

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST
WITHIN THE COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT
NUMBER N62473-21-2-0012**

Project Title: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BEAKED WHALE DISTRIBUTION

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will address measures in support of marine mammal monitoring. Approximately \$325,698 to \$363,471 is expected to be available to support the base period requirements of this project. Approximately \$530,501 to \$561,702 is expected to be available to support the Option Tasks 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 Navy trains in several range complexes throughout the Pacific Ocean. To authorize these actions, the National Marine Fisheries Service issued Letters of Authorization under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Biological Opinions under the Endangered Species Act and requires Navy via U.S. Pacific Fleet to implement marine species monitoring.

The Navy's Southern California Range Complex is located in the Southern California Bight off San Diego County and adjacent deep waters to the west. This region has a highly productive marine ecosystem owing to the southward flowing California Current, and associated coastal current system. A diverse array of marine mammals is found in this range complex, including baleen whales, beaked whales and other toothed whales and pinnipeds.

A U.S. Pacific funded acoustic monitoring effort was initiated within the Southern California Range Complex in 2009. The goal of these efforts was to characterize vocalizations of marine mammal species present in the area, to determine their seasonal presence patterns, and to evaluate the potential for impact from naval operations. Current monitoring efforts are required to support marine mammal studies in the offshore waters of the Southern California Range Complex, in compliance with a Letter of Authorization dated 13 December 2013 from the Department of Commerce's National Marine Fisheries Service.

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 passive acoustic monitoring of marine mammals in the Pacific Ocean. Generally, the Navy's requirements include: (1) collect and analyze passive acoustic monitoring data for beaked whales in the Southern California Range Complex, (2) determine marine mammal presence from shipboard visual and acoustic arrays in the Southern California Bight and (3) develop explosive classifiers for naval and fisheries sources (4) develop an acoustic habitat model for marine mammals and (5) collect and analyze passive acoustic monitoring for marine mammals in the Gulf of Alaska.

Period of Performance:

The period of performance covered by this agreement is 18 months upon award and shall not exceed 60 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.

Item	Period of Performance	Anticipated Award Date
Base Period	18 months from date of award	Fall 2021
Option Period 1	18 months from date of award	TBD
Option Period 2	18 months from date of award	TBD
Option Tasks 1, 2, and 3	18 months from date of award, concurrent with the Period in which each may be exercised. Each may be exercised up to three (3) times.	TBD
Option Tasks 4, 5, and 6	12 months from date of award. Each may be exercised one (1) time.	TBD

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: Kevin Magennis (Contract Specialist), (619) 705-5566; 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.

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

- i. A PhD in Physics or related science.
- ii. Experience and knowledge of underwater acoustics in relation to marine mammal impacts, and populations, as demonstrated by at least 10 years of previous work or research experience.
- iii. Specific knowledge of underwater sounds produced by marine mammals along the U.S. West Coast, 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 PhD in Physics, Oceanography, Physiology, or related science.
- ii. At least 3 years of experience with passive acoustic monitoring of marine mammals in the U.S. West Coast. Must have the ability to identify U.S. West Coast marine mammals with acoustics, determine densities of marine mammals with acoustics, evaluate impacts of noise to marine mammals.

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 September 10, 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 September 10, 2021 2:00 PM local standard time is considered “late” and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than September 6, 2021 2:00 PM local standard time.

Please send electronic responses and questions to:

Kevin Magennis

kevin.magennis@navy.mil

Contract Specialist, Environmental Acquisition Core