Special Joint Request for Proposals

Minneapolis and Wisconsin Sea Grant College Programs announce a Special Joint Request for Proposals for 2016–2018

Preproposal: due by 5:00 p.m., January 20, 2015
- Online submittal into iPROPOSE seagrant.wisc.edu

Full Proposal: due by 5:00 p.m., April 17, 2015

The Minnesota and Wisconsin Sea Grant College Programs are issuing a special joint solicitation for research proposals. Projects can begin on February 1, 2016. For this special solicitation, only projects involving both Minnesota and Wisconsin researchers will be considered. The Sea Grant programs plan to fund one or two projects for up to two years, with each program providing up to $120,000 per year (this to include the cost of graduate students) for a total of up to $240,000 annually. Our expectation is that we will receive proposals that demonstrate significant involvement by research personnel from both Minnesota and Wisconsin. An informational webinar on the focus of and process associated with submitting preproposals will be provided December 15, 2014, from 3-4 p.m. CST.

The goal of the research program for both Minnesota and Wisconsin Sea Grant is to fund innovative projects that provide scientific information to help solve coastal and aquatic resource problems and foster economic sustainability. Proposed projects should support our mission to enhance the environment and economies along Lake Superior and inland waters. Priority research areas are:

- Environmental, economic, and social implications of crude oil transport near or on the Great Lakes
- Determining and communicating the value (economic and social) of cleaning up and restoring contaminated/degraded waters and shorelines, using the St. Louis River Estuary as a case-study
- Research that increases our understanding of the St. Louis River Estuary, including research on social and economic topics as well as the other sciences

We are particularly interested in proposals that integrate ecological with economic or social science questions pertinent to Lake Superior coastal communities in the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin, and especially communities bordering the St Louis River Estuary. By understanding ecological process and the social processes, policies, practices, and institutions that impact resource use, we expect to be able to improve the stewardship of our water resources. Social science research proposals may pertain to the cultural, psychological, economic, or political drivers that affect the use and management of the St. Louis River Estuary, Lake Superior and/or its tributaries. Our research priorities complement those of the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve, our NOAA partner.

Wisconsin Sea Grant will be administering this joint RFP.

All deadlines and submissions must follow Wisconsin Sea Grant standards. Full application information is available at www.seagrant.wisc.edu/downloads/rfp_joint-long_16-18.pdf.

For more information:
- Wisconsin Sea Grant: contact Jennifer Hauxwell, jennifer.hauxwell@aqua.wisc.edu, 608-262-0905.
- Minnesota Sea Grant: contact Valerie Brady, vbrady@umn.edu or 218-726-8714.

Please note: Minnesota Sea Grant will release its regular RFP December 8, separate from this joint RFP. More information: www.seagrant.umn.edu/projects/funding

2014-2016 Research Priorities

The goal of Minnesota Sea Grant’s research program is to fund innovative projects that provide scientific information to help solve coastal and aquatic resource problems and foster economic sustainability. Proposed projects should support our mission to enhance the environment and economies along Lake Superior and inland waters. Within this context and within our funding constraints, we are focusing this special solicitation on collaborative efforts between Minnesota and Wisconsin researchers, with an emphasis on economic or social science research or research benefiting the St. Louis River Estuary, although proposals can focus on any science subject related to Lake Superior and fitting the focus areas below.

National Sea Grant currently emphasizes the following focus areas, and encourages environmental literacy and workforce development to be included in proposals whenever possible:

1) Healthy coastal ecosystems:
   - ecosystem functions, ecosystem modeling, ecosystem sustainability, information gaps

2) Resilient communities and economies:
   - evaluation, environmental assessment, economic relationships, climate change, stormwater runoff, recurring events

3) Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture:
   - sustainable harvests, sustainable management, environmental stressors, new products

Minnesota Sea Grant’s Mission

Minnesota Sea Grant facilitates interaction among the public and scientists to enhance communities, the environment, and economies along Lake Superior and Minnesota’s inland waters by identifying information needs, fostering research, and communicating results.