



Request for Proposals

Hawaii Longline Electronic Reporting Project

January 28, 2014

Background Information

The Hawaii longline fishery is managed under the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's Pacific Pelagic Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP). Through regulations promulgated under the FEP, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) monitors the Hawaii longline fishery through logbook and observer data. In 2012, NMFS initiated a national effort to consider the challenges and opportunities associated with the adoption of electronic reporting in fishery-dependent data collection programs. NMFS has issued a policy directive that encourages and endorses the use of electronic reporting technologies where appropriate.

Currently, captains of Hawaii longline vessels must submit their catch logbook within 72 hrs of returning to port. The logbook forms are on hardcopy paper media and can be mailed, faxed, or dropped off at an approved location. In 2006, the Council amended its FEP to allow electronic reporting for managed fisheries that require logbooks (see 50 CFR § 665.14). Electronic reporting is believed to be more efficient than paper logbook reporting and can reduce errors, thus saving time for both fishermen and NMFS data technicians alike.

Through this project, participants in the Hawaii longline fishery will be provided with electronic hardware loaded with electronic reporting software, with the objective of increasing daily electronic reporting within the fleet. In order to support daily reporting, the electronic logbook software will need to be interfaced with a VMS unit and submitted through satellite transmission. This project will also supply the NMFS Observer program with transportable tablet-type units that are interfaced with a vessel's VMS unit, enabling an on-board observer to transmit daily observer reports to NMFS.

Proposals will include cost information for the following categories:

1) Hardware

- 140 VMS units that are type approved by NMFS
- 200 ruggedized tablets or other portable input device capable of interfacing with VMS units and which are type approved by NMFS
- hardware shipping costs shall be included in the proposal

2) Software

- electronic logbook software will be pre-loaded on tablets or other portable input device
- software will be need to replicate logbook¹ and observer² forms functionality
- software interface must allow accurate entry of required data by fishers in a user-friendly interface
- software and hardware must be capable of securely transmitting required data to authorized entities near-real-time when “submitted” via the interface;
- software will need to be able to support cost-optimized over-the-air form modifications
- software will be required to meet NMFS certification standards³

3) Transmission costs

- costs for daily transmission of logbook and observer data shall be included and separately identified within the proposal
- costs for hourly VMS data transmissions shall also be included in proposal

4) Installation

- the proposal shall include costs for installing hardware on-board 140 vessels

5) Services

- the proposal shall include cost estimates for service, modifications, maintenance, etc. for a period of 12 months

All proposals shall be submitted by February 15, 2014. Proposals should be sent by email to Eric Kingma (eric.kingma@noaa.gov) or by fax (808 522-8226) or by mail: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Ste. 1400, Honolulu, HI 96818.

Proposals must contain the following three items: 1) project narrative, 2) budget, and 3) project timeline. Total pages for a proposal shall not exceed 15 pages.

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee that includes representatives of the Council, NMFS Pacific Islands Region, NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, and NOAA Office of Law Enforcement. Proposals will be evaluated on a competitive basis. The selected proposal will be funded as contracts and subject to additional terms and conditions. The Council reserves the right not to accept the lowest bid and/or any proposal.

¹ http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/fmb/fmap/federal_forms/Hawaii%20Longline%20Logsheet%202010_wm.pdf

² http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/OBS/obs_observer_manual_forms.html

³ See Federal Register, volume 74, pages 32109-21112