



2010 Request for Proposals

Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species (MAPAIS)

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 member states, district and the history of the MAPAIS are on our 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, action-oriented approaches to preventing and controlling aquatic invasive species (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 2010 the MAPAIS is offering a limited Small Grants Competition to encourage interested groups and individuals to submit proposals for possible funding. This announcement lists Panel priorities and provides information about the format and timetable for submitting proposals. We are encouraging broad participation from groups and individuals concerned about aquatic invasive species issues in the Mid-Atlantic region. A proposal submission must address an aquatic invasive species problem.

Full proposals due: April 2, 2010

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

- On- the-ground activities-
 - eradication and control
 - reporting and monitoring
 - survey and risk assessment
 - public education and outreach
- Relevance to the mission and priorities of MAPAIS
- Regional significance
- Substantial in-kind or cash contributions toward the project which can include indirect costs

The MAPAIS membership identified the following activities as high priorities for 2010. This is not an exclusive list. Projects that address related topics are also encouraged.

1) ***Develop or use existing national databases to map distributions of AIS in the region***

Mapping of AIS to document species occurrence and distribution in the Mid-Atlantic region is an important and necessary tool for effective monitoring, state and regional coordination, and early detection and rapid response. The MAPAIS is interested in how existing databases such as the USGS Non-Indigenous Aquatic Species Database can be used to facilitate this process by providing user friendly geospatial maps and versatile technologies to track the occurrence of priority species in the region.

MAPAIS priority species can be found at:

http://www.mdsg.umd.edu/images/uploads/siteimages/invasive_species/6_Species_of_Interest.pdf

Ideally, AIS databases throughout the region would eventually provide coarse to fine scale maps of AIS distribution and temporal occurrence.

2) ***Encourage states to develop an AIS management plan***

The MAPAIS recognizes state management plans can provide a catalyst for state and federal funding and resources. It is interested in funding proposals that contribute to the development of 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>).

3) ***Implement AIS management plans***

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

4) ***Build on current regional efforts in early detection and rapid response***

In early 2009, MAPAIS and Maryland Sea Grant completed a regional rapid response plan with funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The plan emphasizes 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 Mid-Atlantic region. For more information visit:

http://www.mdsg.umd.edu/images/uploads/siteimages/invasive_species/6_Stopping_the_spread.pdf.

Proposals are encouraged that further expand activities to strengthen early detection and rapid response effort.

5) ***Develop vector management strategies for states and the region***

In late 2009, the 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. Proposals are encouraged that develop mechanisms for states and the region to pursue vector management options.

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

The Environmental Law Institute's 2007 report "Halting the Invasion in the Chesapeake Bay: Preventing Aquatic Invasive Species Introduction through Regional Cooperation" provides a series of recommendations. Although the report focuses on the Chesapeake Bay watershed, many of the recommendations could be applied

throughout the Mid-Atlantic region and encourages expanding their implementation to other states in the region. MAPAIS is interested in supporting proposals that respond to these specific report recommendations:

- Encourage interstate collaboration
- Enhance regional body interactions
- Address weaknesses in existing AIS prevention authorities
- Facilitate compliance with and enforcement of AIS prevention authorities
- Plan for AIS prevention on a regional level

Funds Available: Up to \$50,000 is available to fund several projects. MAPAIS encourages projects that are in the \$7,000 to \$10,000 range. Funds will be administered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) and will be awarded as a contract between the individual's institution and MD DNR. Projects that document how the funds can work as "seed money" or to leverage potential future funding are strongly encouraged. Projects that use MAPAIS funds to "add-on" to existing programs and do not specifically address Panel priorities are discouraged.

Project Duration and Award Period: Projects must be completed within 2 years of the award date. Start dates are flexible as they are contingent upon completion of the processing of individual awards.

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 MAPAIS 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 are encouraged to discuss proposals with their respective MAPAIS state representative. The membership directory can be found at <http://www.midatlanticpanel.org/members/panel.htm>

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

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 and 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 MAPAIS strongly encourages in-kind donations and matching funds.

BUDGET			
Category	MAPAIS Request	Match (In kind or Cash)	Total
Personnel (x hours @ hourly rate or % annual effort)			
Fringe Benefits			
Travel			
Equipment			
Supplies			
Contractual			
Construction			
Other			
Total Direct Charges			
Indirect Charges (allowed only as match)			
Total			

D) Brief curriculum vitae for the project lead and co-participants.

Deadline for Proposal Submission: Proposals are due no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 2, 2010. Proposals may be sent electronically in Word or PDF format via electronic 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 MAPAIS members. Projects will be ranked according to their technical merit, relevance to Panel priorities, applicability to the region, expertise of participants, outreach component, and potential for successful completion.

Selection Process:

- Executive committee members will screen all proposals to determine eligibility and whether projects address program priorities by mid-April of 2010.
- Panel coordinator will provide summaries of the top eligible proposals to MAPAIS members for their review at the May 2010 Panel meeting.
- MAPAIS 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 in June of 2010. Processing of awards will occur mid-late summer. 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 MAPAIS executive committee will oversee the completion of the project and work with Maryland DNR to ensure completion of the project goals.
- Maryland DNR 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.