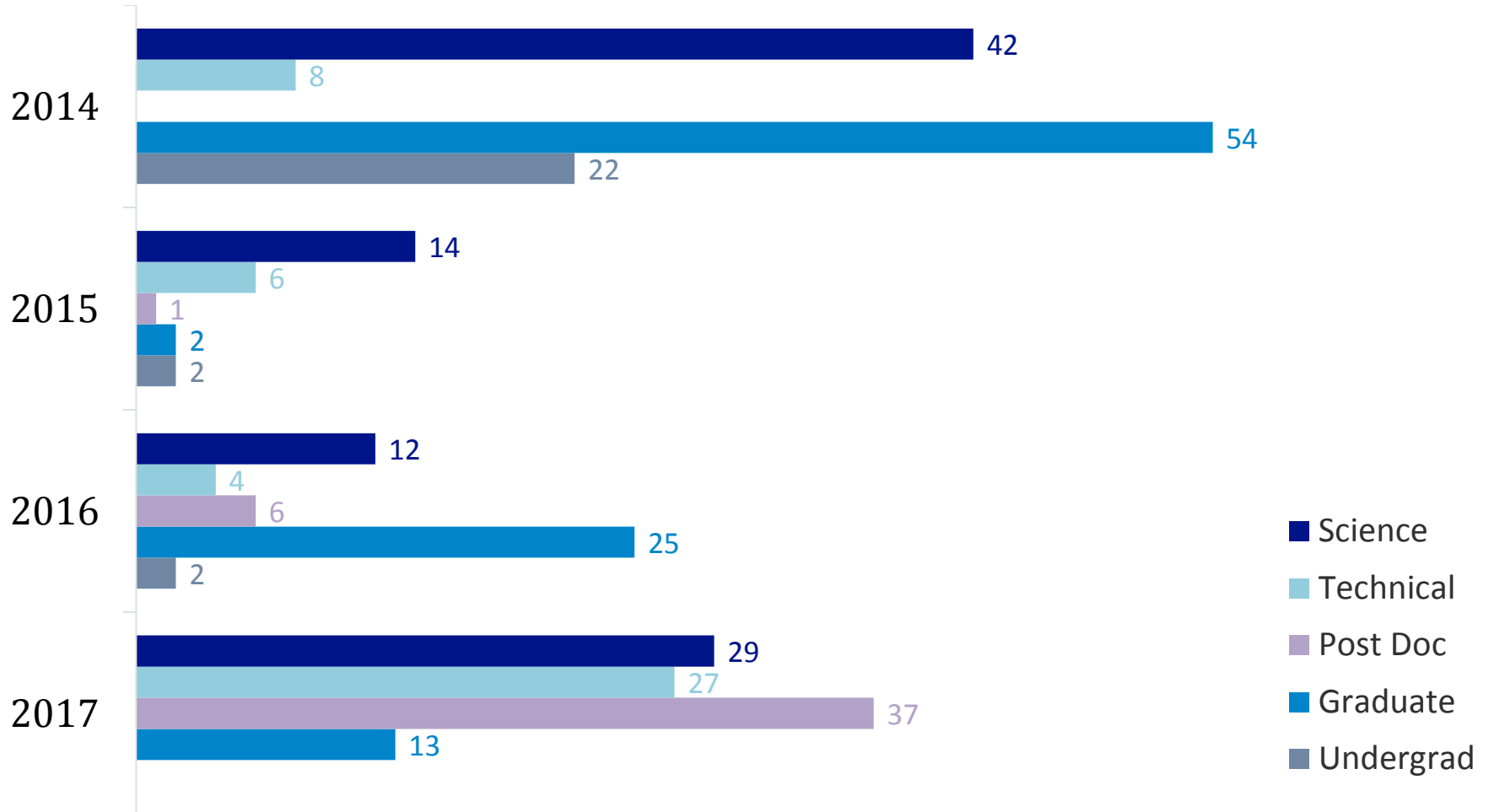
Award Themes: 2014-2017



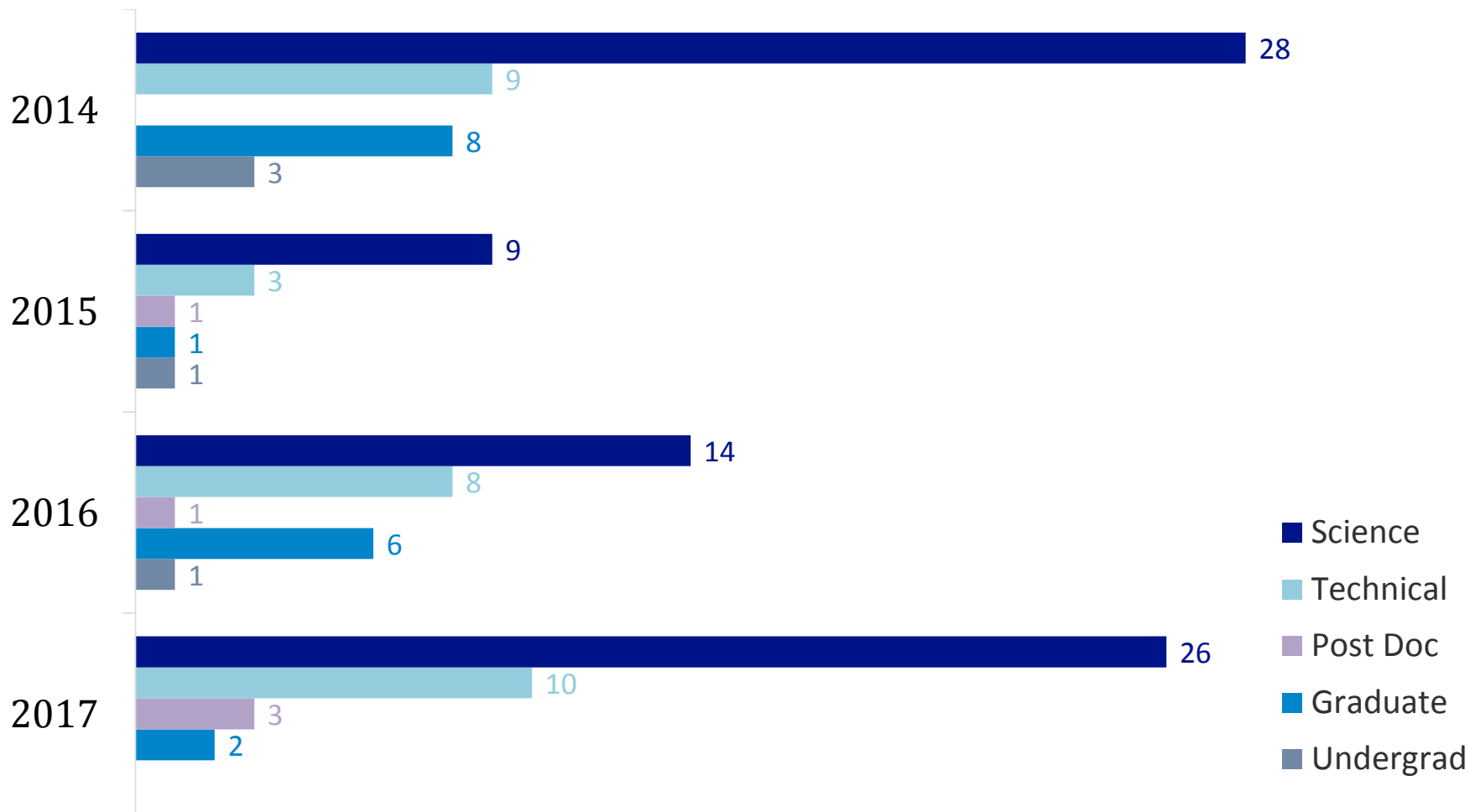
Geographic Focus by Year: 2014-2017



Review of Types of Personnel Awards Support (in months)



Review of Types of Personnel Awards Support (in numbers of people)



Summary Points

- Despite variation in FFO RFP themes, number of applications, amounts requested, and funds dispersed are relatively consistent over the three years (with allowances for 2015)
- A careful analysis of these data is critical to understanding the FFO and its results; we have been operating the program in its current form (i.e. focused on specific NOAA priorities) since 2014
- Nevertheless, we are starting to get a good picture of the program's effectiveness and value
- Regular bibliographic citation analyses demonstrate impact

What's Next for the FFO Process

- Quantitative evaluation of grants outcomes, especially their relevance to, and impacts on, NOAA missions and objectives
- Considerations for future FFOs
 - Complement ocean exploration campaigns (e.g., ASPIRE)?
 - Technology (e.g., new sensors and help build reliance on seagoing assets other than ships)?
 - Implement FFOs in partnership with other agencies and programs (e.g., NOPP)?
 - Multi-year? More than one FFO active at any given time?



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