

Statement of Work

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Nearshore Habitat and Species Survey

A. Introduction

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.

B. Objective

Historically, the U.S. Navy (Navy) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) have engaged in cooperative efforts for the past several years to provide assistance in establishing and maintaining a telemetry tracking array in support of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard's (PNSY) natural resources program. Funds were used to continue efforts to tag, monitor and analyze data on Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon in the Piscataqua River and surrounding nearshore areas of the Gulf of Maine. The USGS will maintain the appropriate government subject matter experts on staff and endangered species handling support; however, due to unforeseen budget constraints and limited resources the SOW for all other support functions (i.e. array design, installation, maintenance, data retrieval and array removal) is being advertised on the North Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (NAC CESU) to continue this work. This SOW provides

the continuation of the relationship with USGS to provide for the development of scientific information to be used in the stewardship, conservation, and management of PNSY's natural resources program and assist the Navy with Endangered Species Act compliance requirements. It provides for the limited interchange of services, personnel, equipment, facilities, and funds to obtain this goal. NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic is responsible for executing this project on behalf of PNSY.

Further, this 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, state 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.

In sum, the objective of this project is to support current threatened and endangered species studies and monitoring. Every 10 years, a more encompassing nearshore survey should be conducted. This was last complete in FY24.

C. Tasks

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 the handling/tagging of protected sturgeon species.
3. Obtain all necessary regulatory authorizations and approvals for the handling of protected sturgeon species.
4. Provide personnel and equipment to install, maintain and download data from the acoustic telemetry array.
5. Adjust and relocate receivers, as necessary, to ensure coverage to support natural resources determinations.
6. 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.
7. Analyze data and provide results to PNSY Natural Resources Manager and Navy Technical Representative.

Task 2: Products/Deliverables

1. 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.

D. Period of Performance (POP)

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 15 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 14 September 2026; \$28,041.78

Option Year 1: FY 2026; POP: 15 September 2026 through 14 September 2027; \$28,602.62

Option Year 2: FY 2027; POP: 15 September 2027 through 14 September 2028; \$29,174.67

Option Year 3: FY 2028; POP: 15 September 2028 through 14 September 2029; \$29,758.16

Option Year 4: FY 2029; POP: 15 September 2029 through 14 September 2030; \$30,382

E. Responsibilities:

Installation Representative (IR)

1. Will assist Cooperator in development of study methodology and data gathering and analysis.
2. Will work with Cooperator to capture and fit any tagged fish with appropriate equipment.
3. Will provide data necessary to complete deliverables.
4. Will provide comments on all deliverables.
5. Will work with the cooperator to identify appropriate attributes for the data collected.

Cooperator

1. Lead Investigator will provide primary field work labor including surveying, locating, capturing, and tagging, if applicable.
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. 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.
4. To coordinate each visit to installations with the appropriate IR and NTR.
5. Will develop, write, edit, and deliver all deliverables.
6. The cooperator will work with IRs to identify appropriate attributes for the data collected.

H. Point of Contacts

NAVFAC MIDLANT Naval Technical Representative (NTR)

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