



Request for Proposals

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council) is soliciting proposals for contractor to implement an ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM) project for protected species impacts assessment for Hawaii and American Samoa longline fisheries. The Scope of Work, eligibility, and details for submission are provided below.

CONTRACT SERVICE: 2021 Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management Project for Protected Species Impacts Assessments for Hawaii and American Samoa Longline Fisheries

CONTRACT PERIOD: The contract will be for a one year period starting in April 2021.

SCOPE OF WORK: The 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 contractor will also work with the aforementioned partners to develop and conduct a stakeholder workshop to apply an ecosystem-based fishery management modeling approach in a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) framework. The analyses should focus on the following:

- 1) An analysis using simulation and comparisons with available satellite telemetry data (i.e., loggerhead turtles) to assess the feasibility of using fishery interception data to develop species distribution models;
- 2) Develop and integrate eddy features into the modeling framework; and
- 3) Structure the protected species and fishery interactions model for exploration for area-based management strategies within a workshop context.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: The contractor will be required to submit regular progress reports, a final report, annotated code developed for the analyses, 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 may also provide presentations to the Council or its advisory bodies, as appropriate. The contractor must 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.

ELIGIBILITY: The potential contractor 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;

- Have prior experience working with data from the Hawaii and/or American Samoa longline fishery; and
- Be available to start the project in April 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. Statement addressing the scope of work and requirements; c. Budget (*may not include overhead or indirect cost exceeding 15 percent*); and d. a curriculum vitae or resume for each project participant (*not included in page limit*).

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.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Proposals will be welcome until February 23, 2021, or until a contractor is engaged.