



GREAT LAKES PROTECTION FUND

**SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST FOR PREPROPOSALS:
PREVENTING BIOLOGICAL POLLUTION**

Preproposals Due: May 14, 2003

SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST FOR PREPROPOSALS

PREVENTING BIOLOGICAL POLLUTION

SUMMARY

The Great Lakes Protection Fund seeks preproposals for a number of coordinated projects to assist the region's governors and premiers in preventing the unauthorized introduction of non-native aquatic species into the Great Lakes basin ecosystem. The Fund expects to support a portfolio of related projects that will demonstrate technical tools, test various decision-making processes, identify the options available to the region's governors to prevent biological pollution, and lead to the implementation of management systems that prevent the introduction of non-native aquatic species.

The deadline for submitting preproposals in response to this supplemental request is 5:00 pm, central time, May 14, 2003.

BACKGROUND

Some 162 non-native species have established themselves in the Great Lakes ecosystem. The Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species suggests that the single largest source of unintentional introductions is ocean vessels originating in foreign ports. Invasive species introductions and dispersal can also result from activities associated with the aquaculture industry, the aquarium trade, recreational boating, the bait business and some horticultural practices. Once introduced into the Great Lakes, many nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species can then spread to inland lakes, rivers, wetlands and waterways, thus adding another dimension to the problem. Inland transport frequently occurs by way of barges, recreational watercraft, bait buckets, and other human-assisted transport mechanisms.

The region's governors and premiers have agreed to work together to prevent the unauthorized introductions of nonindigenous aquatic species and to limit the spread and consequences of non-native species already introduced. The Great Lakes states manage the US portion of the Great Lakes, the rivers that feed and drain them, their shores, and the natural resources they support, in trust for the present and future residents of the region. The significance of the risks posed to the ecological health of the Great Lakes makes preventing these biological invasions a key element of these public trust responsibilities. The diversity of specific threats—aquaculture in other drainages, transport by ship from other continents, release by individual anglers or collectors—makes the design and implementation of management systems difficult. Yet the lack of a comprehensive international, bi-national or federal system that protects the interest of this region makes the design and implementation of a set of coordinated management systems essential.

The Great Lakes Protection Fund seeks preproposals for collaborative projects that lead to the implementation of a set of management systems that prevent the introduction of invasive aquatic species. The Fund is particularly interested in projects that build on the Great Lakes states' Aquatic Nuisance Management Plans by expanding management systems into the private sector (especially shipping companies, ship/transportation brokers, manufacturing firms that employ trans-oceanic vessels, and trade associations), ports and port authorities (both in the Great Lakes basin and ports

elsewhere that trade with the Great Lakes), and other units of government (cities, counties, regional planning agencies, and special purpose entities).

PROJECT CRITERIA

The Fund intends to support a series of individual efforts that, together, will help the basin's governors, legislators, law enforcement officials, shippers, carriers, and infrastructure managers enjoy the benefits of being connected to a global economy while protecting the basin's ecological integrity. The Fund is interested in projects that demonstrate technical tools, test various decision-making processes, identify the options available to the region's governors to prevent biological pollution, and provide tangible examples of how such standards can be met and how such mechanisms could be applied.

The Fund encourages project teams to combine applied scientific research, decision analysis and simulation, exploration of market mechanisms, policy analysis and stakeholder involvement in their preproposals. Applicants must be willing to interact with other grantees, Fund staff, and others in the basin to capture and share the lessons from the supported work.

Supported projects must:

- Be a next practical step in the development of a Great Lakes Basin ecosystem restoration strategy,
- Allow the fiduciaries of the public trust to prevent biological pollution of their shared resource,
- Involve multi-disciplinary teams that include and have the support of customers who will use the results of the proposed work,
- Be a collaborative effort resulting in new, publicly available information,
- Make maximum use of ongoing and planned efforts,
- Inform key decision-makers but not include lobbying strategies,
- Begin to produce meaningful results in twelve months or less, and
- Leverage Fund support as much as possible.

The Fund is interested in projects that design and test management systems to prevent the introduction of invasive aquatic species. Such systems should:

Identify the specific threats to be managed (which species, regions, trade routes, vectors);

Create processes and procedures to minimize the risks associated with those threats (ballasting procedures, aquaculture construction/facility management procedure, carrier selection procedures, port security procedures);

Identify the operational characteristics of the management system (resources, responsibility, structure, integration with organizational decision-making and budgeting processes); and,

Identify how the system will be audited, its results documented and its content continuously improved.

The Fund encourages submissions from collaborative teams that include the range of affected interests—the actors: shippers, ship owners, ports and trade associations, units of government—as well as technical advisors: ecosystem scientists, naval engineers and risk managers.

The Fund wishes to encourage a broad array of innovative strategies. Illustrative strategies that projects might pursue include:

Creating a model port authority environmental management system that identifies vessels that might pose a risk of releasing invasive species and procedures to minimize that risk (such as requiring additional testing, needing further treatment or load restrictions, requiring performance bonds or special insurance coverage)

Developing specifications for carrier selection that rewards carriers who actively manage their fleets to minimize the risk of exotic species transport and introduction

Developing underwriting criteria to price liability insurance appropriate for vessels that travel high-risk trade routes, or do not manage their fleets to control the risks of exotic species introductions

Creating an award system to recognize particularly successful initiatives on the part of organizations to manage the risks of exotic species invasion as a consequence of business decisions

Identifying a range of plausible options for regional infrastructure improvements that prevent unauthorized biological introductions while expanding the region's connections to world commerce

Creating a certification system that identifies performance bench marks for practices to prevent the introduction of invasive species from shipping, canal operation, aquaculture, fish markets, port districts and local government operations; establishes conditions for a “best practices” certification; and audits claims of management system performance.

ELIGIBILITY

The Great Lakes Protection Fund can support a wide variety of applicants. Non-profit organizations (including environmental organizations, trade associations, and universities), governmental agencies, individuals, and for-profit businesses are eligible for Fund support. Successful applicants must maintain open access to project data, records, and information.

All applicants must show that the proposed work has clear public benefit and that any related financial benefits will accrue to the public good. *Government agencies must show that Fund support is not being used to replace or duplicate public funds. Private, for-profit, concerns must show that all project benefits inure to the public good.*

CONTENT OF PREPROPOSALS

Preproposals are overviews of the project team's anticipated product, the general plan of work and time frame, and the team's qualifications. Preproposals are the first step in securing support from the Fund. A more detailed and complete proposal will be invited after a preproposal is selected.

Preproposals should be no more than five pages of text. No attachments are permitted. Please complete a [Preproposal Cover Sheet](#) and e-mail it along with your preproposal to the Fund.

Please send preproposals as e-mail attachments (Microsoft Word, rich text or pdf files) to preproposals@glpf.org no later than 5:00 p.m., May 14, 2003.

Please address the following issues, in the order below, in your preproposal:

Project Outcome

Identify the expected product of the work. Be as clear as possible about the anticipated ecological benefits and the timeframes over which those benefits will be realized. Describe how the product of the proposed work will help prevent the introduction of exotic species and how it builds on ongoing activities. Please specify who will use the product to be developed, what they are expected to do with it, and describe their role in the project.

Proposed Work

Outline the work to be carried out. Identify major task categories. Include a timeline for the project that describes when the work will be complete and the major interim products. Discuss how the team will: ensure that the best available science drives the project, identify and capture relevant information being developed by work underway in and outside of the region, and will reach all relevant target audiences.

Key Personnel

Identify the members of the project team (those supported by the request, by other funding sources and volunteers), indicating roles and responsibilities. The project team must include meaningful representation of all interests affected by the proposed work. Briefly describe qualifications of the team's leaders.

Financial Plan

Present the estimated costs of the proposed work in summary categories: personnel, equipment and supplies, travel, consultants, overhead, etc. The Fund will not support overhead costs in excess of 15% of the direct project costs (excluding travel and sub-contracts).

Identify the type and amount of support requested of the Fund. Identify how other moneys will be raised to support the proposed work.

CALENDAR

March 2003

Request for Preproposals

May 14, 2003

Preproposal Submission Deadline

May 2003

Full Proposals Invited

June/July/August 2003

Full Proposal Submission, Review and Revision

September 2003

Announcement of Awards

RESOURCES

Applicants may find the following resources of use in designing preproposals:

International Network for Environmental Management Resources

http://www.inem.org/htdocs/inem_resources.html

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Environmental Management System Page

http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3307_3668_4149---,00.html

US EPA's Environmental Management System Guidance

<http://www.epa.gov/ems/assist/guide/general.htm>

Northeast Midwest Institute's Biological Pollution Page

<http://www.nemw.org/biopollute.htm>

The Global Ballast Management Program

<http://globallast.imo.org/index.asp>

US EPA's Draft Report on Ballast Water Management Options

http://www.epa.gov/owow/invasive_species/ballast_report/

Great Lakes Information Network: Invasive Species

<http://www.great-lakes.net/envt/flora-fauna/invasive/invasive.html>

Great Lakes Fishery Agency's Reference on Ballast Water

<http://www.glfca.org/boardcomm/cglfa/refballast.htm>

International Association for Great Lakes Research Aquatic Invasive Species Page

<http://www.iaglr.org/scipolicy/issues/ais.php>

USGS General Non-indigenous Species References
<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/links/generallinks.html>

Sea Grant Non-indigenous Species Site
<http://www.sgnis.org/>

Great Lakes Fisheries Commission Exotic Species Page
<http://www.glfsc.org/fishmgmt/exotic.asp>

THE GREAT LAKES PROTECTION FUND

The Great Lakes Protection Fund is a private, nonprofit corporation formed in 1989 by the Governors of the Great Lakes States. It is a permanent environmental endowment that supports actions that improve the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem.

The Fund seeks projects that lead to tangible improvements in the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem, address the interdependence of ecological and economic health, and are innovative, creative, and venturesome. The Fund accepts preproposals at any time and in response to periodic, supplemental requests for preproposals on specific topics such as this.

In addition to providing over \$40 million to regional projects that restore the health of the Great Lakes, the Fund has also returned over \$31 million directly to its member states for their Great Lakes priorities. Please contact the Fund for information on individual state programs.