

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST WITHIN THE  
COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT  
INTEREST #N62473-18-2-0013  
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2018**

**Project Title: Rocky Intertidal Biodiversity Surveys on Naval Auxiliary Landing  
Field San Clemente Island**

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will address measures in support of Rocky Intertidal Biodiversity Surveys on San Clemente Island. Approximately \$112,544 is expected to be available to support the base 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 rocky intertidal habitat at San Clemente Island (SCI) is home to one of the few remaining populations of black abalone in southern California. Beginning in 1981, the mainland black abalone populations experienced large scale mortality events associated with Withering Syndrome. Eventually, populations declined dramatically throughout their range including those on SCI. Due to the substantial decrease in population size, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) listed the black abalone as endangered under the Endangered Species Act in January 2009 (74 FR 1937). In 2011, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) designated critical habitat for black abalone but provided an exclusion (referred to as 76 FR 66806) for SCI based on determinations that the Navy's SCI Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) provides benefits to black abalone. In addition to black abalone-specific management, the Navy has also supported several surveys of the rocky intertidal ecosystem in which black abalone inhabit.

In conjunction with the State's Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA), a baseline characterization of the rocky intertidal was conducted at 5 sites on San Clemente Island (SCI) between 2013 and 2014. This baseline characterization utilized the same protocols (referred to as biodiversity) consistent with monitoring efforts within the South Coast Study Region (SCSR) associated with a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) along the California coast. Although there are not any State MPAs designated at SCI, two areas on the island are permanently closed to public access and all consumptive take of marine species may function as de facto MPAs. In order to continue to support the Navy's critical habitat exclusion, rocky intertidal habitat surveys need to be conducted to compare the baseline characterization to existing conditions at SCI. Biodiversity monitoring efforts described below are required to support the recovery of black abalone on SCI in compliance with the NMFS critical habitat exclusion and to be consistent with the MLPA monitoring efforts.

**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 rocky intertidal biodiversity surveys on SCI. Generally, the Navy's requirements include: (1) survey the existing five rocky intertidal sites at SCI using biodiversity protocols; and (2) report development.

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 18 months upon award and shall not exceed 60 months. 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: Matt Koontz ([Matt.Koontz@navy.mil](mailto:Matt.Koontz@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 and Related Summary 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. This data will be kept 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 responsible person for ensuring that provisions are in place. The responsible person shall perform project and personnel supervision, quality control, and ensure that reporting requirements are being met on a daily basis. This person shall have, at the minimum:

- i. A PhD in Biology or related science.
- ii. Experience and knowledge of rocky intertidal ecosystems in relation to evaluating patterns of biodiversity, ecological impacts from declines in keystone species, as demonstrated by at least 10 years of previous work or research experience.
- iii. Hold or be listed as a current researcher on a black abalone Endangered Species Act (ESA) permit for scientific research.

B. Marine Technician: The recipient shall have, or have immediate access to personnel that have, at the minimum:

- i. A Master's Degree in Marine Sciences or related science.
- ii. At least 5 years of experience with long-term baseline surveys of rocky intertidal ecosystems.

### **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 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 August 21, 2018 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 21, 2018 2:00 PM local standard time is considered “late” and may not be considered.

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

Mr. Matt Koontz, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core  
[Matt.Koontz@navy.mil](mailto:Matt.Koontz@navy.mil)

**Point of Contact Information:**

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