2020 Request for Proposals
Proposal Deadline: March 20, 2020 at 5:00 PM EDT

Program Description: The Mid-Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species (MAPAIS) 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 members and the history of the MAPAIS are on the website: http://www.midatlanticpanel.org/.

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

Call for Proposals Summary: In 2020, the MAPAIS is offering a small grants competition and encourages interested groups and individuals to submit proposals for possible funding. This announcement lists MAPAIS priorities and provides information about the format and timetable for submitting proposals. We encourage broad participation from groups and individuals concerned about AIS issues in the mid-Atlantic region. A proposal submission must address an AIS problem.

Program priorities: The following elements are of high priority to the MAPAIS and should be considered in the preparation of proposals:
- Activities that will increase public understanding of and compliance with the prevention and control of AIS
- Clear description of proposed actions, products, and other deliverables
- Relevance to the mission and priorities of MAPAIS
- Regional significance
- Leveraging of other funding sources

The MAPAIS membership identified the following activities as high priorities for 2020. This is not an exclusive list, and it is in no particular order. Projects that address other AIS management topics will also be considered.

- ***Develop outreach and educational materials for classrooms and specific populations (K-Gray) to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS.***
  Control and prevention of AIS requires a major change in human behavior surrounding non-native aquatic species. Mainstreaming AIS education into K-12 classrooms ensures children will learn responsible prevention early in life and spread this knowledge to their communities. Environmental education in AIS is also a subject that encourages the place-based, problem-solving, field activities that are so important to K-12 education. MAPAIS is interested in the development and implementation of lesson plans, textbook chapters, teacher

development training, and other educational materials that reflect the standards set by the states and will broadly reach K-12 students in the mid-Atlantic.

Targeting specific populations, such as boaters, anglers, water gardeners, field biologists, etc. will help raise awareness and change behavior to prevent AIS spread. MAPAIS is interested in the development of outreach materials and informational resources that can help raise awareness and change behavior to prevent the spread of AIS.

- ***Conduct research on AIS issues in the region such as prevention, early detection, rapid response, emerging invasions, and how climate change may influence AIS.***

- ***Conduct innovative approaches to AIS control/eradication, or control/eradicate a high priority AIS population.***
  While MAPAIS is not interested in funding routine control projects, MAPAIS will consider funding control/eradication projects that can provide innovative tools and lessons to other groups looking to tackle similar issues. MAPAIS will also consider projects targeting unique AIS populations in the region, where eradicating that specific population will have a significant impact on the species distribution (e.g., by removing it from the region)

- ***Continue to develop vector management strategies for states and the region.***
  In late 2009, MAPAIS and Maryland Sea Grant held a workshop on vector management as a mechanism to prevent introductions of invasive species. Recommendations from the workshop included improving management of ship fouling and live bait as well as addressing other ship and live trade pathways (http://www.midatlanticpanel.org//wp-content/uploads/2016/04/AIS2009Report.pdf). Proposals are encouraged that develop mechanisms for states and the region to pursue vector management options.

- ***Encourage states to develop and implement AIS management plans meeting the standards set by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.***
  The MAPAIS recognizes that state management plans can provide a catalyst for state and federal funding and resources. It continues to be interested in funding proposals that contribute to the development and implementation of plans (http://www.midatlanticpanel.org/mapais_resources/statemanagementplans/).

Funds Available: Approximately $30,000 is available to fund several projects. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funds will be administered by the Maryland Sea Grant Program as an award between the grant recipient's institution and Maryland Sea Grant, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Projects that document how the funds can work as "seed money" or to leverage other funding are strongly encouraged. However, projects that would simply use MAPAIS funds to "add-on" to existing programs or that do not specifically address MAPAIS priorities are discouraged. Since total funds are limited, the MAPAIS may request changes in the project scope of work and budget for funded projects. Total funding available for this program is contingent on a USFWS grant to the MAPAIS.

Project Duration and Award Period: The target start date for awards is September 1, 2020. Projects must be completed within two years of the start date.

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

Consultation: Before submitting a proposal, applicants are encouraged to discuss proposals with their respective MAPAIS state representative. The MAPAIS membership directory can be found at http://www.midatlanticpanel.org/about-us/panel-members/.

Cost Sharing and Matching: No cost share/match is required on MAPAIS grant applications. However, demonstration of how MAPAIS funds will leverage other resources or seed potential future proposals may be considered in the review process.

Proposal Format: Proposals must include the following information. Please use 12-point font, 1-inch margins, and single or double spacing. Please submit all documents as one PDF file. **Proposals must adhere to format instructions or they will be returned without review.**

    A. Signature Cover Sheet
    B. Project Summary (1-page maximum)
    C. Project Narrative (4-page maximum)
    D. Budget
    E. Budget Justification
    F. Curriculum Vitae/Resume for each PI/Co-PI (2-page maximum per individual)

A. *Signature Cover Sheet*: Principal Investigators are responsible for routing the proposal through their organization's research administration or grants/contracts officer to obtain all required institutional signatures prior to submittal. Please include project PI(s), title, amount requested, and start and end dates. A sample layout is available from https://www.mdsg.umd.edu/proposal-forms-and-worksheets.

B. *Project Summary*: Provide the project title at the top of the summary page, and then include an abstract for the project that is no more than 300 words. The abstract should summarize project objectives, methodologies, and rationale clearly and concisely.

C. *Project Narrative (up to 4 pages)*
    1) Project Description: The project description 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).
    2) Benefits or Results Expected
    3) Outreach Plan: The proposal must explain how the project results will be disseminated to appropriate audiences.
    4) Project Timeline: Include schedule and specific deliverables of the project, such as publications, educational materials, or workshop reports.
    5) Previous MAPAIS funding (1-2 paragraphs): If you have received MAPAIS funding previously, please include the title and brief description of the project, amount of funding you received from MAPAIS, project dates, and the project status.

D. *Budget Table*: Include a table outlining your budget for the project. You should list each line item separately by relevant category. Appropriate budget categories include salaries and wages, fringe benefits, permanent equipment (if greater than $5,000), expendable supplies and equipment, domestic or international travel, publication and documentation costs, other direct costs, and indirect costs. An example is provided on the Maryland Sea Grant website, although this is not required (https://www.mdsg.umd.edu/sites/default/files/files/90-4_AQ18.xlsx). If indirect costs are requested, a copy of the federal indirect cost rate agreement must be provided or the de minimus (10%) rate may be used if no such agreement exists.

E. *Budget Justification:* Provide a description for each budget line item and how it was calculated. For salaries, provide number of months of effort, monthly salary or rate, and any associated fringe benefits or rate used when calculating the request.

F. *Curriculum vitae* (2 pages maximum per individual) for the project lead and co-participants.

Completing and Submitting Your Application: Please combine all written components of the proposal with the PDFs downloaded from the Maryland Sea Grant website into <u>one PDF file</u>. Submit this combined document electronically to MAP-Proposals@mdsg.umd.edu no later than 5:00 PM EDT on March 20, 2020. Late submissions will not be accepted; incomplete applications will be returned without review. Therefore, we encourage early submission. Applicants will receive an e-mail acknowledging receipt of the proposal.

Selection Process
- All proposals will be screened to determine eligibility and whether projects address program priorities.
- All proposals will be reviewed by expert reviewers, which may include MAPAIS members or other experts. Proposals will be evaluated and ranked according to:
  - Technical merit and feasibility (40%)
  - Relevance to MAPAIS mission and priorities, outreach and impact potential (40%)
  - Applicants' knowledge of the field and previous contributions (20%)
- At the spring meeting, MAPAIS will discuss the individual reviewer scores and comments to develop a list of the most meritorious proposals for funding.
- Projects will be selected based on available funds, requested funding support, technical ranking, and MAPAIS priorities.
- Announcement of awards is expected by July 2020.
- Projects selected for funding will be required to work with the Maryland Sea Grant business office to complete final budget sheets and budget justifications following funding guidance from MAPAIS.

Project Deliverables
- All project leads must submit progress reports on an annual basis and a final report upon project completion. Continuation of funding is contingent on successful project progress and timely submission of annual reports.
- It is expected that award recipients will present final results upon project completion at a MAPAIS meeting. MAPAIS funding should be acknowledged where appropriate in all presentations and deliverables, and in subsequent related or derivative publications.
- MAPAIS reserves the right to divert funds to another project if project benchmarks are not completed according to plan.
- MAPAIS retains the right to use all documents and materials produced under these grants and disseminate them for use by others, unless other written agreements are in place.

Contacts
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State Representatives: http://www.midatlanticpanel.org/about-us/panel-members/