

**Request for Letters of Research Interest
For a Project to be Initiated through the
Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit**

Project Title: Subsistence Fishing on the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers Ethnographic Resource Study

Submission Deadline: Monday, June 30, 2014

Project Overview: Since pre-Columbian times, the Potomac and Anacostia waterways have provided plentiful food gathering opportunities. Archeological, ethnohistorical, and linguistic data paints a vivid picture of the intensity of fishing and trade on these rivers by American Indians, and later, European settlers. However, in the late 1950s eating fish from the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers became a public health concern and the deaths of millions of migratory fish in the spring of 1962 changed the perception of the river for many residents. Despite the contemporary perception of the rivers as toxic, National Park Service (NPS) staff have observed fishing in several consistent locations by what appear to be non-recreational users. The ethnicity of these anglers, which are occasionally in multi-generational groups, includes Hispanic, African-American and Southeast Asian, among others.

The NPS manages the majority of the Potomac and Anacostia riverfront in metropolitan Washington, D.C. This study will include approximately 44 miles of river (measured from the rivers' center line). The project area includes NPS lands in five national park units within Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, Virginia; Montgomery and Prince George Counties, Maryland; and Washington, DC. The aim of this research is to determine the extent of non-recreational fishing from NPS areas along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.

This ethnographic resource study will document contemporary fishing communities on the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers using anthropological and sociological methods. A review of literature and archival material will be required in order to situate contemporary communities within an ethnohistorical context. The NPS encourages collaborative educational opportunities in association with the project, which may include graduate courses in field methods. This study will provide an opportunity for the researchers, or research team, to collaborate with the NPS and the communities involved, including the opportunity for research assistants with multi-lingual proficiency, to participate in this project.

The resulting ethnographic resource study will provide (1) an ethnohistorical overview of fishing on the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, (2) ethnographic data about today's anglers, and (3) mapped observational data on land and water usage that is co-created with community members. As a result, this study will provide baseline ethnographic data and resource information regarding the extent of non-recreational fishing in the parks, which will aid park managers in making culturally-informed decisions along the watershed.

The NPS has dedicated a Ph.D. candidate to this project as a research assistant in 2014. The NPS will work closely with the Cooperator and provide access to accumulated archival and other relevant materials, documents, knowledgeable park staff, and introductions to potential interviewees. The Cooperator and the NPS will discuss a public involvement process to inform community representatives about the project to aid field research. Guidelines for this project include the policies and ethical statements of the American Anthropological

Association and the Society for Applied Anthropology. The NPS strongly encourages the Cooperator to produce peer-reviewed publication(s) from this research.

Project Timeframe: Due to the seasonal nature of the study, it is anticipated that the research will include approximately 12 months of fieldwork per river (Potomac River and Anacostia River), with an additional 6-12 months of background research and writing per river. It is anticipated that this project will be funded in three Phases, with report products at the conclusion of each phase. Phase I will include a review of existing materials, development of a research plan and ethnohistorical context, and the initiation of ethnographic research on one river. It is anticipated that Phase I will begin in September 2014 and that all three Phases will be completed by September 2018.

Products: The project will result in the production of an ethnographic resource study of subsistence fishing on the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, which may be completed as a series of reports. Other project deliverables include a work plan and methodology; quarterly progress reports; and presentations of findings to the park superintendents, staff, and the public. GIS data associated with the ethnographic resource study may also be collected by the research team and provided to the NPS.

Requirements: The research will be overseen by a Principal Investigator (PI) who is an applied cultural anthropologist with a Ph.D., or comparable research experience, a record of applied experience, and high professional standing in the anthropological community. The PI must have significant involvement in the research and writing of the Final Report(s). Research teams are encouraged. It is preferred that the PI is committed to the duration of the project; however, individual research teams may apply for individual research Phases (i.e. a team per river). Only universities or partners within the Cooperative Ecosystem Study Units (CESU) network are eligible to apply. For a current list of universities and other partners within the network, please visit: <http://www.cesu.psu.edu/>

Funds Available: The project will be funded by the National Park Service. Funds available for Phase I are \$60,000 (Fiscal Year 2014). Anticipated funding for Phases II-III are \$100,000 - \$160,000, including the CESU overhead rate of 17.5 percent. Note: A proposed budget is not requested at this time.

Materials to Include in the Letter of Research Interest: Please prepare a letter (not to exceed 2 pages) describing your research interest in this project. Include your name, organization, contact information, CESU affiliation, as well as information about any relevant experience, or past projects that relate to the research topic (in particular, please list ethnographic projects underway or previously completed for the NPS, if any). You may also identify staff, faculty, team members or students who would be available to work on the project and include any relevant CV's (curriculum vitae are not required; if submitted, they are not included in the 2 page limit).

Submit Questions and Letters of Research Interest to: Inquiries or letters of interest should be directed before the closing date of June 30, 2014 to: Jennifer Talken-Spaulding, Cultural Anthropology Program Manager, NPS-National Capital Region at 202-619-7205 or jennifer_talken-spaulding@nps.gov.

Inquiries Regarding the CESU Network: Please contact: Walter Zachritz, NPS Chesapeake Watershed CESU Coordinator at 301-689-7108 or walter_zachritz@nps.gov.