

## **REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST**

### **Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Nearshore Habitat and Species Survey**

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by the Department of the Navy (DoN) which provides professional and technical support for its Environmental Program in order to facilitate successful implementation of Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans in support of the military mission. The authority for this Cooperative Agreement is 16 USC §670c-1 (Sikes Act). Substantial involvement is expected between the Navy and nonfederal cooperator when carrying out the activities specified in the scope of work and may include activities such as the Navy's involvement in the development of study methodology, data gathering and analysis; review of work plans, reports and all deliverables; providing staff time to oversee and participate in the project.

This proposed project contributes to the objectives of the CESU network by providing usable knowledge to support informed decision making; creating and maintaining effective partnerships among the federal agencies and universities to share resources and expertise; encouraging professional development of current and future federal scientists, resource managers, and environmental leaders; and managing federal resources effectively. In addition, this work is consistent with the North Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (NAC CESU) mission of providing research, technical assistance, and education to federal land management, environmental, and research agencies within marine, coastal, and terrestrial ecosystems of the region and offers a strong complement of marine and coastal scientists.

#### **Background:**

This project will be a continuation of monitoring and surveying conditions of the installation's near shore environment. Studies will entail various assessments/surveys to include: threatened and endangered species acoustic monitoring, Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) assessment, benthic surveys, Sub-Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) mapping, marine mammal usage, etc. The information collected will be used to fill in important informational gaps in understanding the roles of the various species and habitats at the installations near shore environments. Collected data will benefit EFH managed fisheries species, known and proposed Threatened and Endangered species (e.g. the Atlantic Sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*) which has a Federal designation of Threatened and has critical habitat designated in the Piscataqua River; Shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) which has a Federal designation of Endangered; as well as the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) which has a Federal designation of Endangered; and various marine mammals and fish. Should the station's INRMP determination change, these data will help to inform the INRMP and the management of these resources, and could potentially help to exempt the Installation from the current critical habitat designation for Atlantic sturgeon.

Program funds are to conduct natural resource surveys in support of NEPA documentation necessary to support the mission-critical project P-1294: Berth 13 Extension and Capacity Increase at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Due to an increasing Shipyard workload to overhaul and

modernize submarines, more berthing space is required to support pre-and post-dry dock availabilities for Virginia Class and future class submarines. The proposed project will extend the tip of Berths 11 and 13 by approximately three hundred feet to the west to accommodate berthing for two additional submarines. Anticipated NR support includes ESA consultations and Biological Assessment, EFH Assessments, MMPA compliance monitoring.

This project will be presented as a base year with four optional years. The base year is the only year that is currently funded. Optional years will be initiated and accepted by US Navy only when funding is available.

The period of performance of the base year will be project award date through 30 September 2026. Project end date can be earlier than period of performance if all Tasks are completed and approved by Navy Technical Representative (NTR) and Installation Representative (IR).

For purposes of this SOW, All Option Year Tasks are identical to the base year.

Options are detailed below:

Base Year: FY 2025; POP: project award date through 30 September 2026; \$28,041.78  
Option Year 1: FY 2026; POP: 01 October 2026 through 30 September 2027; \$28,602.62  
Option Year 2: FY 2027; POP: 01 October 2027 through 30 September 2028; \$29,174.67  
Option Year 3: FY 2028; POP: 01 October 2028 through 30 September 2029; \$29,758.16  
Option Year 4: FY 2029; POP: 01 October 2029 through 30 September 2030; \$30,382

**All Option Year Tasks are identical to the base year. Tasks are described below.**

### **Description of Anticipated Work:**

#### **Base Year FY 2025, Task 1:**

Within the limits of funding provided, the chosen NAC CESU cooperator shall:

1. Develop acoustic telemetry array monitoring plan for nearshore areas within the Gulf of Maine. Nearshore areas include but are not limited to the area between the mouth of the Piscataqua River (Kittery, ME/Portsmouth, NH) and the Isle of Shoals.
2. Obtain terminal tackle necessary to maintain acoustic receiver array to include spare anchors, rigging and fasteners. Provide support to authorized individuals for handling/tagging of protected sturgeon species.
3. Provide personnel and equipment to install, maintain and download data from the acoustic telemetry array.
4. Adjust and relocate receivers, as necessary, to ensure coverage to support natural resources determinations.

5. Coordinate with researchers in the sturgeon telemetry network to obtain information on tagged species and provide information on all tagged species that were detected by acoustic array and numbers of fish that were tagged after each survey event.
6. Analyze data and provide results to PNSY Natural Resources Manager and Navy Technical Representative.

## Task 2: Products/Deliverables

Monthly Progress Reports (MPRs). One monthly electronic copy in MS Word or PDF will be provided to the Naval Technical Representative (NTR) and Installation Representative (IR) POC at the beginning of each month with a brief description of the project status and associated funding status table. MPRs shall include a table that denotes the funds spent per month, per fiscal year, with a total for each fiscal year and an overall total for all fiscal years. One table shall be provided summarizing each task per Installation. These reports shall be provided to both the NTR and the IR. Below is an example table to be included in each MPR:

PNSY							
	Contract Awarded Amount:	Period % Complete:	Period Amt. Invoiced:	Cumulative Amt. Invoiced FY25:	Cumulative Amt. Invoiced FY26:	Cumulative % Complete:	Total Invoiced:
Task 1			\$	\$	\$		\$
Task 2			\$	\$	\$		\$
Overall Project Total			\$	\$	\$		\$

At project's year-end conclusion, a final report should summarize all months' work in an executive summary with all data and findings.

## Period of Performance:

The period of performance of the base year will be project award date through 30 September 2026. Project end date can be earlier than period of performance if all Tasks are completed and approved by Navy Technical Representative (NTR) and Installation Representative (IR).

Option years POP described below.

Option Year 1: FY 2026; POP: 01 October 2026 through 30 September 2027; \$28,602.62  
Option Year 2: FY 2027; POP: 01 October 2027 through 30 September 2028; \$29,174.67  
Option Year 3: FY 2028; POP: 01 October 2028 through 30 September 2029; \$29,758.16  
Option Year 4: FY 2029; POP: 01 October 2029 through 30 September 2030; \$30,382

## **Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:**

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to Simone Arrington (Contract Specialist/Contracting Officer, NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic, ACQ41 EV) Phone: (757) 341-1224; Cell: (757) 642-4556

E-mail: [simone.m.arrington.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:simone.m.arrington.civ@us.navy.mil)

(Maximum length: 6 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font).

1. Name, CESU affiliation and contact information
2. Statement of credentials/qualifications of key personnel
3. Project proposal to include timelines, roles and responsibilities of personnel, specific tasks to be conducted, and deliverables. Please be as specific as possible.
4. Cost estimate of the proposed work to include labor, materials and travel.
5. Narrative of safety practices/procedures.

**We are intending to use fiscal year 2025 funds for this project. A detailed study proposal and cost estimate are requested at this time.**

**Review of Statements Received:** Proposals will be evaluated based on the four factors listed below and include the credentials of key personnel, scientific approach, and reasonableness of the cost and safety plan. Evaluation factors are co-equal to each other.

### **Factor 1 - Credentials of Key Personnel**

#### **Project Manager. This individual must have:**

- a minimum of a bachelor's degree in wildlife biology or related science disciplines; and
- a minimum of 5-years' experience in a responsible position providing oversight of, support to or directly involved in projects related to the conservation, management and research of federally protected and managed fish species; and
- expertise in the analysis of the movement patterns and habitat use of radio telemetry datasets; and
- required state and federal permits, certifications and/or equipment operation licenses necessary to complete the requested services.

#### **Technical Staff. Technical Staff must have:**

- a minimum of 2 years' experience in a responsible position providing habitat management, biological research and wildlife management activities.

The Cooperator shall include a brief Statement of Qualifications (including):

- a. Biographical Sketch,
- b. Relevant past projects and clients with brief descriptions of these projects,
- c. Staff, faculty or students available to work on this project and their areas of expertise,
- d. Any brief description of capabilities to successfully complete the project  
you may wish to add (e.g. equipment, laboratory facilities, field facilities, etc.). (Note: labor shall include labor category, hourly labor rate and number of hours; materials shall include an itemized breakdown of material, quantity and unit cost and travel shall include number of persons traveling, estimated airfare or privately owned vehicle mileage, estimated rental car and estimated lodging; Pursuant to the CESU Network Federal Agency Memorandum of Understanding (30 August, 2013), application of the CESU Network system-wide indirect cost rate of 17.5% is expected.)
- e. Narrative of safety practices/procedures.

**Factor 2 – Scientific Approach** – The Cooperator shall develop a proposal addressing the analysis of the acoustic telemetry array monitoring plan for nearshore areas within the Gulf of Maine of protected sturgeon species. The Cooperator shall discuss their proposed approach and techniques to accomplish the objectives. Cooperator’s proposals will be evaluated by a team of technical and contracting personnel from NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic. Proposals will be evaluated based on their soundness of the overall approach to accomplish the anticipated work’s stated objectives.

**Factor 3 – Reasonableness of Cost** – The Cooperator’s proposals shall be analyzed to determine whether it is reasonable with respect to the overall cost or separately priced items, and for fair and reasonable pricing.

**Factor 4 – Technical Approach to Safety**

The Cooperator shall provide a narrative of describing how safety practices/procedures will be implemented to complete the proposed work. Proposals shall be analyzed to determine how the Cooperator will implement safety practices/procedures and determine the degree to which innovations are being proposed that may enhance safety on this procurement. The Government is seeking to determine that the Cooperator has demonstrated a commitment to safety and that the Cooperator plans to properly manage and implement safety procedures for itself.

**Responsibility of Base Government Representative:**

1. Will assist Cooperator in development of study methodology and data gathering and analysis.
2. Will work with Cooperator to obtain all necessary equipment to support survey efforts to include acoustic receivers, moorings and rigging, fasteners, acoustic fish tags as well as obtain all necessary regulatory authorizations and approvals for the handling of protected sturgeon species.

**Responsibility of the Cooperator:**

1. Lead Investigator will provide primary field work labor including but not limited to acoustic monitoring, downloading and analyzing data and any sturgeon locating, capturing, and tagging support.
2. To furnish all materials, equipment, supplies, labor and services necessary to conduct the tasks discussed previously except for the items mentioned in this section.
3. Procure necessary equipment to support survey efforts to include, moorings and rigging, and fasteners..
4. To comply with all Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements. It is the awardees responsibility to conduct all field activities in a manner that ensures the training and safety of the field crewmembers and avoids damage to vehicles and property.
5. To coordinate each visit with the Installation Base Representative and NTR.

**Please send responses or direct questions to:**

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to Simone Arrington (Contract Specialist/Contracting Officer, NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic, ACQ41 EV) Phone: (757) 341-0423

E-mail: [stewart.b.wittmann.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:stewart.b.wittmann.civ@us.navy.mil)

**Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:** We request that Statements of Interest be submitted by 17 July 2025, 2:00 pm, EST. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until that time.