



WESTERN
PACIFIC
REGIONAL
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

Request for Proposals

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council) is soliciting proposals for contractors to work with the Council, Hawaii Longline Association, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to implement a study to evaluate the efficacy of tori lines in deterring seabird interactions when used in place of blue-dyed bait in the Hawaii deep-set longline fishery. The study will be conducted under an Experimental Fishing Permit.

1) **CONTRACT SERVICE: Project Coordinator**

CONTRACT PERIOD: The contract is expected to start as soon as possible and shall be completed no later than August 31, 2021.

REQUIREMENTS: The contractor will work with Council staff, Hawaii longline industry representatives, NMFS staff, and other project partners to coordinate study logistics, vessel deployments, and data collection through an Electronic Monitoring (EM) system. Specific tasks of the contractor will include:

- Coordinate project team meetings and facilitate coordination between project personnel and participating vessels to determine final study design, data collection protocol, vessel deployment schedule, and other study logistics;
- Manage subcontracts for vessels participating in the study and coordinate vessel deployments;
- Maintain EM systems on participating longline vessels and retrieve EM data from vessels;
- Maintain tori lines on participating vessels and assist with any repairs or replacements; and
- Conduct EM data review and produce data summary report.

ELIGIBILITY: The potential contractor must:

- Have demonstrated familiarity, knowledge, and expertise working with the Hawaii longline fishery;
- Have demonstrated familiarity and knowledge of seabird mitigation measures in the Hawaii longline fishery;
- Have demonstrated experience maintaining EM systems and reviewing EM data;
- Be able to work independently and communicate effectively with industry representatives; and
- Be available to start the project immediately and complete the project by August 31, 2021.

2) **CONTRACT SERVICE: Statistical Analysis and Technical Report Production**

CONTRACT PERIOD: The contract is expected to start in February 2021 and shall be completed no later than August 31, 2021.

REQUIREMENTS: The contractor will work with Council staff and project personnel including Hawaii longline industry representatives and NMFS staff, to conduct the statistical analysis and produce a technical report of the study. Specific tasks of the contractor will include:

- Provide input on the final study design and data collection protocol;
- Conduct statistical analysis of the EM data collected from the study and additional observer and/or logbook data as necessary, using appropriate methods for the study design; and
- Prepare a technical report including the study methodology and analysis results, in coordination with project personnel.

ELIGIBILITY: The potential contractor must:

- Have demonstrated ability to conduct the necessary statistical analysis using appropriate methods for the study design;
- Have demonstrated experience working with data from the Hawaii longline fishery;
- Have demonstrated familiarity and knowledge of the operational characteristics and management setting of the Hawaii longline fishery (including seabird mitigation measures in the fishery); and
- Be available to conduct the data analysis as soon as field trials are completed and complete the project no later than August 31, 2021.

HOW TO APPLY: Proposal submissions should include a proposal including the following items (maximum 3 pages): a. Name, affiliation, and contact information of the principal contractor(s); b. Brief statement addressing the requirements as stated; c. Budget; and d. a curriculum vitae or resume for each project participant.

Proposals may be submitted by e-mail (attach materials in PDF files) to info@wpcouncil.org or regular mail to: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400 Honolulu, HI 96813.

Additional details on the Experimental Fishing Permit for the study is available at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/notice-application-experimental-fishing-permit>

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Proposals will be welcome until January 22, 2021, or until a contractor is engaged.