



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
E.F. "Terry" Stockwell III, *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

Request for Proposals (RFP) Managing Collaborative Research

Closing Date: 3/28/14

Location: Newburyport, MA

Purpose

The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is accepting proposals to manage a short-term (2014-2015) collaborative research program focusing on New England Groundfish for the Council. The Council intends to invest approximately 800K in research projects that will collect information on specific research questions related to New England groundfish stocks and/or the groundfish fishery. The Council will consider a broad range of projects including baseline habitat surveys, cod genetic sampling, and mortality studies. Preference will be given to projects that have an on-the-water component.

The Council seeks to partner with an organization that would be contracted to manage this effort.

Scope of Work

The organization would be expected to:

1. Solicit proposals to address specific research questions identified by the Council.
2. Receive, review, and evaluate proposals in response to the solicitation.
3. Coordinate selection of proposals with the Council or its representatives, as required by the Council.
4. After identification of funded proposals, notify applicants and assist applicants in obtaining any special permits or other types of authorizations and approvals that may be required.
5. Receive completed research reports and facilitate review of those reports as required by the Council.
6. Disburse funds for selected research programs. Final funds disbursement for projects will depend on successful project completion and report review.
7. Provide periodic reports to the Council on the proposal application and review process, as well as the status of funds.
8. Track progress of projects and provide progress reports when requested.
9. After completion of all projects, provide a written final report that details all the projects awarded, whether they were completed successfully and how much was paid for each.

Contractor Qualifications

1. Record of success in managing similar programs.

2. Experience with oversight of research projects that address the conservation of natural resources.
3. Experience managing fisheries research projects, and in particular projects associated with New England fisheries, is preferred.
4. Demonstrated record of successful relationships with non-traditional research partners, such as fishing businesses or organizations.
5. Potential to leverage Council funds with matching funds from other organizations.

Proposal Submission

Interested parties must submit a proposal by COB March 28, 2014. The proposal may be mailed or emailed to the Council's Primary Point of Contact listed below.

Proposal Format/Qualifications

- Executive Summary:** Respondents should provide a summary of their company, organization, institution and any related partners, as well as their qualifications.
- Qualifications:**
 - **Statement of Qualifications:** In addition to the Executive Summary, all proposals must include a statement of qualifications, which describes the experience and history of the Respondent company, organization, or institution and other team members, if applicable. The proposal should specifically indicate the Respondent's current and historical expertise in providing the services identified in this RFP.
 - **Staffing Plan and Qualifications:** Names and qualifications of the key personnel. Identify all key personnel who are to be part of the project team and provide curriculum vitae for each.
 - **References:** All proposals must include references from at least three clients of the Respondent, and preferably clients who have utilized the Respondent on matters related to the requested services. The references must include a contact person, a full address, and a phone number. In addition to the foregoing, all proposals must include a listing of public and private clients for whom the firm has provided services similar to those set forth in this RFP, with a description of the services provided.
- Proposed Approach and Comments on Scope of Work:** A detailed description of the process that will be used to manage this project and a schedule of tasks to be performed during the course of the project. Provide comments on the scope of work as it relates to the management of the project.
- Proposed Fee Structure (Budget & Rate Sheet):** All responses must include detailed information on the proposed budget for the requested services, including the basis for charges (e.g., hourly rates, fixed fee).

RFP Timeline

The Council anticipates that the selection of a successful respondent and execution of contract will proceed according to the following approximate schedule:

3/10/14	Issuance of RFP
3/28/14	Deadline for proposal submission
4/14 – 17/14	Interview Selected Respondents
4/23/14	Contract Execution (or as soon thereafter as practical)
5/1/14	Commencement of Work (or as soon thereafter as practical)

Anticipated Term of Contact

The final contract is subject to successful negotiation of the budget and scope of services. It is expected that the contract will commence in May 2014 and last for a period of 12 to 18 months. The contract will be reviewed during its course and may be extended at the sole discretion of the Council.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on prior experience, references and qualifications, understanding of work, and price. The Council may, at its discretion, request additional information from any respondents as deemed necessary to clarify or negotiate modifications to the proposal.

Requests for Further Information

Sandy Stone, Administrative Officer
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950
978-465-0492 x 104
Email - sstone@nefmc.org

Disclaimer

1. All costs associated with the preparation and presentation of the proposal will be borne by participating vendors.
2. Proposals and their accompanying documentation will not be returned.
3. Respondents must disclose any relevant conflicts of interest and/or pending lawsuits.
4. The Council reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received, negotiate with all qualified applicants, cancel or modify the RFP in part or in its entirety, or change the application guidelines, when it is in its best interests.

#