

# Special Joint Request for Proposals Ohio, Minnesota and Wisconsin Sea Grant Programs

## Factors Contributing to and Nutrient Source Identification of Harmful and Nuisance Algal Blooms

Harmful algal blooms have been problematic in Lake Erie and portions of Lake Michigan for decades. Recently algal blooms have emerged as a concern in Lake Superior as well. Algal blooms can reduce tourism income and overall quality of life near the shore, and algal toxins can disrupt water supplies and cause skin rashes, gastrointestinal symptoms, and liver and nervous system damage. **Ohio, Minnesota and Wisconsin Sea Grant programs are teaming up to launch a joint solicitation for research to advance our understanding of factors leading to the genesis of harmful and nuisance algae blooms, including nutrient source identification using innovative tools.**

Research is to be conducted in the 2022–24 biennium. Up to \$100,000 per year for two years will be available for funding each of the Ohio, Minnesota and Wisconsin portions of a joint research project (this is to include the cost of graduate students) for a grant total of up to \$300,000 per year. Ohio-based partners must demonstrate a 50 percent match (1 non-federal dollar for every 2 dollars requested). Minnesota-based partners must demonstrate a 30 percent match and should contact Minnesota Sea Grant for budget calculation assistance prior to submission. Match is not required for Wisconsin partners. By partnering, these three Great Lakes Sea Grant programs can support broader-scale projects to tackle challenges at a regional scale. In addition, generating collaborations across state lines can enrich the expertise of our in-state research teams. Each preproposal should describe a single project with researchers participating and collaborating from each of the three states.

Preference will be given to proposals that leverage research strengths across the states to employ multidisciplinary or complementary approaches. Given our wish to support collaborative research teams, the Sea Grant programs are interested in promoting conversations among researchers. If you have interest in this topic and/or skills that would be relevant to a research team, but you are not sure how to connect with researchers in other states, contact Jennifer Hauxwell (info below) to add your name and receive a link to a Google doc listing researchers who may be interested in partnering. Listing your information in this Google doc is not a requirement for submission to this RFP and simply serves to help researchers find relevant partners in other states.

The ultimate intent of this call for proposals is to provide stakeholders with information and choices to reduce the frequency and intensity of harmful and nuisance algal blooms. Given this, the potential for applied impact of the proposed work will be evaluated at the preproposal stage. Preproposals should clearly identify both the expected communication method as well as at least one stakeholder group with whom researchers will engage. For example, preproposals could identify at least one Great Lakes coastal community or management agency in each state as the intended audience or could propose web-based communication to reach the whole basin. Applicants are encouraged to think creatively about the most appropriate engagement method for their work and to discuss outreach ideas with Sea Grant extension educators in their respective Sea Grant programs.

A research review panel, assembled and attended by representatives of all three state programs, will address the following questions when determining whether to encourage a full proposal:

- How well does the proposed project advance our understanding of factors leading to the genesis of harmful and nuisance algae blooms, including nutrient source identification using innovative tools?
- What is the importance of the proposed project for the region and to what extent is the proposed project relevant to all of lakes Erie, Michigan and Superior?
- What is the scientific merit of the proposed project?
- What are the qualifications of the investigators?
- What are the likely outcomes or impacts (environmental, educational, social, economic, etc.) that could result from the proposed project?
- How deeply are stakeholders engaged in the process and potential outcomes associated with the proposed work?
- Does the budget estimate seem adequate, or too high/too low? Does the project seem to be a good value?
- How well integrated is the project, given researchers from different state programs?

Investigators from the three state programs should prepare **one preproposal document** to submit to Wisconsin Sea Grant as described [in the Guidelines for Preproposals](#). In this preproposal document, clearly indicate the portion of the project and budget that is associated with each state investigative team. **The deadline for preproposals is Friday, January 15, 2021, 3 p.m. CST (4 p.m. EST)**. Applicants will receive feedback on their preproposals by the end of February 2021. Full proposal guidance will also be provided at this time. The deadline for full proposals is Friday, April 30, 2021, 3 p.m. CDT (4 p.m. EDT). To be eligible to submit a full proposal, applicants **MUST** submit a preproposal by the preproposal deadline.

An informational webinar for prospective investigators specifically interested in the joint call for proposals with Ohio and Minnesota Sea Grant programs will be 10-11 a.m. CST on Friday, November 20, 2020 – contact [jennifer.hauxwell@aqu.wisc.edu](mailto:jennifer.hauxwell@aqu.wisc.edu) at least a day in advance for connection information.

For more information:

- Wisconsin Sea Grant: Jennifer Hauxwell ([jennifer.hauxwell@aqu.wisc.edu](mailto:jennifer.hauxwell@aqu.wisc.edu))
- Ohio Sea Grant: Kristen DeVanna Fussell ([fussell.10@osu.edu](mailto:fussell.10@osu.edu))
- Minnesota Sea Grant: Valerie Brady ([vbrady@d.umn.edu](mailto:vbrady@d.umn.edu))