



The **Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center (MAIC)**, a non-profit research agency, is soliciting grant proposals from individuals or organizations who are interested in conducting aquaculture research.

MAIC invites firms, municipalities (including shellfish committees), university-based researchers, private consultants, and individuals to apply for research grants. All proposals devoted to research on aquaculture will be considered, but the following are topics having priority for Maine's aquaculture industry:

1. Market research to determine efficacy of culturing alternative species (e.g., cod, haddock, halibut, urchins, scallops)
2. Technology/biology for culturing alternative species (e.g., spat collection, hatchery production, and growout)
3. Effects of aquaculture on marine diversity (i.e., water quality, benthos, physical impact of aquaculture structures, etc.)
4. Characterization of optimal environmental conditions for culture and identification of areas in Maine where these conditions occur
5. Increasing public awareness of aquaculture's commercial potential, aquaculture's benefits to society, and human nutrition
6. Disease management of culture species
7. Genetic improvement of cultured stocks
8. Infrastructure development
9. Studies that will lead to reduced impacts from disease and predation on finfish and shellfish operations
10. Studies that lead to improved husbandry and culture methods
11. Studies related to Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) methods.

Matching Requirement

MAIC grants will range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Applicants for grant funding must match the proposed MAIC grant with cash and/or in-kind support from other sources. Total applicant match must be at least one dollar for each dollar proposed to be contributed by MAIC.

PLEASE NOTE: MAIC uses public funds to make awards. The MAIC Board seeks projects that will generate jobs in aquaculture, sustain the natural environment while growing the aquaculture sector, and generally improve the quality of life for people living in the geographic areas in which project activities are conducted. You will enhance your chances of receiving an award if you can be specific in addressing these Board concerns in your project narrative.

Format of Proposals

Proposals must adhere to the following format:

1. Title page using the provided form (available in WORD format on the MAIC website www.maineaquaculture.org).
2. Executive Summary (not to exceed 150 words and suitable for public readership).
3. Project narrative not to exceed five pages (8.5" x 11") in length (font size not smaller than 10 point, minimum 1" margins) describing the project using the following headings:
 - Why** - justify the problem or issue addressed by the proposed project.
 - What** - state the objectives of the project, the end-users and beneficiaries of the project and indicate what measurable economic benefits will result from the use of the project.
 - Where** - describe where the project will be undertaken and the facilities needed to accomplish the tasks.
 - Who** - describe who will be involved in the project and each person's responsibilities.
 - How** - describe how the project will be carried out and achieve the objectives defined above.
 - When** - indicate desired starting and completion dates for the proposed project. Provide a clear time line for implementation and completion of objectives.
4. Budget and budget justification. The budget should show matching funds and in-kind match proposed and must use the MAIC budget form available on the MAIC web site. (www.maineaquaculture.org). In judging proposals, the "quality" of matching resources will be considered. A minimum of 1:1 match is required.
5. One page resume for each Principal Investigator.
6. Letters of project endorsement from members of the Maine aquaculture industry.

Proposals which do not adhere to this format will not be considered.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Successful applicants will be those best able to demonstrate that MAIC's assistance will permit them to leverage matching resources from private foundations, industry, individual donors and/or the federal government; and that their projects will (a) result in new products, processes, or services; (b) reduce industry operating costs thereby increasing enterprise profitability; (c) increase industry productivity; (d) save existing jobs, and/or (e) result in new employment opportunities for Maine citizens.

Proposals will be judged as follows:

1. Scientific and technical approach (25 points)
2. Anticipated economic impact to the aquaculture industry (35 points)
3. Evidence of support from the industry for this research (25 points)
4. Qualifications of participants including facilities and equipment available (10 points)
5. Quality of the proposed budget and matching contributions (cash and in-kind in excess of that required.) (5 points)

One **hard copy** of each complete proposal along with an **electronic version** in WORD (Excel for budget) format must be received by MAIC no later than **5:00 pm, Monday, April 12, 2010**. The electronic version (WORD Narrative and Excel Budget) may be transmitted by email to maic@maineaquaculture.org or included on CD ROM with the paper copy (PDF format is

acceptable if WORD is unavailable). Facsimile transmission and proposals received after the deadline will not be considered.

All proposals will be mailed to external reviewers. Please note on the cover page if there are individuals you would prefer not serve as reviewers due to conflicts of interest or sensitive material in the proposal. An MAIC review panel will consider the proposals to determine which projects will be recommended to the MAIC Board of Directors for funding.

Funds available for this round of MAIC grants are being drawn from contributions received from the Maine Legislature, the federal government, and private donors. Grant notification will occur during the second week of May, 2010. Grant funds will be disbursed to grantees in installments in accord with mutually-agreed upon Project Agreements between MAIC and the grantees. Address all inquiries and submissions to:

Christopher V. Davis, Executive Director
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