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## **Request for Proposals**

### **Effort displacement and performance of Hawaii longline fisheries due to a time-varying area closure inside Hawaii's Exclusive Economic Zone**

#### **Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council**

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The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council) is soliciting proposals for a contractor to design and conduct an analytical framework to model changes in fishery performance of longline fisheries subject to a time-area closure within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around the Main Hawaiian Islands.

For this Request for Proposals (RFP), we invite proposals that address an overarching goal to quantify effort displacement (in terms of travel time/distance), impacts on fishing performance due to inter-fleet competition with other foreign fisheries outside of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around Hawaii when areas of the EEZ are prohibited. The project will address loss of fishing opportunity due to fleet bypassing EEZ waters around fleet disembarkation (specifically 50 to 200 miles) due to closures. Specific objectives include: (1) Determine the effects of time-area closures inside the Hawaii EEZ on its intended conservation objectives, (2) Determine the effects of time-area closures inside the Hawaii EEZ on a variety of management performance metrics – including those outside of the intended objectives – such as catch rates of target species and economic costs/benefits, (3) Quantify competing fishing intensity in proximity to the Hawaii longline fleet prior to and during time-area closures inside the Hawaii EEZ, and (4) Provide visualization of the impacts on the closure on Hawaii fleet dynamics.

#### **SCOPE OF WORK**

The selected contractor will work closely with the Council, Global Fishing Watch, and other scientific partners to characterize the impacts of time-area closures on performance of Hawaii longline fisheries.

The contracting party will fulfill the following scope of work:

- Coordinate with Council and any scientific partners throughout the contract period to determine the final analysis approach, obtain data necessary for the analysis, discuss preliminary results, and coordinate presentations as appropriate
- Inquire with fishers or the Hawaii Longline Association on how the Hawaii fleet has been impacted by time-area closures inside the Hawaii EEZ
- Develop or use existing quantitative tools to achieve the project's overarching goal and objectives as stated above
- Develop a theoretical/simulation framework to demonstrate the performance of time-area closures inside the Hawaii EEZ on conservation objectives for pelagic fisheries and fishery economic/performance, costs or benefits.

- Visualize the efficacy of time-area closures inside the Hawaii EEZ and dynamics of fishing effort (foreign and domestic) during implementation a time-area closure.
- Develop a report for the Council and the Scientific and Statistical Committee, either in March 2020 or June 2020.

## **CONTRACT PERIOD**

The contract is expected to begin December 16, 2019. The contract shall be completed no later than March 31, 2020.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

- Principle Investigator(s) must have a demonstrated ability to implement the project, with a background in statistics, computer science, and data visualization
- Principle Investigator(s) must have a demonstrated expertise on analyzing automatic identification system (AIS) and vessel monitoring system (VMS) data
- Principle Investigator(s) must have a demonstrated familiarity with spatial statistics and related software packages.
- The contractor must be available to start the project no later than December 20, 2019;
- Principle Investigator(s) must have prior experience working with simulating spatial patterns of fishing vessels and fishery behavior with respect to area-based management implementation.
- 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. The contractor must also formally acknowledge the Council support in all publications and presentations related to the 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 10 pages*):
  - a. Name, affiliation, and contact information of the principal investigator(s)
  - b. Project narrative, including the proposed analysis approach and timeline
  - c. Budget
  - 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:

Mark Fitchett, PhD  
Pelagic Fisheries Ecosystem Scientist  
Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council  
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Email: [mark.fitchett@wpcouncil.org](mailto:mark.fitchett@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/or Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) members..

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

Proposals must be submitted and received at the Council office by **Monday, December 16, 2019**, at 5pm Hawaii Standard Time.

**POTENTIAL AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE**

Total amount of funding available is \$22,000.