



Marine Protected Areas Initiative Spring 2010 Request for Proposals

Purpose

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is soliciting conservation grant proposals to support increased effectiveness of marine protected areas (MPAs) through the implementation of the U.S. National System of Marine Protected Areas (national system).

Successful proposals will:

- a. Contribute to national system priority conservation objectives as outlined in the *Framework for the National System of Marine Protected Areas of the United States of America* (see http://mpa.gov/pdf/national-system/finalframework_full.pdf, page 15).;
- b. Be submitted jointly by two or more members of the national system that represent two or more MPA programs or agencies. MPAs that are eligible for the national system and submit their nomination forms to join the national system in Fall 2009 will be considered eligible pending their formal acceptance to the national system in early 2010. Proposals to enable current national system members to work with potential members to meet the eligibility criteria for the national system of MPAs will also be considered (e.g. development of management plans).
- c. Lead to measureable results supporting national system objectives.

Priorities

Priorities include the following:

1. **Stewardship Projects as Part of a Regional/Sub-Regional MPA Plan:** For MPAs and MPA programs that have already established regional or sub-regional coordination mechanisms, MPA plans and/or implementation priorities (e.g. through the Seamless Network initiative, Regional Ocean Councils, or other mechanisms), funds may be directed toward specific stewardship projects that have already been identified as a regional priority.
2. **Development of a Regional/Sub-Regional MPA Plan:** For MPAs and MPA programs that have not yet established regional or sub-regional coordination mechanisms, MPA plans and/or implementation priorities, funds may be directed toward a workshop or meeting to establish such plans and priorities.
3. **Meeting National System Eligibility Criteria:** For MPAs and MPA programs that do not meet the eligibility criteria for the national system of MPAs, funds may be directed toward a partnership with an existing national system partner to conduct activities to meet eligibility criteria (e.g. development of MPA management plans).

In 2009, federal, state and regional managing entities with MPAs in the national system met to discuss preliminary priorities for the system. Issues identified by this group included the following, and are provided as guidance to applicants. Successful applications may include, but are not limited to, these topics.

MPA Management and Effectiveness

- Tools to support community-based MPAs
- Improving MPA effectiveness – e.g. management capacity building; evaluation; enforcement
- Integration of national system MPAs with marine spatial planning and regional ocean governance

MPA Science and Analysis

- Ecosystem/resource characterization (within and outside MPAs)
- Climate change adaptation
- Enhancing MPA connectivity
- Describing MPA uses and values
- Spatial data tools to support decision-making

MPA Outreach and Education

- In-reach to MPA programs
- Public outreach

Eligibility

All persons, organizations, and agencies (excluding U.S. Federal Government) working on projects to enhance MPA stewardship among members of the national system of MPAs are eligible. Applicants may include non-governmental organizations, but must include at least two agencies responsible for MPA management. Federal agencies may not receive funds, but may be listed as partners on an application. Applications for funding for land or easement acquisition, facility construction, political advocacy, lobbying, or litigation will not be considered.

Grant Size

The majority of awards under this program will fall in the range of \$25,000 to \$35,000. However upper or lower limits to award size are not specified.

Grant Period

Projects are for one year, and funds must be spent by May 2011.

Application Guidelines

The following guidelines will be used by an advisory team of experts to evaluate applications requesting support from the Marine Protected Areas Fund.

Pre-Proposal

All applicants are required to submit a pre-proposal for review. No supporting materials other than the Pre-proposal Narrative described below will be accepted during this phase of the review. Failure to follow the length and formatting guidelines will result in disqualification of the pre-proposal.

Pre-Proposal Narrative (maximum 2 pages, single-spaced, 12-point type)

The pre-proposal body should provide the following information.

- *Priority Addressed* : List which of the three priorities will be addressed by your proposal. (See “Priorities” above.)
- *Project Location*: List all countries, states, municipalities, coastlines and marine areas in which you will conduct all project activities (maps may be included).
- *Methods*: Provide a description of methods used. Explain how methods are suited to the size of the project area.
- *Project Outcomes(s)*: Describe the short-term outcomes/results anticipated to occur within the time span of the proposed project and the anticipated long-term utility of the project and its implications for future research, management, or conservation activities.
- *Proposed Activities*: Briefly describe your strategy (activities) for achieving project outcomes and where you are in their planning and implementation.
- *Measure of Success*: Discuss how you will measure progress and success to your proposed outcome(s) and briefly outline your monitoring plan to capture these results.

Full Proposal (by invitation only)

A limited number of pre-proposal applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal to elaborate on their work for a second stage of review. The following additional information will be required at that time.

Expanded Proposal Narrative – Full Proposal Only

Applicants will be asked to submit an expanded proposal narrative that provides all relevant detail on background, objectives, methodology, results, etc. The document should not exceed 6 pages in length, single-spaced with 12-point type.

Budget and Timeline – Full Proposal Only

A budget form will be provided to help the applicant outline in sufficient detail the costs by general category, including salaries, travel, major equipment and supplies, publication costs, and sub-contracts.

Applicants will be prompted to include information on other sources of funding for the project in the section entitled “matching funds,” if applicable. For multi-year or multi-stage projects, include a timetable for completion of each phase as a means of gauging progress toward completion of the full proposed effort in the “other” category of the “uploads” section of the online application.

Short Biography, Research Team Qualifications – Full Proposal Only

Applications should also include a short biography of no more than one page each for key members of the proposal team. Key members are those individuals whose unique background and experience are essential to completion of the project.

Supporting Materials and Letters of Support – Full Proposal Only

If the applicant is invited to submit a full proposal, additional supporting materials such as maps can be included in the “uploads” section of the submission. Applicants also can attach letters of support to their full proposal. These can be particularly relevant in cases of multi-jurisdictional, political, or institutional projects when the proposed work will rely on the data or actions of a third party. However, supplemental materials should be limited to information absolutely essential to understanding the significance, approach, and context of the proposed work.

If relevant, applicants asked to submit full proposals will be required to provide proof of all necessary permits and clearances to comply with the U.S. National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and any international permits (e.g., CITES) or relevant non-U.S. national, state, or local ordinances.

Application Process

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation launched an on-line application program in March of 2008. Applicants can find information about the grant applications, including templates and orientation webinars if needed, at <http://www.nfwf.org/applicantinfo>.

Organizations interested in applying should submit a **pre-proposal** using NFWF’s online Easygrants system:

1. **This funding opportunity will open on October 6, 2009.** Applicants should visit <http://www.nfwf.org/easygrants> and register as a new user (unless you have previously applied to NFWF in the Easygrants system under a different funding opportunity) and then follow the instructions below.
2. Under “Apply for a New Grant”, click the “Start a New Application” link. Select the Marine Protected Areas 2010 funding opportunity.
3. Follow the instructions to complete an eligibility quiz and, if deemed eligible, a pre-proposal.

Pre-proposals must be submitted via the Foundation's online system, in English, and received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on **November 20, 2009** (no exceptions). Upon receipt and competitive evaluation of the pre-proposal, the Foundation will invite successful applicants to submit a full proposal. Applicants will be notified by **December 22, 2009**, as to the status of their preliminary applications and whether they are invited to submit a full proposal. Full proposals will be solicited from successful applicants at that time and will be due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on **February 15, 2010**. Awards for this program are scheduled to be announced in **April 2010**.

For further information on the program or completing the application, please contact Anthony Chatwin (at 202-857-0166 or Anthony.Chatwin@nfwf.org) or Michelle Pico (at 262-567-0601 or pico@nfwf.org).