

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST WITHIN THE  
COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT  
INTEREST #N62473-17-2-0018  
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2017**

**Project Title: Hawaiian Monk Seal Auditory Sensitivity Study**

The selected cooperator to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will collect and analyze auditory sensitivity data on the Hawaiian Monk Seal. Approximately \$300,000.00 is expected to be available to support the base requirements of this project. This agreement is subject to incremental funding and will comply with fiscal laws 31 U.S. Code § 1301(a), 31 U.S. Code § 1502(a) and the Anti-Deficiency Act.

Type of Assistance Instrument Anticipated: Cooperative Agreement

Authority: Cooperative Agreement under 16 USC §670c-1

Eligible Applicants: Any Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Californian cooperative partner who qualifies under the DoDGARS Part 34 or 2 Code of Federal Regulations 200 is eligible to apply.

Cost Sharing: Not required

**Background:**

The Navy is responsible for compliance with a suite of Federal environmental laws and regulations that apply to marine mammals and other marine protected species, including the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). As part of the regulatory compliance process associated with these Acts, the Navy is responsible for assessing potential impacts from Fleet and Systems Command (SYSCOM) military readiness activities. To meet regulatory requirements, the Navy needs direct, empirical data and information about protected marine species.

The Navy's Living Marine Resources (LMR) Program is a late stage applied research (6.4) program that seeks to develop, demonstrate, validate and assess data and technology solutions to study living marine resources. The mission of the LMR program is to improve understanding of the occurrence, exposure, response, and consequences of marine species near Navy at-sea training and testing activities. The LMR program is responsible for funding applied research and works to transition the results for use within the Navy's at-sea environmental compliance and permitting processes, with the goals of improving marine species impact analysis (including marine mammal take estimates), mitigation measures and monitoring capabilities. One of the LMR program's five investment areas is "Data to support risk threshold criteria." Risk threshold criteria are critical to the Navy's at-sea environmental permitting process and understanding potential impacts on species present in areas where training and testing occurs. Projects in this investment area include hearing studies.

The Hawaiian Monk Seal (*Neomonachus schauinslandi*) is an endangered species that inhabits areas where Naval Pacific Fleet trains and operates. As such, the Hawaiian Monk Seal is subject to

the hearing research conducted by the LMR program. Under the authority of Sikes Act authority of 16 USC §670c-1, a Cooperative Agreement is being prepared in order to assist the Navy in complying with the ESA and MMPA and to ensure military readiness activities. This is a new requirement and has not been previously procured.

**Brief Description of the Anticipated Work:**

The principal purpose of this Cooperative Agreement would be to collect auditory sensitivity data on the Hawaiian Monk Seal. The Cooperative Agreement will facilitate the Navy's compliance with the ESA and MMPA. Specifically, pursuant to the Cooperative Agreement, the selected cooperator will be reimbursed for its costs of performing the following work:

- Conduct auditory sensitivity tests and collect data
- Analyze data
- Review public outreach materials
- Submit quarterly status reports
- Attend LMR in-progress review meetings
- Prepare and submit manuscript for peer review publication

Please see enclosure 1 for full scope of work and enclosure 2 for applicable terms and conditions.

**Period of Performance:**

The period of performance for this agreement is 24 months upon award. The end date is the anticipated date that the manuscript is accepted by the Government.

**Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:**

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: Reagan Pablo ([reagan.s.pablo@navy.mil](mailto:reagan.s.pablo@navy.mil)).

- a) SF 424 (R & R)(GG Version 2.0)(Enclosure 3)
- b) Research and Related Senior/Key Personnel Form (Expanded)(GG Version 1.3)(Enclosure 4)
- c) Please see Factor 1 for additional submittal requirements.
- d) Research & Related Budget Form (GG Version 1.4)(Enclosure 5)
- e) Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)(GG Version 1.2)(Enclosure 6). If applicable, complete SF- LLL. Applicability: If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the grant/cooperative agreement, you must complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying."

Reimbursement of pre-award costs will not be allowed.

Please note, that some of the forms functionality may be lost. Please visit <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/r-r-family.html#sortby=1> to retrieve the forms directly from the Grants.gov website.

**Review of Statements Received:** Proposals will be evaluated based on the following three factors: 1) Credentials of Key Personnel, 2) Scientific Approach, and 3) Reasonableness of Cost

NOTE: All requirements listed are minimum requirements. Offerors will be assessed on their ability to adhere to the listed requirements, provide complete responses, follow directions, comply with restrictions and provide quality control on their submittals. All page limits refer to 12 point font and single spaced one-sided pages.

### **Factor 1 - Credentials of Key Personnel**

A. Principal Investigator: The Recipient shall designate one person as responsible for ensuring that provisions are in place for project and personnel supervision and quality control and meeting of reporting requirements are met on a daily basis. This person shall have, at the minimum:

- i. A PhD in Oceanography, Marine Science, or related science.
- ii. Experience and knowledge of conducting behavioral auditory sensitivity tests, as demonstrated by at least 10 years of previous work or research experience.
- iii. Specific knowledge of pinniped biology and physiology, as demonstrated by at least 10 years of previous work or research experience.

B. Research Associates: The person(s) shall have, or have immediate access to personnel that have, at the minimum:

- i. A MS in Oceanography, Biology, Physiology, or related science.
- ii. At least 3 years of experience working with and studying pinnipeds.

With the Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form, the Applicant shall provide type written resumes, not to exceed 3 pages (per key personnel), single spaced with 12pt font for the Principal Investigator and Research Associates. Resumes must state qualifications, experience with this type of project, professional registration and certificates.

### **Factor 2 – Scientific Approach**

Not to exceed 3 pages, the Offeror shall develop an outline for their approach to addressing the anticipated work stated above. The Offeror may only propose additional geographic and environmental variables to consider, not mentioned in the RSOI, but pertinent to the study issues. The Offeror shall be evaluated as to the soundness of the overall approach and use of any innovative techniques to accomplish project objectives.

### **Factor 3 - Reasonableness of Cost**

After technical evaluation of the proposal, the Offers shall be analyzed to determine whether they are materially/mathematically balanced with respect to prices or separately priced items, and for

fair and reasonable pricing. A clear cost breakdown of work elements to be accomplished detailing quantities for the various work items, unit, unit prices and extended prices will be required and will be evaluated. Evaluation will include an analysis to determine the Offeror's comprehension of the requirements of the proposed agreement as well as to assess the validity of the Offeror's approach. Please be sure to provide a proposal for the optional work years as listed within the statement of work.

Please provide your proposed budget on the provided pdf titled, "Research and Related Budget" form\*(Enclosure 5).

**\*Form: RESEARCH AND RELATED BUDGET**

Complete the Research and Related Budget form in accordance with the instructions on the form. You must provide a detailed cost breakdown of all costs, by cost category, by the funding periods described below, and by task/sub-task corresponding to the task number in the proposed Statement of Work. You may request funds under any of the categories listed as long as the item and amount are necessary to perform the proposed work and meet all the criteria for allowability under the applicable Federal cost principles. The budget should adhere to the following guidelines:

The budget should be driven by program requirements. Elements of the budget shall include:

- Direct Labor - Individual labor category or person, with associated labor hours and unburdened direct labor rates.
- Indirect Costs - Fringe benefits, overhead, G&A, COM, etc. (must show base amount and rate). Justify in Field K.
- Travel - Number of trips, destination, duration, etc. Justify in Field K (on the form).
- Subcontract - A cost proposal as detailed as the applicant's cost proposal will be required to be submitted by the subcontractor. If applicable, include in Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment Form.
- Consultant - Provide consultant agreement or other document that verifies the proposed loaded daily/hourly rate. Include a description of the nature of and the need for any consultant's participation. Strong justification must be provided, and consultants are to be used only under exceptional circumstances where no equivalent expertise can be found at a participating university. Provide budget justification in Field K.
- Materials - Specifically itemized with costs or estimated costs. An explanation of any estimating factors, including their derivation and application, shall be provided. Include a brief description of the applicant's procurement method to be used (competition, engineering estimate, market survey, etc.). Justify in Field K.
- Other Directs Costs - Particularly any proposed items of equipment or facilities. Equipment and facilities generally must be furnished by the cooperator/recipient (justifications must be provided when Government funding for such items is

sought). Include a brief description of the applicant's procurement method to be used (competition, engineering estimate, market survey, etc.). Justify in Field K.

Budget Justification (Field K on the form): Provide the required supporting information for the cost elements as shown above (see Research & Related Budget instructions) and listed as follows: indirect cost, travel, consultant, materials, and other direct costs. Provide any other information you wish to submit to justify your budget request.

**NOTE:** Every deviation from the scope of work requirement must be identified. Proposer must identify the paragraph in the scope of work that is applicable and provide sufficient information to justify why the deviation is in the best interest of the government.

**RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF EVALUATION FACTORS** – Factor 1, 2, and 3 are of equal importance.

**Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:**

We request that Statements of Interest be submitted by August 15, 2017 2:00 PM local standard time. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until an investigator team is selected. Statements of Interest received after August 15, 2017 2:00 PM local standard time will be considered “late” and may not be considered.

**Please send electronic responses and questions to:**

Mr. Reagan Pablo, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core  
[Reagan.s.pablo@navy.mil](mailto:Reagan.s.pablo@navy.mil)

**Point of Contact Information:**

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