



SANCTUARY INTEGRATED MONITORING NETWORK MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Proposals on topics other than those identified by the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN) annual request for proposals (RFPs) will be considered for review. We expect to fund a limited number of proposals during each fiscal year. These proposals fall into three categories: unsolicited, internal MBNMS, and rapid response.

GENERAL PROCESS for SUBMITTING PRE-PROPOSALS

Before a full proposal is accepted for review, the SIMoN office must receive a pre-proposal of no more than five pages. Each pre-proposal must contain:

- 1) a summary of the type of work to be performed (including general sampling design and analyses);
- 2) the location(s) of the proposed work;
- 3) how the project will address the needs of the MBNMS and fit within the larger SIMoN effort;
- 4) a brief description of the qualifications of all personnel involved; and
- 5) a budget (including the amount of matching funds, if applicable).

All pre-proposals will first be circulated among SIMoN and MBNMS staff for thorough and objective review (at least three reviewers). Staff will be asked to assess the proposed activities based on scientific merit, feasibility, broader impacts of the work, and how well the project meets the needs of SIMoN and the MBNMS, and in particular, how they address action plans in the Sanctuary Management Plan. In addition, the SIMoN Science Committee may be asked to evaluate all unsolicited pre-proposals before a decision is made regarding submittal of a full proposal. If a full proposal is requested, new guidelines will be provided.

Details on the submission deadlines for each of the pre-proposal categories are listed below. Submit pre-proposals electronically (Word or PDF files) to:

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1. UNSOLICITED PROPOSALS

Funds vary between fiscal years, but in general we expect to fund at least one suitable proposal in the range of \$5,000 - \$15,000. Pre-proposals will be accepted during two time intervals: (1) in November and (2) May. Check the web site for specific dates.

2. INTERNAL MBNMS PROPOSALS

Staff will also review internal MBNMS proposals. Again, individual projects should range from \$5,000 - \$15,000. Internal MBNMS pre-proposals will be accepted at anytime.

Since ongoing MBNMS programs have already been identified as important for resource management and scientifically sound, requests for funding from SIMoN to extend these efforts may be made solely with a pre-proposal (described above). Pre-proposals for internal programs will be evaluated by the Science Committee. The Committee will advise SIMoN staff and the MBNMS Superintendent on the value of extended funding.

Funding for new internal efforts to be initiated by the MBNMS can also be considered for funding under SIMoN but must comply with the guidelines listed above. SIMoN staff involved with these MBNMS pre-proposals must use external reviewers to prevent conflicts of interest.

3. RAPID RESPONSE PROPOSALS

Sanctuary staff also reviews rapid response proposals, with individual projects ranging from \$5,000 - \$15,000. Rapid response MBNMS pre-proposals will be accepted at anytime.

Occasionally unforeseen events or phenomena occur that can dramatically alter habitats, communities, populations or human health. The ephemeral nature of these events also makes extraordinary changes difficult to study and funding has traditionally not been available for the comprehensive investigations on short notice. SIMoN has therefore been designed with the ability to quickly respond to unusual or dramatic changes to resources of the Sanctuary with efforts to determine causes and quantify impacts.

Researchers or programs that identify extraordinary events or trends can apply for rapid response funding by contacting SIMoN and submitting a pre-proposal (described above). Conversely, if SIMoN identifies an unforeseen event, rapid RFPs can be released outside of the normal schedule at the discretion of SIMoN staff. When possible, pre-proposals will be reviewed during a Science Committee meeting session, however SIMoN staff have the authority to fund rapid response programs with the approval of the MBNMS Superintendent.

In the rare case that a dramatic event occurs requiring an immediate investigation, limited SIMoN funds can be released directly to MBNMS staff or local contractors for an initial urgent response at the discretion of the MBNMS Superintendent.