



SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
KAREN C. DRAYER WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER
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Request for Letters of Inquiry March 15, 2021

The SeaDoc Society works to ensure the health of marine wildlife and their ecosystems through science and education. We do not take policy positions nor serve in an advocacy role. We are pleased to launch our annual competitive grants program with the goal of supporting science where more information is needed and expected to directly improve the health of the Salish Sea ecosystem and its marine and coastal flora and fauna. We anticipate funding a total of \$200K to \$250K in projects for 2021; funding for individual projects will be limited to \$50,000.

With the intent of receiving proposals from a wide variety of conservation topics, we are first requesting Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) from investigators proposing science projects that address pressing wildlife and ecosystem health issues in the Salish Sea. Based on the information provided in the LOI, PIs from selected proposed projects will be invited to submit full proposals in a second phase.

SeaDoc’s new funding format and process for 2021

SeaDoc aims to fund research that will result in conservation action. We recently evaluated nearly 20 years of SeaDoc’s competitively funded research to identify parameters most closely associated with projects that ultimately produced conservation benefits. Analysis showed that projects that incorporated three components were more likely to result in a conservation action: (1) defined the conservation need apriori, (2) collaborated with personnel from government agencies, and (3) researchers built and maintained relationships with natural resource managers and policy makers before, during and after the research. Accordingly, in addition to funding credible science, SeaDoc wants all projects to incorporate these three components. Only PIs that propose projects where more science will benefit conservation and demonstrate plans for including these components will be requested to submit a full proposal.

Proposal Timeline:

- April 15, 2021: Letters of Inquiry due; email LOI as a single document (PDF) to Dr. Joseph K. Gaydos at jkgaydos@ucdavis.edu no later than 5:00 pm (PST)
- April 30, 2021: PIs with successful LOIs will be requested to submit a full proposal and will be provided full proposal guidelines
- June 1, 2021: Full Proposals due; email proposal as a single document (PDF) to Dr. Joseph K. Gaydos at jkgaydos@ucdavis.edu no later than 5:00 pm (PST)
- June 17, 2021: PIs will be notified of final decision

Letter of Inquiry Format (2-page limit)

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Use 3/4" margins, and 12-point, single-spaced type. Avoid non-standard abbreviations. The principal investigator's last name and page number should be placed in the upper right corner starting from the second page forward. Please submit proposal as a single PDF. DO NOT EXCEED 2-PAGES TOTAL. Please organize your proposal as follows:

- 1) TITLE OF PROPOSED PROJECT:** Less than 200 characters. Please do not use abbreviations.
 - 2) NAME, AFFILIATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF PRINCIPLE INVESTIGATOR:** Include mailing address, email address and mobile phone number
 - 3) NAMES AND AFFILIATIONS OF CO-INVESTIGATORS:** include key government collaborators
 - 4) CONSERVATION NEED:** Clearly identify the conservation need that this research project will address and describe how the information produced from this proposed research will not only change our understanding of the problem but will improve management or improve policy addressing the problem. This is critical. Projects need to produce or interpret data that will inform management or recovery. Be as specific as possible when describing how information produced will be used.
 - 5) ABSTRACT:** Provide a succinct and accurate description of the proposed work. Clearly state the purpose, aims, and significance of the project. Briefly describe your experimental design, analytical plan and implementation strategy.
 - 6) IDENTIFY THE INTENDED PRODUCT(S) OF YOUR RESEARCH:** Examples include peer-reviewed publication(s), scientific technical memo, species recovery plan, etc. Note: Our gold standard for research is peer-reviewed publication, however retrospective analysis of nearly two decades of SeaDoc-funded conservation science showed that while production of credible science is critical, mere publication of a peer-reviewed article does not ensure that projects ultimately have a direct conservation outcome. If peer-review is your goal, also describe additional products or actions planned to ensure conservation success.
 - 7) AGENCY OR ORGANIZATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING CONSERVATION ACTION:** Identify the local, state, provincial or federal agency responsible for the conservation need being addressed. This also can include legislation at the local, state, provincial or federal level. Explain how the science proposed will improve the responsible agency's ability to take conservation action. Identify the collaborator(s) from the agency with whom you will work in a meaningful way and be sure names are included in #3 above.
 - 8) NETWORKING:** Describe your plans to network this project before, during and after. Examples include sharing project intent with relevant stakeholders or co-managers, collaborating with other scientists to ensure all possible factors are being considered, communicating with government agencies regarding implications of research, organizing or participating in meetings with people or coalitions working on the topic, or advising policy makers about implications of findings.
 - 9) BRIEF BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION:** Provide only a total amount for each topic including total request. Note: The SeaDoc Society is using private funding to support this competitive grant program that prohibits payment of indirect costs. Do not include indirect costs.
 - i. Personnel:**
 - ii. Travel:**
 - iii. Equipment:** This includes purchases of non-disposable supplies that cost \geq \$5,000 per unit. Note: UC Davis has the option to take ownership of equipment after the completion of the project.
 - iv. Supplies:**
 - vi. Total Matching Funds:** Because Provincial, State, and Federal Agencies as well as Tribes have a research and management mandate, the SeaDoc Society will consider demonstration of matching funds advantageous when reviewing these proposals.
 - vii. Total Requested \$ Amount**
- Note: Letters of support and collaboration will be not be accepted for LOIs.**

Proposal Due Date: no later than **5:00 pm (PST) Thursday, April 15, 2021**

Email your proposal as a single 2-page document (PDF) to Dr. Joseph K. Gaydos at jkaydos@ucdavis.edu

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GUIDELINES FOR 2021 GRANTS
(Things to think about for your LOI and for a possible full proposal)

These are guidelines, do **not** include them as part of submitted proposals.

TOPIC AREA: Projects that address pressing conservation issues in the Salish Sea where more information is needed and expected to directly improve management or policy

ELIGIBILITY: Scientists from college/university programs; federal, state and provincial natural resource trustee agencies; Tribes and First Nations, wildlife research institutes; marine conservation organizations; and commercial fisheries and maritime groups. Individuals not formally affiliated with any such group are not eligible. Individuals who have without-salary appointments at an institution or organization must submit proof of the appointment with their proposal.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: All university and college faculty; officers or principal scientists at natural resource trustee agencies, Tribes or First Nations; directors, investigators and senior staff persons at wildlife research institutes, marine conservation organizations, and commercial fisheries or maritime groups.

DURATION OF FUNDING: Funding is available for 12-18 months of work. Start date should be June 15, 2021 or later.

FUNDING MECHANISM: **Funds will be reimbursed in arrears upon receipt of invoice.** Spending authority on the grant starts as soon as a Research Agreement between UC Davis and the grant recipients' home institution is signed by all parties. Drafting the Research Agreement is done by UC Davis and is forwarded to a grant recipients' home institution. The Principal Investigator and his/her academic department or institution assumes full financial responsibility for conduct of the grant. Expenditures in excess of the amount of the award will not be covered by the SeaDoc Society. Final payment will be delayed until receipt of an accepted final report.

EVALUATION PROCESS: LOIs adhering to the guidelines will be reviewed by all SeaDoc Society Science Advisors (see <http://www.seadocsociety.org>). Each LOI will be simply ranked high, medium or low for funding by each Science Advisor. LOIs with top average scores will be asked to submit a full proposal. Each full proposal will be evaluated in detail by all Science Advisors and by one external reviewer (usually, but not always selected from those suggested by the Principal Investigator). Each full proposal will be rated according to the following criteria: ability to address a conservation need where science can help improve policy or management action; scientific merit; achievability (staff expertise and project feasibility); and potential of project to inform management and conservation efforts aimed at insuring marine wildlife and ecosystem health. The final decision on which projects are funded is a joint decision between the Science Advisors and the SeaDoc Society Board of Directors. We do not provide the grant review evaluation results to PIs.

FUNDING AND BUDGET LIMITATIONS:

We anticipate funding a total of \$200K to \$250K in projects for 2021.

Funds **can** be used to pay for the following: laboratory fees; equipment; supplies; travel (for data collection/project implementation only); salary for postdoctoral fellows/graduate students and student and laboratory assistants; animals and animal care. **Disposition of all nonexpendable equipment (non-disposable supplies that cost over \$5,000) shall rest with the University of California at Davis at the termination of this agreement.** Funds **cannot** be used for office personnel, on-going maintenance and operations, telephone charges, mail expenses or presentation of findings at scientific meetings. Principal Investigators (PI) or technical

staff that routinely receive their regular salaries from federal, state (including universities), or endowed sources, may not generally charge their services against SeaDoc Society funds. Exceptions may be allowed for principal investigators or technical staff to charge portions of their salaries when they are not being paid by their institutions (e.g., when they are on a leave of absence or in cases where their position is less than full time or less than 12 months per year). Clear documentation must be provided with the estimated budget for any request for PI or pre-existing technical staff salaries that indicates their eligible status with their employer (on leave, reductions in time base) and the specific tasks that they will perform on the project. Because Provincial, State, and Federal Agencies as well as Tribes have a research and management mandate, the SeaDoc Society will consider demonstration of matching funds advantageous when reviewing these proposals. **The SeaDoc Society is using private funding to support this competitive grant program that prohibits payment of indirect costs.**

PROGRESS & FINAL REPORTS: A progress report will be due halfway through the project and should apprise the SeaDoc Society Science Director of funds expended and work performed to date towards achieving the specific aims of the project. A final report will be due no later than one month after the project ends. Final reports should include all data and findings. Final payment will be delayed until receipt of an accepted final report. If a final report is not submitted, the data collected will become the property of the SeaDoc Society three years after the final report was due, at which time the SeaDoc Society will have the ability to analyze and publish these data.

FUNDING EXTENSION REQUEST: It is expected that work as outlined in this proposal will be accomplished within the time frame indicated. However, should funding for a project need to be extended, a request for extension of funding may be submitted to the SeaDoc Society's Science Director. This request should present a compelling reason for extension of funding and must be accompanied by a progress report.

ANIMAL CARE AND USE PROTOCOL: Any proposal involving the use of live animals under the jurisdiction of the Animal Welfare Act or routinely covered under an institution's Veterinary Care Plan must have the approval of an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The SeaDoc Society Science Advisors will attempt to identify an academic cooperator and appropriate IACUC for proposals from groups without an IACUC. Proposals for projects involving the use of animals (clinical or experimental) must submit a copy of an approved animal care and use protocol. In lieu of an approved protocol, one copy of an Animal Care and Use Protocol application should be submitted with the proposal. Funding will not be allocated, and work on the project cannot commence, until the application has been submitted and approved by an Animal Care and Use Committee. Copies of all permits and documentation must be received by the SeaDoc Society before funding will be awarded.

MISCELLANEOUS PERMITS AND PROTOCOL APPROVALS: Any permits, licenses or approved protocols must be in place before funding can be awarded. This includes all necessary permits from state, federal and provincial natural resource trustee agencies, and approved protocols for the use of radioisotopes, certain chemicals or recombinant DNA technology (required at some universities). The SeaDoc Society will assume that such permits will be obtained and/or maintained by the investigators for use at their facilities. Failure to obtain or maintain such permits will be grounds for denial or revocation of a SeaDoc grant, at the discretion of the Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center Co-Directors.

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND OUTREACH: Our goal is that research findings will help guide and improve conservation of living marine resources within the Salish Sea. Funded / participating researchers agree to credit SeaDoc as funders in all papers, presentations, and social media posts.

Publications:

Recipients of SeaDoc grants are strongly encouraged to publish their findings in appropriate peer-reviewed journals. Copies of all publications resulting all or in part from SeaDoc grants must be sent to the SeaDoc Society. Submitted manuscripts, manuscripts that are approved for publication and galley proofs can be sent in lieu of a progress or final report, but we still need to receive a copy of the final publication. **Publications resulting, all or in part, from SeaDoc Society grants must include the following acknowledgment: "This**

project was financially supported (or supported in part) by the SeaDoc Society, a program of the Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis.”

Presentations:

In addition to publishing findings, recipients of grants are strongly encouraged to present their findings to managers, stakeholders, policy makers and other scientists who can use the information to improve resource management. As part of the progress and final reports, recipients of SeaDoc Society grants must submit a list of publications and presentations resulting from or expected from the funded research.

Social Media:

Although it is not always a common tool for many scientists, social media is a great way to engage the public in science. **All funded / participating scientists should tag and/or credit SeaDoc when using social media platforms (such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.) to promote their work.**

Photographs and Video:

Funded scientists commit to providing a SeaDoc journalist and photographer / videographer access to field or laboratory opportunities to help SeaDoc discuss and promote the funded project and findings.