

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST
WITHIN THE COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT
NUMBER N62473-21-2-0003
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2021**

**Project Title: VESSEL BASED MARINE MAMMAL SURVEYS IN PUGET SOUND,
WASHINGTON**

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will be used to identify potential projects to be funded by the Department of the Navy (DoN) in support of surveys and management of a marine mammal species subject to the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of 1972, as amended (16 United States Code [U.S.C.] section 1371(a)(5)), or the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), within or in the vicinity of Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) and Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) Study Area (DoN 2015; DoN 2020; www.nwtteis.com).

The approximate amounts expected to be available to support the base requirements of this project are as follows:

Base/Option Item	Estimated Available Funding
Base Period	\$189,861.76 - \$210,957.51
Option 1	\$41,755.91 - \$46,395.45
Option 2	\$189,631.00 - \$210,701.11
Option 3	\$23,382.68 - \$25,980.76
Option 4	\$198,411.93 - \$220,457.70
Option 5	\$24,044.45 - \$26,716.06

***Subject to the Anti-Deficiency Act (31 U.S.C. § 1341), additional funding may be available for follow on work in subsequent fiscal years to the successful Recipient.*

Type of Assistance Instrument Anticipated: Cooperative Agreement

Authority: Cooperative Agreement under 16 USC §670c-1

Eligible Applicants: Any Californian or Pacific Northwest Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) 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 U.S. Navy conducts military training and testing in the Pacific Northwest. In order to conduct at-sea testing, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) receives authorizations from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for impacts to marine mammals and endangered species. As a condition of these permits, NAVSEA must conduct monitoring of potential effects of at-sea testing. The work presented in this scope will support the permits required for at-sea testing events allowing for planned testing to occur.

The Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Study Area includes four existing complexes, one being the Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC). Waters within the NWTRC Study Area is known to be

habitat for various species of marine mammals, all of which are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and some of which may be protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In order to assist in planning for military operations, the U.S. Navy is seeking information to better understand marine mammal distribution and abundance within the region. The abundance, density, population dynamics, seasonality, movement patterns, and other behaviors of these species are important for consultation to acquire regulatory permits, but are poorly known in this study area. Therefore, this project will conduct in-water vessel-based line transect surveys to provide critical information on the spatial and temporal distribution of marine mammals (with a focus on cetaceans) within the region. The purpose of this project is to conduct marine mammal in-water vessel-based line transect surveys within and around the vicinity of Washington’s Hood Canal (a Puget Sound basin). The primary goals are to:

- Record data on all marine mammal species seen with the study area, with a focus on the killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) and the harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*).
- Identify the seasonal occurrence and abundance/density of cetaceans within the study area.
- Identify the effects of environmental variables (e.g., depth, temperature) on the distribution and abundance of species (e.g., harbor porpoise) within the study area.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

The DoN is seeking statements of interest that address the Navy’s responsibilities to monitor impacts to marine mammals and endangered species in the NWTRC. Generally, the Navy requirements include: (1) During the Base Task, perform a small-vessel based marine mammal survey; (2) Provide a comprehensive preliminary summary on interim project status and initial results for the Navy’s annual report to NMFS; (3) Conduct a full analysis on all data collected and to produce a detailed report and required data deliverables; and (4) Provide an interim status update by presenting a brief at Pacific Fleet’s program review meeting for marine species monitoring projects supporting environmental compliance for at-sea training and testing actions.

Please see enclosure 1 for full Scope of Work and enclosure 2 for applicable terms and conditions.

Period of Performance:

The proposed Period of Performance for the Agreement is effective, date of award, through the Period of Performance end date. However, the parties may extend the period of the CA by written modification. Total duration of this Agreement, including any Option Items shall not exceed 60 months. The exercise of any Option Items are subject to the availability of funds and may be awarded unilaterally.

Base/Option Item	Period of Performance	Anticipated Award Date
Base Period	15 Aug. 2021 – 15 July 2023	Summer 2021
Option 1	15 Aug. 2021 – 15 July 2023	Summer 2021
Option 2	15 Aug. 2022 – 15 July 2024	Summer 2022
Option 3	15 Aug. 2022 – 15 July 2024	Summer 2022
Option 4	15 Aug. 2023 – 15 July 2025	Summer 2023
Option 5	15 Aug. 2023 – 15 July 2025	Summer 2023

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

The Base Period is a non-severable completion-based service that results in a comprehensive deliverable.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: Kevin Magennis (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 & Related Budget Form (Enclosure 5). Please see Factor 3 for additional submittal requirements.
- 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, project and personnel supervision is provided, and quality control and meeting of reporting requirements are met on a daily basis. This person shall have, at the minimum:

- 1) Experience and knowledge in leading marine mammal line-transect surveys, with at least 10 years of previous work or research experience in these activities, as demonstrated by authorship on resulting peer-reviewed publications.
- 2) Experience performing marine mammal field research on a U.S. Navy range that requires managing water space access and real-time communication with U.S. Navy range personnel to facilitate surveys, as demonstrated by reports on peer-reviewed publications. It is preferable to possess general knowledge of U.S. Navy-funded marine mammal research and development and compliance programs relevant to marine mammals in the study area, in order to optimize identification of cooperative leveraging opportunities, as demonstrated by reports or peer-reviewed publications.
- 3) Access to the use of all applicable permits to perform the activities described in the Statement of Work (SOW).

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:

- 1) Experience with small-vessel based field operations of marine mammals, as demonstrated by at least 10 years of field research experience in these activities, inclusive of line-transect surveys.
- 2) Experience with boat driving specifically for marine mammal line-transect surveys.
- 3) Co-authorship on resulting peer-reviewed publication and reports is preferable, but not required.

Factor 2 – Scientific Approach

Not to exceed three (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 will be analyzed for fair and reasonable pricing. The proposal will be analyzed to determine whether its pricing is materially/mathematically balanced, and is fair and reasonable. The Offeror shall use OMB Circular A-21 “Cost Principles for Institutions of Higher Education”, 48 CFR part 31 “Contract Cost Principles and Procedures,” or 2 CFR 200 Subpart F “Audit Requirements” as applicable.

Evaluations will include an analysis to determine the Offeror’s comprehension of the requirements of the solicitation as well as to assess the validity of the Offeror’s approach. 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 Option Items and Option Tasks as listed within the SOW.

Please provide your proposed budget on the provided pdf titled, “Research and Related Budget” form*(Enclosure 4). Please submit one budget form for the base year of work and separate budget form for each of the options specified in the SOW.

***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 SOW. 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 Sub award 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/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 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 1, 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 July 1, 2021 2:00 PM local standard time is considered “late” and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than June 25, 2021 2:00 Pacific Standard Time.

Please send electronic responses and questions to:

Mr. Kevin Magennis, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core
kevin.magennis@navy.mil

Point of Contact Information:

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