

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST WITHIN THE
COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT
INTEREST #N62473-17-2-0001
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2017**

**Project Title: Humpback Whale Tagging in Support of Marine Mammal Monitoring
Across Multiple Navy Training Areas in the Pacific Ocean**

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will address measures in support of marine mammal monitoring across multiple Navy training areas in the Pacific Ocean. Approximately \$ 280,000.00 is expected to be available to support the base requirements of this project. Approximately \$ 230,000.00 is expected to be available to support the base option 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 and Pacific Northwest 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 operates in several range complexes throughout the Pacific Ocean including the Gulf of Alaska Temporary Maritime Activities Area (GOA TMAA), Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC), Southern California Range Complex (SOCAL), Hawaii Range Complex (HRC), and the Mariana Islands Range Complex (MIRC). Navy activities within these ranges are documented in four Environment Impact Statement (EIS) documents: GOA Navy Training Activities, Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT), Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing (HSTT), and Mariana Training and Testing (MITT). To authorize these actions, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued Letters of Authorization (LOAs) (enclosure 1) under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Biological Opinions (BOs) under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for GOA, NWTT, HSTT, and MITT and required Navy to implement marine species monitoring per the Integrated Comprehensive Monitoring Program (ICMP). Monitoring projects must address key Intermediate Scientific Objectives of which the Navy has committed to complete as part of regulatory requirements promulgated from NMFS.

Humpback whales occur worldwide and in all Pacific range complexes. On September 8, 2016 (81 FR 62260), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) divided the species into fourteen Distinct Population Segments (DPS). Of the fourteen DPSs, NMFS designated four DPSs in the Pacific for the humpback whale: 1) the Western North Pacific (includes Okinawa/Philippines and the unidentified breeding area in the western North Pacific), 2) Hawaii, 3) Mexico (includes mainland Mexico and the Revillagigedos Islands), and 4) Central America. Two of these DPSs (Western North Pacific and Central America) were designated as endangered under the ESA, the

Mexico DPS was designated as threatened, and the Hawaii DPS was not listed under the ESA. Many, if not all of these Pacific DPSs of humpback whales congregate in Hawaii during the winter and then transit to (or through) the Navy's Gulf of Alaska, southeast Alaska, Pacific Northwest and southern California ranges enroute to forage areas. For example, three of the four DPSs are known to occur within the NWTT (Pacific Northwest) study area, but it is unknown what portion of each humpback DPS is present in specific geographic locations of the NWTT study areas (i.e southeast Alaska (Behm Canal), the inland and offshore waters of Washington, the offshore waters of Oregon, or the offshore waters of northern California).

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 humpback whales across multiple training ranges in the Pacific Ocean. Generally, the Navy's BASE monitoring requirements include: (1) deployment of deep-implant satellite tags on humpback whales in Hawaii during the winter/spring 2017; (2) collect tissue samples simultaneously during tagging efforts; and (3) prepare a preliminary summary. Six OPTIONAL requirements include: (1) perform tissue sample genetic analyses; (2) conduct a technical analysis of tag data and compile that information in a draft and final report; (3) procure additional satellite tags; (4) deploy additional deep-implant satellite tags on humpback whales off Oregon during the summer/fall and collect tissue samples; (5) perform tissue sample genetic analyses on summer/fall collections; and (6) conduct a technical analysis of summer/fall tag data and compile that information into the report from the OPTIONAL reporting task.

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 42 months. The exact period of work performance will be determined upon award, the award of any optional work element sand 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.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: Reagan Pablo (reagan.s.pablo@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 on a daily basis. This person shall have, at the minimum:

- i. A PhD in Biology or related science
- ii. Knowledge and prior experience satellite tagging (using deep-implant tags) ESA-listed baleen whales in the Pacific Ocean
- iii. Hold a valid and current permit for scientific research to utilize deep-implant tags on both ESA- and non-ESA-listed marine mammals
- iv. Specific knowledge of identification of migratory routes, habitats and behaviors of baleen whales as demonstrated by at least 15 years of previous experience in the field of marine mammalogy

B. Senior Research Assistant: The Recipient shall designate one or two people as responsible for field tagging efforts. This person shall have, at the minimum:

- i. A MS in Biology, Oceanography, or related science
- ii. At least 10 years of experience in the tagging field efforts of baleen whales

C. Senior Genetics Researcher: The Recipient shall designate one or two people as responsible for performing genetic analyses of tissue samples. This person shall have, at the minimum:

- i. A PhD in Biology, or related science
- ii. Specific knowledge of utilizing genetics to determine different stocks of marine mammals as demonstrated by at least 15 years of experience in genetic analyses of baleen whales

With the Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form, the Applicant shall provide type written resumes, not to exceed 3 pages (per key personnel), 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 February 07, 2017 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 February 07, 2017 2:00 PM local standard time is considered “late” and may not be considered.

Please send electronic responses and questions to:

Mr. Reagan Pablo, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core
Reagan.s.pablo@navy.mil

Point of Contact Information:

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