

In years past there have been opportunities for collaborations across the broader northeast region to put together a larger project with more regional or even national significance, is that something that might be possible or appropriate for this call? Will there be more national funds opening up that might be appropriate for that?

- Although the lead PI on a project must be staff or faculty at a research or institution of higher education in Massachusetts, co-PIs may be located outside the state. We do recognize that the more PIs participate on a project, the more expensive that project is likely to be. There will be an opportunity for a regional research call coming up, although we cannot share with you at this time the topic of that RFP. Please check our website additional funding opportunities.

When projects are encouraged or discouraged for submission of a full proposal, will WHSG provide feedback on the project idea?

- Yes – we will provide all PIs with a summary of the review panel discussion regarding your pre-proposal.

Are potential management applications of research and stakeholder engagement plans different?

- Potential management applications of your research and your engagement plans could be distinct and separate goals of your project, or they could be strongly linked. An example of a linked application/engagement plan might be if the results of your project were relevant to decision making of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, you might partner with staff from this state agency as part of your project and your engagement plan. This would provide an avenue for you to share your research findings with the management community. Please take a look at the FAQ document where we provide suggestions for developing stakeholder engagement plans.

Does the limit of one proposal per lead PI apply to pre-proposals?

- Yes – a PI may only submit ONE pre-proposal to WHSG. If you submit a pre-proposal to WHSG as lead PI, you are still eligible to serve as a coPI on other pre-proposals.

Does field work need to be performed in state waters of Massachusetts, or can research occur in federal waters adjacent to MA?

- Field work is not limited to state waters of Massachusetts and can occur in federal waters as well. Rather, when planning field work and developing your research project idea, consider the potential impact of the project results on the **stakeholders** of Massachusetts.

How many projects does WHSG expect to fund? Are there options to receive smaller funding amounts to build relationships with stakeholders in Massachusetts?

- WHSG expects to fund 5-10 projects during this funding cycle. There is no minimum project size and the total number of projects we fund will be depending on the budgets of the projects we receive, as well as the rankings of research proposals during the review panel. WHSG also has opportunities for smaller awards through our Program Development funding opportunities. PD awards are typically smaller than \$5000 and proposals are due April 1 and October 1. WHSG

staff can help you to develop and build those relationships with relevant stakeholder communities – please do not hesitate to reach out to discuss your project.