



Request for Proposals

Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management Project for Protected Species Impacts Assessment for Hawaii and American Samoa Longline Fisheries

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council) is soliciting proposals for a contractor to implement an ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM) project for protected species impacts assessment for Hawaii and American Samoa longline fisheries.

For this Request for Proposals (RFP), we invite proposals to improve understanding of patterns and drivers of interactions to inform future mitigation strategies in the ecosystem-based fishery management context, as well as to inform protected species impacts assessment for the Hawaii and American Samoa longline fisheries. Proposals should include analyses of protected species (marine turtle, elasmobranch, seabird and marine mammal) interactions in the Hawaii and American Samoa longline fisheries assessing environmental and operational drivers of interactions. The analyses should include multi-taxa considerations for areas of avoidance for protected species interactions (e.g., based on TurtleWatch recommendations), such as impacts on target and non-target catch rates as well as other protected species interaction rates.

SCOPE OF WORK

The selected contractor will work closely with the Council, NMFS Pacific Island Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC), Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) and other partners as appropriate to conduct analyses of protected species (marine turtle, elasmobranch, seabird and marine mammal) interactions in the Hawaii and American Samoa longline fisheries assessing environmental and operational drivers of interactions. The analyses should include multi-taxa considerations for areas of avoidance for protected species interactions (e.g., based on TurtleWatch recommendations), such as impacts on target and non-target catch rates as well as other protected species interaction rates.

Proposals should address the following scope of work:

- Coordinate with Council, PIFSC and PIRO throughout the contract period to determine the final analysis approach, obtain data necessary for the analysis, discuss preliminary results, and coordinate presentations as appropriate;
- Conduct analyses of protected species (marine turtle, elasmobranch, seabird and marine mammal) interactions in the Hawaii and American Samoa longline fisheries assessing environmental and operational drivers as well as sensitivity to levels of rare event interactions. The analysis should include risk contours of marine turtle interactions, contours of CPUE for target species, and consider multi-taxa considerations for areas of avoidance for protected species interactions such as impacts on target and non-target catch rates as well as other protected

species interaction rates. The analyses should also consider TurtleWatch¹ recommendations for avoiding loggerhead and leatherback interactions.

- Conduct analysis estimating post release mortality rates of protected shark species (i.e., oceanic whitetip, bigeye thresher, silky, and blue) released with mortality tags and generate confidence intervals based on the condition of the shark and the observer assigned handling codes, using the probability of mortality estimate total mortality from the Observer data.
- Conduct impact assessments from fishery interactions with protected species including, but not limited to, annual interaction rates, post-interaction mortality rate, relative reproductive value, natural mortality, and sex ratio. Attend impact assessment workshop to be held at the PIFSC.
- Provide complete annotated code developed for the analyses and host a training workshop or webinar for Council, PIFSC and PIRO for utilizing the model developed for the analyses.
- Provide presentations to Council advisory bodies, as appropriate.
- Prepare a report detailing the methods, results and discussion of the analysis by the end of the project period.

The final scope of work will be determined through a contractual agreement between the Council and the selected contractor.

CONTRACT PERIOD

The contract is expected to begin in or around September 2019, depending on timing of funding availability. The contract shall be completed no later than December 2020.

ELIGIBILITY

- Principle Investigator(s) must have a demonstrated ability to implement the project, with a background in statistical or ecological modeling and experience working with large oceanographic and/or fisheries datasets, including coding in R;
- The contractor must be available to start the project no later than September 2019;
- Principal investigator(s) with prior experience working with data from the Hawaii and/or American Samoa longline fishery is preferred;
- U.S. Federal agencies and their employees are not eligible for contractual agreements with the Council;
- Proposals will be evaluated on a competitive basis by a review committee. The selected proposal will be funded as a contract.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The contractor will be required to submit regular progress reports, a final report, and any other deliverables to be identified in the contractual agreement. All end products, reports, and other deliverables resulting from this project must be submitted to the Council. Substantive deliverables may also be reviewed by PIFSC and PIRO personnel. The contractor must also formally acknowledge the Council support in all publications and presentations related to the

¹ <https://oceanwatch.pifsc.noaa.gov/turtlewatch.html>

funded project. The contractor is expected to produce a high quality analysis that is appropriate for submission to a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

HOW TO APPLY

Proposal submissions should include the following materials:

- (1) A proposal including the following items (*maximum 5 pages*):
 - a. Name, affiliation, and contact information of the principal investigator(s)
 - b. Project narrative, including the proposed analysis approach and timeline
 - c. Budget (*may not include overhead or indirect cost exceeding 15 percent*)
 - d. List of citations, if any
- (2) A curriculum vitae or resume for each Principal Investigator (*maximum of 2 CVs per proposal; not to exceed 4 pages each*).

Proposals may be submitted by e-mail (attach materials in PDF files) or regular mail to:

Asuka Ishizaki
Protected Species Coordinator
Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400
Honolulu, HI 96813
Email: asuka.ishizaki@wpcouncil.org

Any inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals should be directed to the contact information above. Proposals will be reviewed by a committee consisting of staff members from Council and NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Proposals must be submitted and received at the Council office by **Thursday, July 11, 2019**, at 5pm Hawaii Standard Time.

POTENTIAL AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE

Total amount of funding available is \$185,000.