

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST WITHIN THE
COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT
INTEREST #N62473-18-2-0004
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2018**

Project Title: Guadalupe Fur Seal Population Census and Tagging in Support of Marine Mammal Monitoring Across Multiple Navy Training Areas in the Pacific Ocean

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will address measures in support of Guadalupe fur seal population census and tagging efforts at Guadalupe Island and San Benito Archipelago. Approximately \$303,248.20 is expected to be available to support the base requirements of this project. Approximately \$1,065,520.56 is expected to be available to support the option requirements of this project.

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 Guadalupe fur seal (GFS; *Arctocephalus townsendi*), similar to other fur seals, was hunted to near extinction for its thick fur until the early 1900s. Pre-exploitation, there may have been as many as 200,000 GFS. Currently, the population is approximately 90% less than this historic level with a minimum population estimate of 20,084-26,000 individuals. As a result, in addition to being protected by the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), GFS are the only pinnipeds inhabiting the California Current System (CCS) that are protected by the U.S. Endangered Species Act and catalogued as endangered by Mexican law. Guadalupe fur seals rarely come ashore, unless stranded (i.e., washed ashore sick or injured), except to breed (June-August) and nurse pups that are weaned February-April at approximately 9 months of age. The main GFS rookery is Guadalupe Island, México, a remote island that is immediately south of the U.S. Navy Southern California (SOCAL) Range Complex. San Benito Archipelago, México is also an important GFS recolonization site, but GFS births at this archipelago and islands off the U.S. coast (e.g., San Miguel Island) still are uncommon (<100 documented births on islands other than Guadalupe Island each year). As the population continues to recover, GFS are increasingly common in their historic range extending from central Mexico to Washington State, which includes multiple U.S. Navy training and testing areas, such as the SOCAL Range Complex. To accurately determine the number of GFSs potentially exposed to Navy activities (and quantify take under the MMPA), it is necessary to understand how GFSs are utilizing Navy ranges (in terms of proportion of time spent in the range and proportion of the population that occurs in the range).

Despite their protected status and increasing numbers, until recently relatively little was known about GFS, including their marine distribution and habitat use. This project shall track GFS

movements to better understand GFS population status, behavior, distribution, and habitat use and determine the degree to which this recovering population uses Navy ranges in the Pacific.

Brief Description of the Anticipated Work:

The Department of the Navy (DoN) is seeking statements of interest that address the Navy's monitoring requirements for the seasonal occurrence and habitat use and movement patterns of Guadalupe fur seals within the U.S. Navy Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Offshore Area and SOCAL Range Complex areas. Generally, the Navy's BASE monitoring requirements include: (1) conduct GFS population census surveys on Guadalupe Island and San Benito Archipelago during summer 2018; (2) deploy 30 location transmitting satellite tags and/or satellite-linked dive recorders on GFS off Guadalupe Island during fall 2018; (3) prepare a preliminary summary; and (4) prepare a technical report. The period of performance for the base year is 12 months upon award.

The requirements for OPTION PERIOD 1 are to: (1) deploy 60 location transmitting satellite tags and/or satellite-linked dive recorders on GFS off Guadalupe Island during spring 2019; (2) conduct GFS population census surveys on Guadalupe Island and San Benito Archipelago during summer 2019; (3) prepare a preliminary summary of the 2019 results; and (4) prepare a technical report for the 2019 tagging results and population census. The period of performance for Option Period 1 is 18 months upon award. The anticipated award time frame is winter 2018/2019 and may run concurrently with the performance of the base period of performance.

The requirements for OPTION PERIOD 2 are to: (1) conduct GFS population census surveys on Guadalupe Island and San Benito Archipelago during summer 2020; (2) deploy 30 location transmitting satellite tags and/or satellite-linked dive recorders on GFS off Guadalupe Island during fall 2020; (3) prepare a preliminary summary of the 2020 results; and (4) prepare a technical report for the 2020 tagging results and population census. The period of performance for the Option Period 2 is 12 months upon award. Anticipated award time frame is spring 2020 and may run concurrently with the performance of option period 1.

The requirements for OPTION PERIOD 3 are to: (1) deploy 85 location transmitting satellite tags and/or satellite-linked dive recorders on GFS off Guadalupe Island during spring 2021; (2) conduct GFS population census surveys on Guadalupe Island and San Benito Archipelago during summer 2021; (3) prepare a preliminary summary of the 2021 results; and (4) prepare a technical report for the 2021 tagging results and population census. The period of performance for the Option Period 3 is 18 months upon award. Anticipated award time frame is winter 2020/2021 and may run concurrently with the performance of option period 2.

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

Period of Performance:

The period of performance covered by this agreement is 12 months upon award and shall not exceed 48 months. The exact period of work performance will be determined upon award, the award of any optional work elements and will be subject to the Anti-Deficiency Act (31 U.S.C. § 1341). The end date is the anticipated date that the Final Report 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).

- 1) SF 424 (Enclosure 3)
- 2) Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form (Enclosure 4). Please see Factor 1 for additional submittal requirements.
- 3) Research and Related Budget Form (Enclosure 5)
- 4) SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (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."
- 5) Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form (Enclosure 7). The Federal Government has a continuing commitment to monitor the operation of its review and award processes to identify and address any inequities based on gender, race, ethnicity, or disability of its proposed PDs/PIs and co-PDs/PIs. To gather information needed for this important task, the applicant should submit the requested information for each identified PD/PI and co-PDs/PIs with each proposal. Submission of the requested information is voluntary and is not a precondition of award. However, information not submitted will seriously undermine the statistical validity, and therefore the usefulness, of information received from others. Any individual not wishing to submit some or all the information should check the box provided for this purpose. Upon receipt of the application, this form will be separated from the application. This form will not be duplicated, and it will not be a part of the review process. Data will be confidential.

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, completeness of 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 provisions are in place, project and personnel supervision are adequate, and quality control and meeting of reporting requirements are completed on a daily basis. This person shall have, at the minimum:

- i. A PhD in Biology or related science
- ii. A Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in Wildlife Veterinary Medicine
- iii. Knowledge and prior experience satellite tagging ESA-listed Guadalupe fur seals in the Pacific Ocean
- iv. Hold a valid and current permit for scientific research to utilize satellite tags on both ESA- and non-ESA-listed marine mammals
- v. Specific knowledge of identification of utilization distributions, habitats and behaviors of Guadalupe fur seals as demonstrated by at least 15 years of previous experience in the field of marine mammology

B. Senior Research Assistant: The Recipient shall designate one or two people as responsible for field tagging efforts. This person shall have, at the minimum:

- i. A MS in Biology, or related science
- ii. At least 10 years of experience in the tagging field efforts of Guadalupe fur seals
- iii. Significant otariid capture experience as demonstrated by at least 10 years of experience using modified hoop nets, or otherwise similar techniques, to capture and restrain otariids
- iv. Specific knowledge of identification of utilization distributions, habitats and behaviors of Guadalupe fur seals as demonstrated by at least 10 years of previous experience in the field of marine mammology

C. Veterinarian and/or registered veterinarian technician: The Recipient shall designate one or two people as responsible for performing anesthesia and collecting biological samples. This person shall have, at the minimum:

- i. A degree as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, or related degree
- ii. Specific knowledge of pinniped husbandry as demonstrated by at least 5 years of experience

- iii. Hold a valid and current permit for scientific research to utilize satellite tags on both ESA- and non-ESA-listed marine mammals

Please include resumes of each proposed key personnel with the Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form (Enclosure 3). Resumes shall not exceed 2 pages per key personnel. In addition, please include a Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form (Enclosure 7) with the submission of any/all resumes. Of note, the submission of the Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form is not mandatory (see the above description of the form for further details).

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 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). Please submit one budget form for the base year of work and separate budget form for each of the options specified in the Statement of Work.

***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 April 16, 2018 9:00 AM local standard time. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until an investigator team is selected. Statements of Interest received after April 16, 2017 9:00 AM local standard time is 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

Point of Contact Information:

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