

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS WITHIN
THE
COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT**

INTEREST #N62473-20-2-0013

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2020

Project Title: Essential Fish Habitat Amphibious Landing Area Surveys at San Clemente Island

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will address measures in support of essential fish habitat (EFH) requirements at Naval Outlying Landing Field San Nicolas Island. Approximately \$59,526 is expected to be available to support the Base requirements of this project and \$24,000 to \$61,907 is expected to be available to support Option Items 1 and 2, respectively.

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:

Sandy beaches support unique biodiversity and provide essential ecosystem functions and services including endemic invertebrate communities and food webs that are prey for birds and fish, buffering and absorption of wave energy by stored sand, filtration of large volumes of seawater, extensive detrital processing and nutrient recycling, and the provision of critical habitat and resources for declining and endangered wildlife, such as shorebirds and pinnipeds.

Sandy beaches are designated as Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) per the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and are used for various over-the-beach and amphibious landing trainings and operations at San Clemente Island (SCI). This study supports compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act under which Federal agencies must consult with National Marine Fisheries Service on potential impacts from federal in-water actions to EFH and fish species that are federally managed under Fisheries Management Plans. Very few sandy beaches exist on SCI and they are crucial for amphibious training and operations. Additionally, the federally threatened Western Snowy Plover has previously nested on the sandy beaches at SCI. Due to the limited information available on this habitat, the environmental impacts of amphibious landings on this EFH designated habitat and the resources for Western Snowy Plovers and other shorebirds are unknown. Without this information, natural resource staff are unable to manage this sensitive resource appropriately and may be at risk for restrictive conservation recommendations/measures from EFH and Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultations.

In order to comply with Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and ESA

and provide the most current data for the SCI Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan, this study will provide an assessment of the ecological state of sandy beach ecosystems and their nearshore waters against which future changes in community state might be assessed at SCI. Baseline biodiversity may include kelp-wrack coverage and composition; abundances and species of marine birds, pinnipeds and macroinvertebrates, fishes in the nearshore areas, and marine debris characterization.

Brief Description of the Anticipated Work:

The Department of the Navy (DoN) is seeking statements of interest that address the Navy’s EFH requirements for the amphibious landing areas at SCI. Generally, the Navy’s base monitoring requirements will include the following tasks: (1) Conduct baseline ecological characterization surveys of sandy beach habitats at a minimum of one site at SCI and (2) Develop a technical report including results and analysis of the surveys.

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 Cooperative Agreement is 30 months upon award. The proposed period of performance consists of one (1) 30-month base period, one (1) 12-month option item and one (1) 30-month option item. The option items may be unilaterally awarded within the last 6 months of the period of performance of the base scope of work, or within the proceeding option item of the Cooperative Agreement. The period of performance of the base period and option items may overlap. The total duration of the Cooperative Agreement, including any option items, shall not exceed 60 months. The end date is the anticipated date that the Final Report is accepted by the Government. In the event that an option item(s) is exercised, a cumulative report consisting of the base and all option items will be the Final Report. All option items are subject to the availability of funds.

Option Item	Period of Performance
Base Period	September 2020 – March 2023
Option Item 1	12 months following date of award
Option Item 2	March 2023 – September 2025

A fifteen (15) day period, starting on date of award, will be used for the Cooperator to provide preliminary documents to the CAA and CATR. Documents include, but are not limited to, Insurance documents/certificates, Accident Prevention Plans/Site Health and Safety Plans (as applicable), etc. Cooperator may not begin performance until preliminary documents are submitted and accepted/approved as appropriate.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: Kellie Wilson (kellie.wilson@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."

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 Cooperator shall designate one person as responsible for ensuring that provisions are in place, project and personnel supervision are provided, quality control and meeting of reporting requirements are met on a daily basis. This person shall have, at the minimum:
 - i. A PhD in environmental biology or related discipline.
 - ii. Experience with and knowledge of standard ecological survey protocols for sandy beach ecosystems in the California's South Coast region in relation to evaluating abundance, density and spatial patterns of marine algae, birds, fishes and invertebrates as demonstrated by at least 10 years of previous work or research experience.

- B. Research Associate: The Cooperator shall designate one or more people as responsible for assisting the principal investigator. The person(s) shall have, or have immediate access to personnel that have, at the minimum:
 - i. A Bachelor's degree in biology.
 - ii. At least 5 years of experience with local scale processes and long-term changes in biodiversity of sandy beach ecosystems.

- C. Research Assistants: The Cooperator shall designate one, or more, people as participants in field collection, lab-based post-processing and report preparation. The person(s) shall have, or have immediate access to personnel that have, at the minimum:
 - i. A Bachelor's degree in marine science or related discipline (or be in currently enrolled in such a program).

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 Cooperative Agreement as well as to assess the validity of the Offeror's approach. Please be sure to provide a proposal for Option Item 1 and Option Item 2 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 Option items 1 and 2 as 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 L.
- Travel - Number of trips, destination, duration, etc. Justify in Field L (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 L.
- 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 L.
- Other Directs Costs - Particularly any proposed items of equipment or facilities. Equipment and facilities generally must be furnished by the cooperator/Cooperator (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 L.
- Budget Justification (Field L 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 July 24, 2020 2:00 PM local standard time. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until an Offeror is selected. Statements of Interest received after July 24 , 2020 2:00 PM local standard time is considered “late” and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than July 21, 2020 2:00 Pacific standard time.

Please send electronic responses and questions to:

Ms. Kellie Wilson, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core kellie.wilson@navy.mil

Point of Contact Information:

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619.532.2090