

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST  
WITHIN THE COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT  
NUMBER N62473-21-2-0013**

**Project Title: SAFETY ZONE ROCKY INTERTIDAL BIODIVERSITY SURVEYS AT  
SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND**

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will address measures in support of rocky intertidal biodiversity surveys at San Clemente Island. Approximately \$105,394.15 to \$118,287.49 is expected to be available to support the Base Period of this project. Approximately \$107,502.03 to \$120,653.23 is expected to be available to support the Option Period 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:**

In 2012-2014, the Navy (via Cooperative Agreement W9126G-12-2-0041) produced a comprehensive integrated ecological baseline characterization of four critical marine ecosystems at San Clemente Island (SCI). These ecosystems, which are rocky intertidal, kelp and shallow rocky reef, deep rock, and subtidal soft-bottom ecosystems, were identified as critical to regional efforts to understand the ecological resources of the South Coast region of California by the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) initiative. Although no administered marine protected areas (MPA) occur at SCI, there is an agreement to assess habitats designated by the Navy as safety zones in a manner consistent with assessments carried out elsewhere in the region as part of the Monitoring Enterprise's baseline characterization efforts.

The comprehensive integrated ecological baseline characterization initiated by the Navy in 2012 produced initial data points for long-term tracking of conditions and trends in the four ecosystems using metrics that are being used in the same ecosystems as part of the baseline characterization of MPAs and reference sites in the south coast of California. After the baselines for each of these ecosystems were established, continued long-term monitoring was initiated. Long-term monitoring of the rocky intertidal ecosystem at five sites on SCI began in 2018 (via Cooperative Agreement N62473-18-2-0013). This study will continue these monitoring efforts by conducting biodiversity surveys in the rocky intertidal habitat at SCI.

**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 at San Clemente Island. Generally, the Navy's Base Period Task 1 includes conducting intertidal surveys at five (5) established sites utilizing the Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINe) biodiversity protocols. Base Period Task 2 is to develop a technical report including a comprehensive analysis of current and previous surveys (conducted under W9126G-12-2-0041 & N62473-18-2-0013). Option Period 1 is to conduct additional ecological characterization surveys of rocky intertidal ecosystems at SCI including data analysis and reporting.

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 24 months upon award. The Cooperative Agreement will have one (1) 24-month Base Period, and one (1) 24-month Option Period. The award of any option period may be awarded unilaterally anytime within the current 24-month period of performance. The total duration of this agreement, including any option periods, shall not exceed 60 months. The exact period of work performance will be determined upon award, the award of any optional work periods is subject to the availability of funds. The end date is the anticipated date that the Final Report is accepted by the Government.

Item	Period of Performance	Anticipated Award Date
Base Period	24 months from date of award	Fall 2021
Option Period 1	24 months from date of award	Fall 2023

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

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: Kevin Magennis ([kevin.magennis@navy.mil](mailto:kevin.magennis@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.

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

- i. A PhD in Marine Ecology or related science.

- ii. Experience and knowledge of rocky intertidal ecosystems on the U.S. west coast in relation to evaluating patterns of biodiversity as demonstrated by at least 15 years of previous work or research experience.

B. Research Associates: The Recipient 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 or related science.
- ii. At least 1 year of experience with assessing health conditions of the rocky intertidal ecosystem on the U.S. west coast.

With the Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form, the Applicant shall provide type written resumes, not to exceed 3 pages, single spaced with 12pt font for the Principal Investigator, Senior Research Assistant, and Senior Genetics Researcher. Resumes must state qualifications, experience with this type of project, professional registration and certificates. The Principal Investigator must also include a copy of a valid and current permit for scientific research to utilize deep-implant tags on both ESA- and non-ESA-listed marine mammals. The permit will not be included in the 3 page maximum limitation.

**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).

**\*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 16, 2021 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 16, 2021 2:00 PM local standard time is considered “late” and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than August 12, 2021 2:00 PM local standard time.

Please send electronic responses and questions to:

Mr. Kevin Magennis, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core  
[kevin.magennis@navy.mil](mailto:kevin.magennis@navy.mil)

Point of Contact Information:

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