



WESTERN
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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 pilot study in the Hawaii shallow-set longline (SLL) fishery to determine a baseline for current interactions, methodology of data collection under night-setting conditions using a combination of observer and electronic monitoring (EM) data, and preliminary testing of tori lines as a potential alternative of discouraging seabird interactions while providing operational flexibility during setting in the SLL fishery. The study will be conducted under an Experimental Fishing Permit.

1) **CONTRACT SERVICE: Project Manager and Analyst**

CONTRACT PERIOD: The contract is expected to start in October 2022 and shall be completed no later than September 30, 2023.

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

- Coordinate project team meetings to determine final study design, data collection protocol, vessel deployment schedule, and other study logistics;
- Provide input on the final study design and data collection protocol;
- Coordinate with NMFS on additional data collection needed by federal observers;
- 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 manage collaborative projects working with fishing industry.
- Have demonstrated ability to conduct the necessary statistical analysis using appropriate methods for the study design;
- Have demonstrated familiarity and knowledge of the operational characteristics, management setting, and seabird mitigation measures in the Hawaii longline fishery;
- Have demonstrated experience working with data from the Hawaii longline fishery;
- Be available to start the project immediately and complete the project by September 2023.

2) **CONTRACT SERVICE: Field Logistics & EM Coordinator**

CONTRACT PERIOD: The contract is expected to start in October 2022 and shall be completed no later than September 30, 2023.

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

- Lead the redesign to adapt a tori line design previously developed for Hawaii deep-set longline vessels to cover greater distance astern needed for Hawaii shallow-set longline vessels, and fabricate tori lines needed for the field trials;
- Manage subcontracts for vessels participating in the study and coordinate vessel deployments;
- Facilitate coordination between project personnel and participating vessels;
- 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;
- 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 the operational characteristics, management setting, and 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 September 2023.

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/issuance-experimental-fishing-permit-hawaii-shallow-set-longline-fishery>

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Proposals will be welcome until September 30, 2022, or until a contractor is engaged.