

POINT PAPER

Project Title: 2021 Species Survey Assistance at Naval Installations in Maine

Background: The purpose of this project is to conduct sampling for fauna species, including federally listed and at-risk species, at three northern Maine Naval installations in response to recommendations made by the United States Fish and Wildlife Services Maine Field Office during the INRMPs review for Operation and Effect conducted in February 2019. Physical surveys will provide quality assurance checks for previously collected data and document new occurrences while addressing recommendations made by the Service. Surveys will be conducted at: Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape School (SERE) located in Redington, Maine, the Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Atlantic Detachment Cutler (NSA Cutler) located in Cutler, Maine, and Great Pond Outdoor Adventure Center (GPOAC) located in Great Pond, Maine. Data collected during field surveys will be incorporated into the environmental planning process for all future projects at the three sites and the installations INRMPs.

Description of requirement: The DoN is seeking statement of interests that address sampling for federally and state listed species at the three Navy sites listed above. The statement of interest will be for on-the-ground actions at these installations in Maine. Accurate and comprehensive biotic inventories are essential for effective management and conservation of natural resources and the formation of natural resource policies at any particular site. Conducting surveys and inventories for wildlife species on Navy lands is a requirement (OPNAV M-5090.1E *Environmental Readiness Program* [chapter 12; page 12-21], directly supports Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMP) and assists with preventing restrictions (for example critical habitat) by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on training exercises.

Competition: It is our intent to use the North Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (CESU) Network of which DoD is a member to solicit qualified universities for filling this requirement. By competing the requirement, the Navy hopes to realize the best combination of price and technical expertise possible. NAVFAC will seek competition within the CESU region through the issuance of a Request for Statement of Interest (RSOI). Widespread dissemination of the RSOI is obtained by posting the RSOI on the website (<http://www.naccesu.org/>) maintained by the host University for the relevant CESU region.

Partners within the North Atlantic Coast CESU include:

University of Rhode Island (host); Bates College; Biodiversity Research Institute; Center for Coastal Studies; City University of New York; College of the Atlantic; Columbia University; Cornell University; Coastal Bays Program; Harvard University; Manhattan College; Marine Biological Laboratory; Maryland Coastal Bays Program; Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office; Northeastern University; Rutgers University; Schoodic Education and Research Center Institute; Stony Brook University; SUNY, College of Environmental Science and Forestry; University of Maine, Orono; University of Maryland, Eastern Shore; University of Massachusetts, Amherst; University of Massachusetts, Boston; University of New England.

This proposed project contributes to the objectives of The North Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) by engaging federal agency scientists and managers, in collaboration with academic and other non-federal scientists and students, to understand how fundamental ecosystem functions and processes are affected by increasing urban development, climate change, and other stressors, and then to devise management strategies for preserving and restoring coastal ecosystems, cultural resources, and maritime heritage.

Estimated value and funding: The Government Cost Estimate (GCE) for the proposed project is \$199,343.

Period of Performance: The period of performance for the base award is expected to be 18 months from date of award. There are four option years and the period of performance for each is expected to be 12 months from date of award.

Type of assistance vehicle recommended: Competitive Cooperative Agreement

Why an assistance vehicle is the appropriate action: We believe that a Sikes Act cooperative agreement using the CESU network is the appropriate vehicle for this action for the following reasons:

- Better value and cost anticipated based on competition among partners with the North Atlantic Coast CESU Network.
- CESU Fringe & Administration cost rate is pre-negotiated at 17.5%, which is typically much lower than non-CESU cooperative agreements (some as high as 50%).
- No pass through fees from a prime contractor.
- This project assumes substantial involvement between Navy and the recipient during the performance of the activity, establishing the agency as a “partner” during performance. Agency “control” as might be typical of a contract is not anticipated.

Statutory Authority: The authority for this Cooperative Agreement is the Sikes Act, 16 U.S.C. § 670c-1(a) (on-base natural resource maintenance and improvement).

Conclusion/Recommendation: It is recommended that this project be awarded by Cooperative Agreement through competition through the CESU Network.

Recommended:

Jessica Bassi, Natural Resource Specialist, NAVFAC MIDLANT
Date Reviewed: _____

Blake Wittmann, NAVFAC MIDLANT Contracting Officer
Date Approved: _____

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency:

Amberly Hall, Counsel, NAVFAC Atlantic
Date Approved: _____

Patricia Kellihan, NAVFAC Atlantic Acquisition Director
Date Approved: _____