



2009 Call for Proposals

Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species (MAP)

Program Description: The Mid-Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species (MAP) is composed of individuals representing federal and state agencies, regional and academic entities, and private environmental groups from the mid-Atlantic region. Details about the member states, district and the history of the MAP are on our website: <http://www.midatlanticpanel.org/>

MAP Mission: The mission of the MAP is to assist state and federal agencies and other stakeholders in developing and implementing strategic, coordinated, action-oriented approaches to preventing and controlling AIS in the mid-Atlantic region. The driving force behind our mission is to strengthen cooperation, coordination, and communication on AIS issues within the region and beyond.

- **Call for Proposals Summary:** In 2009 the MAP is offering a limited Small Grants Competition (SGC) to encourage interested groups and individuals to submit proposals for possible funding. This announcement lists MAP priorities and provides information about the format and timetable for submitting proposals. The MAP encourages broad participation from groups and individuals concerned about aquatic invasive species issues in this region. A proposal submission must include a letter of support from a MAP member and projects must address an aquatic invasive species problem within the region defined by the MAP.

Full proposals due: **February 29, 2009**

Program priorities: Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals that include the following components:

- Substantial in-kind or cash contributions toward the project. Match can include indirect costs.
- “On the ground” activities, such as, control activities, early detection, rapid response, monitoring or surveys, and mapping;
- Regional significance; and
- Relevance to the mission and priorities of MAP.

The MAP membership identified the following activities as high priorities for 2009 funding. This is not an exclusive list. Projects that address related topics are also encouraged.

- *Develop or use existing national databases to map distributions of AIS in the region.*

A common priority for all the states in the region is monitoring and mapping of AIS. The MAP is interested in how we can use existing databases to meet our needs for documenting species occurrence and distribution in our region. The goal is to provide easy to use geospatial maps and technologies to track the occurrence of priority species in the region. Ideally, AIS databases throughout the region would eventually provide coarse to fine scale maps of AIS distribution and temporal occurrence.

- *Encourage states to develop an AIS management plan.*

The MAP recognizes state plans can provide a catalyst for state and federal funding and resources. MAP is interested in funding proposals that contribute to the development of management plans in Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey, and West Virginia. In our region, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New York have completed state management plans. Some of these plans address both aquatic and terrestrial species (see plans at: <http://www.midatlanticpanel.org/ais/mgtplans.htm>).

- *Implement AIS management plans.*

Develop proposals that would implement management actions called for in state invasive species management plans or Chesapeake Bay Program Regional Management plans for *Phragmites*, purple loosestrife, water chestnut, nutria, mute swan, and zebra mussels (see plans at <http://www.midatlanticpanel.org/ais/mgtplans.htm>)

- *Build on current regional efforts in early detection and rapid response.*

The MAP is developing a regional rapid response plan with funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The plan will emphasize an Incident Command System approach to help initiate a synchronized response in the event of a new invasion in a state or watershed in the region. Proposals are encouraged that further expand activities to strengthen early detection and rapid response effort.

- *Work with the Environmental Law Institute to examine regional coordination efforts for preventing the spread of AIS.*

The Environmental Law Institute's (ELI) recently released report "Halting the Invasion in the Chesapeake Bay: Preventing Aquatic Invasive Species Introduction through Regional Cooperation" provides a series of recommendations. To complement this report, the MAP is interested in supporting proposals that respond to specific recommendations:

- *Enhance Regional Body Interactions*
- *Encourage Interstate Collaboration*
- *Address Weaknesses in existing AIS Prevention Authorities*
- *Facilitate compliance with and enforcement of AIS prevention authorities*
- *Plan for AIS Prevention on a regional level*

Although the report focuses on the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the Panel believes that many of these recommendations could be applied throughout the Mid-Atlantic region and encourages expanding the implementation of some of these recommendations to other states in the region. For more information about the Panel and our priorities visit our website: <http://www.midatlanticpanel.org>

Funds Available: Up to \$50,000 is available to fund several projects. MAP encourages projects that are in the \$7,000 to \$10,000 range. Funds will be administered by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service and will be awarded as a contract between the individual's institution and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Projects that document how the funds can work as "seed money" or to leverage potential future funding are strongly encouraged. The MAP discourages projects that use MAP funds to "add-on" to existing programs and do not specifically address MAP priorities.

Project Duration and Award Period: Projects must be completed within 2 years of the award date. Start dates are flexible, but can start as early as fall 2009.

Eligibility: Any individuals in federal, state, provincial or local agencies, institutions of higher education, commercial or non-profit organizations, professional, lake, landowner, and watershed organizations, Tribes, and international organizations are eligible for funding as investigators or cooperators.

Indirect Costs: The MAP looks to support a number of small grants from a variety of institutions and does not allow indirect costs. Indirect cost, however, can be included in project match.

Cost Sharing and Matching: No matching funds or cost sharing arrangements are required, although a 2:1 match (i.e. 50% of total costs) is recommended and will be considered favorably in the review process.

Consultation: Before submitting a proposal, applicants must discuss proposals with and gain written support and approval from their respective MAP state representative.

Proposal Format: Proposals must include the following information and must not exceed a total of 6 pages:

A) Project Summary (Page 1)

- 1) Organization Title
- 2) Project Lead and Co-Participants
- 3) Address, Telephone Number, and E-mail address of Project Lead
- 4) Project Title
- 5) Project Duration
- 6) Project Objectives or a Project Abstract
- 7) One paragraph statement of support from a MAP member (Membership information can be found at www.midatlanticpanel.org). Attach letter of support.

B) Project Description (maximum 2 - 4 pages)

- 1) Objectives

- 2) Narrative: The project narrative should detail the activities that are to be accomplished during the budget period of the project. This description should include specific methods or activities that are proposed to accomplish the objective(s).
- 3) Benefits or Results Expected
- 4) Outreach Plan: Must explain how the project will connect its findings to the public.
- 5) Project Timeline: Include schedule and specific deliverables of the project, such as publications, educational materials, or workshop reports.

C) Budget and Budget Justification: (maximum 2 pages)

Please use the budget table below following the categories in the table. Omit a category if you have no costs associated with it. Include any cost share contributions. The Budget Justification must summarize the funding needs for your project and link to the categories in the table. Give a cost analysis for each deliverable you identify in the project design. Describe resource commitments of in-kind donations, funds and/or volunteers from other groups. The MAP strongly encourages in-kind donations and matching funds.

Budget			
Category	MAP Request	Match (indicate In Kind or cash)	Total
Personnel (x hours @ \$__ per hour or % annual effort)			
Fringe Benefits			
Travel			
Equipment			
Supplies			
Contractual			
Construction			
Other			
Total Direct Charges			
Indirect Charges (allowed only as match)			
Total			

D) One - two page curriculum vitae for the project lead and co-participants.

Deadline for Proposal Submission: Proposals are due by 5 p.m. on February 29, 2009. Proposals may be sent electronically in Word or PDF format via E-mail to Lisa_Moss@fws.gov or hard copies may be mailed to: Lisa Moss, Mid-Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, 11110 Kimages Road, Charles City, VA 23030. Those who e-mail their proposals will receive an e-mail acknowledgement.

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked by a panel of MAP members and external experts. Projects will be ranked according to their technical merit, relevance to MAP priorities, expertise of participants, outreach component and potential for successful completion.

Selection Process:

- The MAP executive committee will screen all proposals to determine eligibility and whether projects address the program priorities by March 21, 2009.
- The executive committee will provide summaries of the top eligible proposals to MAP members for their review by March 28, 2009.
- The MAP members will evaluate and rank the projects based on how well they address the specific elements of the project design and the budget and cost justification.
- Based on available funds and requested funding support, the top project(s) will receive funding.
- Announcement of awards will occur no later than June 16, 2009. Processing of awards will occur no later than July 31, 2009. Projects must be completed within two years of the start date.

PROJECT DELIVERABLES

All PIs must submit a final report at the completion of the project.

- The applicants that are selected to receive funding must submit a detailed statement of work as part of the contracting process.
- The MAP executive committee will oversee the completion of the project and work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure completion of the project goals.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reserves the right to divert funds to another project if contracted benchmarks are not completed according to plan.
- If projects that are progressing adequately require additional funds, unspent project funds can be requested if other projects are not completed on time.