

Michigan Sea Grant 2011 Request for Pre-Proposals

Questions and Answers

1. What are my options for generating non-federal match?

Principal Investigators (PIs) do not need to specify the source of matching contributions at the pre-proposal stage. Full proposals will need to demonstrate how the requested Sea Grant funds will be matched by non-federal contributions at a 2:1 rate (a 50% match). Additional matching contributions will make full proposals more competitive. Matching contributions can be generated in a variety of ways, including the following examples.

- Funds from related non-federal grants, community foundations or local partners can be used to support research or outreach related to the Integrated Assessment.
- University researchers can dedicate an extra month or two a year on project activities and use a portion of their existing salary as non-federal match.
- Collaborators may donate a certain number of hours to the project, e.g., attending advisory committee meetings, leading an outreach effort, or conducting some amount of analysis or mapping work. The value of their time can be quantified and included as match.
- Universities or other partner organizations can dedicate equipment, analysis tools or other supplies that have a quantifiable value, e.g., use of a GIS lab or printing expenses.
- Universities can contribute tuition, stipend or hourly support for graduate or undergraduate students working on the project.
- Universities or collaborating organizations can reduce or eliminate indirect expenses, based on their federally approved rate. The amount of indirect that is waived is considered non-federal match.

To be eligible, matching contributions must be: non-Federal (U.S.) in origin (federally appropriated or managed funds are ineligible); dedicated specifically for the project; applied only to the Integrated Assessment project and not used as match for other projects; and spent/applied between the project start and end dates designated in the grant application. In most cases, letters of support should accompany the full proposal specifying any matching contributions from partner organizations.

2. Is there any restriction on how much of project's budget can go towards PI salary?

There are no restrictions on the amount of grant funds that can be applied to a PI's salary. Salaries and wages are often the largest part of an Integrated Assessment budget; however, we expect the allocation of grant and matching funds to reflect the level of collaboration described in the proposal.

3. Do you have a research team in mind for particular topics?

No, Sea Grant awards grants competitively, based on written peer reviews and evaluation by a review panel for all full proposals. Potential researchers were not identified in advance of the RFP release.

4. The link in topic #4, *Risks associated with climate change*, is not working.

This short URL should direct you to a page on the MDNRE website with a variety of resources about the Grand Traverse Bay watershed. LINK: <http://alturl.com/n6two>

5. For topic #4, *Risks associated with climate change*, would Sea Grant consider a proposal focused on human health impacts rather than habitat or infrastructure impacts resulting from climate changes?

Michigan Sea Grant is open to Integrated Assessment proposals that address timely coastal resource issues in Michigan. We fully expect that research teams will incorporate their own ideas and expertise as they develop a proposal about any of the topics included in the Request for Pre-proposals. If a team chooses a topical or geographic focus significantly different from that described in the RFP, they should provide some additional background about the issue and demonstrate how the assessment could influence management, policy or planning in Michigan. Please review the text box, Developing an Alternate Integrated Assessment Topic, on page four of the Request for Pre-proposals.

6. Should PIs include letters of support from local, state or federal agency professionals who work on an assessment topic? Are there any conflict of interest concerns?

Researchers do not need to include letters of support with their pre-proposals. It is Michigan Sea Grant's responsibility to ensure that the RFP and selection process do not favor individual researchers. To avoid any conflicts of interest, Sea Grant staff and local, state or federal agency personnel who helped us develop or refine assessment topics have been instructed to not talk with research teams during the pre-proposal development process. These policy and outreach specialists are willing to work with any funded research team to facilitate access to data and information. If researchers are invited to submit a full proposal, they are welcome to engage these specialists as they develop their full proposal.

7. The RFP (page 2 #2) states that if we are using one of the proposed topics we "...should simply use the language provided under the 2011 Integrated Assessment topics." Is this suggesting we should CUT AND PASTE the provided summary into our proposals as our summary (or Problem/Issue Statement).

If the topic description in the 2011 RFP matches your perspective on the issue and your proposed plans, you are welcome to use parts or all of the text verbatim in your proposal, or modify as seems appropriate. We expect the issue description and IA focal question will evolve somewhat as you gain more input during the full proposal development process and the early stages of the project.