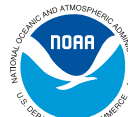
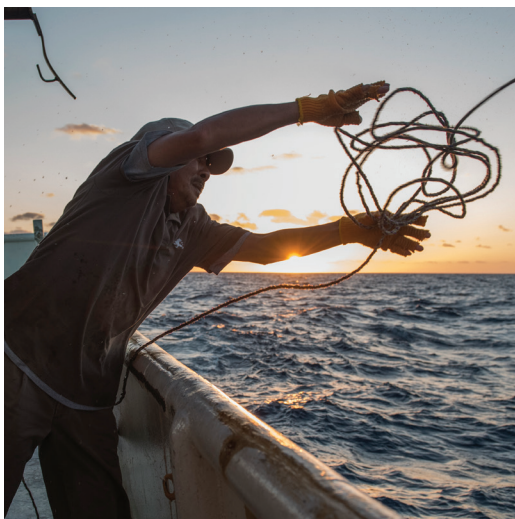


Document 1 of 6:

These materials include important information for participating in the repose and preparing a quote. Please review them carefully. This document only pertains to eligible vessel owners that did not participate in the 2020 repose or who did not renew their participation in the project.



NFWF



Have questions about the project?

Please contact the community liaison assigned to your region if you need assistance.

Community Liaison in Louisiana:

Coastal Community Consulting, Inc.

Phone: 504-393-0066

Email: info@ccc-nola.org

Community Liaison in other Gulf States or on the Atlantic Coast:

Gary Graham

Phone: 979-292-6120

Email: glgshrimp@embarqmail.com

To view and download the materials in either English or Vietnamese, please go to www.nfwf.org/pll.

2021 DEEPWATER HORIZON OCEANIC FISH RESTORATION PROJECT

Project Details and Eligibility Requirements

Thank you for your interest in the *Deepwater Horizon* Oceanic Fish Restoration Project. Working in partnership with the pelagic longline fishing community in the Gulf of Mexico, this project aims to help restore pelagic fish that were injured by the 2010 *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill by reducing fishing mortality during a repose period each year. A restored fishery and healthier Gulf will support healthy fish stocks, benefiting vessel owners and others whose livelihoods rely on the fishery. This project is voluntary, temporary, and non-regulatory.

NFWF and NOAA invite pelagic longline vessel owners to restore the Gulf of Mexico fishery by participating in the 2021 repose. Vessel owners that participated in the 2020 repose have already been given the option to renew their contract. This Request for Quotation provides an opportunity for additional vessel owners to participate in the Oceanic Fish Restoration Project.

The project includes two separate, but complementary, components: (1) a repose period, and (2) an option to use alternative fishing gear. This document outlines the key features of each.

Project Details

Repose Period – 2021

If you submit a Request for Quotation form and are selected, you agree to participate in a repose period during which you will refrain from fishing with pelagic longline gear for six months — from January 1 through June 30, 2021. Everyone who participates in the project must participate in the repose.

Other details of the repose are presented below:

- **Length of contract and renewal:** Contracts are for one project year, through December 31, 2021. All participants selected for the 2021 repose will have the opportunity to apply to renew their participation for the 2022 repose. Participants will be invited to submit a renewal application form, which will be evaluated by NFWF and NOAA for compliance and program performance, and to verify eligibility.
- **Compensation:** There are two different and separate forms of compensation available to project participants: (1) **repose compensation** to offset revenue lost as a result of participating in the repose period, and (2) **alternative gear compensation** to help offset the costs of alternative gear fishing trips during the repose period.

Each will have its own, uniquely determined level of compensation and payment schedule.

Compensation for the repose in 2021 will be determined by an auction where, if selected, your compensation will equal your quote. Offerors responding to this solicitation are selected based on the lowest quotes received in the auction. If selected to participate in the 2021 repose, you will be given the opportunity to renew your contract for the 2022 season; your repose compensation for the renewal year will be based upon the quote provided in the 2021 Request for Quotation form¹. NFWF may consider modest increases to repose compensation.

Note: You will receive compensation for participating in the repose period regardless of whether you choose

to fish with the alternative gear provided by NFWF (more below). If you choose to fish with alternative gear, you will receive additional and separate compensation. (Please see the “Compensation & Auction Details” document for more information.)

- **Length of project:** There is no set timeframe for this temporary project, which began in 2017, but NFWF and NOAA anticipate it will run for an additional two to four years. The full length of the project will depend on the level of participation necessary to meet the fish restoration goals.
- **Removal of pelagic longline gear:** All participants are required to remove at least one of the four elements of pelagic longline gear from their vessel: (1) power-operated longline hauler; (2) mainline; (3) floats capable of supporting the mainline; or, (4) leaders/gangions with hooks. The alternative gear type(s) you choose will determine the components necessary to remove pelagic longline gear. You will be subject to inspection to ensure no pelagic longline trips are taken during the repose period. (Please see more information in the “Frequently Asked Questions” document.)
- **Fishing in closed areas:** Participants with proper permits and who have removed their pelagic longline gear may use alternative gear to fish in areas that are closed to fishing with pelagic longline.
- **Inspection:** Vessels will be subject to initial inspection. If the vessel is found to not meet eligibility requirements, any offer of participation may be null and void. Any safety, disposition, or compliance issues identified during subsequent inspections must be addressed in a timely manner.
- **Completion of logbook documentation:** You must complete all logbooks in a timely manner. If notified by NOAA, you must complete a logbook within 48 hours of each day’s fishing activities for multi-day trips — or before offloading for one-day trips — and submit the logbook within seven days of offloading. Please note: It is critical that you turn in logbooks and other required reports on time. Not completing reports to NOAA in a

¹ Note to participants in the 2020 repose who **have** renewed: Your compensation is determined, and you **do not** need to fill out the RFQ form. To those participants in the 2020 repose who **have not** renewed: You **do** need to respond to this solicitation and fill out the RFQ form; your compensation will be based on your quote.

timely manner may affect your ability to participate in future project years.

- **Compliance with existing regulations:** You are responsible to understand and comply with all applicable federal and state regulations and laws as well as the project's Participant Agreement and any NOAA Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) terms. If you are properly permitted to fish in non-pelagic longline fisheries, you can continue fishing during the repose using those permits; however, you must comply with the terms of your Participant Agreement and any NOAA HMS EFP terms. Participant compliance will be considered in the decision to renew the contract. Any threat or physical violence against a liaison or other project personnel, refusal to take an observer when one has been assigned, or use of pelagic longline gear during the repose period are grounds for termination of the agreement/immediate removal from the project.
- **Individual Bluefin Quota (IBQ) allocation and transfers:** As of January 1, 2021, you must have sufficient IBQ allocation in your vessel account to make a pelagic longline set in the Gulf of Mexico. At any time during 2021, IBQ cannot be transferred out of a vessel account or between vessels in a shareholder account (including after the repose period closes). You may not land bluefin tuna at any time from January 1 through June 30, 2021 using any alternative gear. Dead discards of bluefin tuna caught with alternative gear will be counted against the participating vessel's IBQ allocation. From July 1 to December 31, 2021, any bluefin tuna landings or dead discards caught with pelagic longline gear will also be counted against the participating vessel's IBQ allocation.
- **Pelagic longline fishing outside the repose period:** As otherwise allowable, you can fish with pelagic longline gear for the other six months of the year, from July 1 through December 31, 2021.

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the project, vessel owners must be actively fishing in the Gulf of Mexico. Participants who wish to renew in the future must maintain eligibility. This means:

1. You have made at least one pelagic longline set in the Gulf of Mexico during the last two years (January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2019 for the 2021 repose).
2. Your pelagic longline fishing vessel must not be drydocked, and it must be seaworthy and operational.
3. You possess sufficient IBQ allocation to make a pelagic longline set in the Gulf.
4. You possess all three limited access permits necessary to engage in pelagic longline fishing in the Gulf:
 - a. Directed or incidental swordfish permit;
 - b. Directed or incidental shark permit; and,
 - c. Atlantic Tuna Longline category permit.

In addition, NOAA will evaluate past enforcement history. Past or outstanding violations may preclude participation in the project; however, minor violations that have been resolved are not expected to have any bearing on eligibility.

All offerors will be vetted through the General Services Administration's government-wide System for Award Management Exclusions.

Finally, to be eligible, the pelagic longline vessel (and alternative vessel, if applicable) must meet basic safety and disposition standards, including:

- The vessel must possess a valid U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Decal; the vessel safety equipment must be in working condition and all USCG inspections must be up to date.
- The vessel must meet the National Marine Fisheries Service Observer Program Vessel Safety Checklist and have sufficient bunk space for vessel crew as well as project observers. Vessels will be subject to initial inspection. If the vessel is found to not meet eligibility requirements, any offer of participation may be null and void. Any safety, disposition, or compliance issues identified during subsequent inspections must be addressed in a timely manner.

ALTERNATIVE GEAR

Participants have the option to continue to fish during the repose period using up to two of three alternative gear types provided by the project: greenstick gear, buoy gear, and deep drop rod and reel gear. For the 2021 repose, the project offers multiple gear options to provide you with more flexibility to explore fishing strategies that provide additional alternative harvest opportunities and help offset economic impacts of the repose. You may select a single gear type or two different gear types, whichever you prefer. You may not select all three gear types. You must possess or obtain all necessary permits. The type(s) of alternative gear you choose will not determine your prioritization or selection to participate in the project. NFWF will make every effort to honor participants' preferences for alternative gear; NFWF will distribute alternative gear based on availability.

Participants who choose to renew their contract for the following year must use the same alternative gear they selected for the 2021 repose. There is no guarantee that all alternative gear options will be available to select in succeeding years of the project. NFWF will provide terminal gear each year and will evaluate the need to purchase additional sets of alternative gear based on participation level and alternative gear needs.

Other details about using alternative gear include:

- **Compensation:** You will receive compensation to help offset the costs of alternative gear fishing trips during the repose period, in addition to the compensation you will receive for participating in the repose period. *(Please see the "Compensation & Auction Details" document for more information.)*
- **Insurance:** Prior to installation and use of alternative gear, participants must provide proof of required insurance. Repose participants who plan to use alternative gear must have hull and machinery insurance to cover the value of their vessel; Protection and Indemnity (including Jones Act/crew cover), wreck removal, and collision with a minimum limit of \$500,000; and pollution coverage with a minimum limit of \$1 million. Use of alternative gear will not be allowed until proof of insurance is provided. Furthermore, participants who fail to comply with insurance requirements may not be allowed to renew their project participation in future years. *(Please see the "How to Place an Auction Quote" document for more information.)*
- **Installation & training:** Installation and training for alternative gear will be provided to you at no cost. NFWF and NOAA intend to offer participants a variety of training opportunities and materials on alternative gear throughout the 2021 repose.
- **Observer coverage:** When requested, you must take observers on board during alternative gear trips. This project will have enhanced onboard observer coverage compared to the HMS pelagic observer program.
 - Observers may be placed on board participating vessels for every trip to monitor catch rates for alternative gear. Actual coverage will be based on availability of observers.
- **Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS): You will be required to keep your VMS unit on at all times** during the repose and code it properly for the gear you are using.
- **Alternative vessels:** You may choose not to use your pelagic longline vessel to fish with alternative gear if you have access to an alternative vessel during the repose. If you are interested in this option, you are subject to additional terms and conditions, including:
 - You are responsible for applying to NOAA for an Exempted Fishing Permit to use an alternative vessel. You will be responsible for providing NFWF with proof of Exempted Fishing Permit approval. (If selected, more information will be provided.)
 - Your pelagic longline vessel cannot be used to fish for HMS species at any time or in any location, including the Gulf of Mexico, during the repose period.
 - Alternative vessels will be subject to initial inspection. If the vessel is found to not meet eligibility and minimum insurance requirements, any offer of participation may be null and void.
 - If the alternative vessel is not equipped with a VMS unit, one will be provided at no cost to the participant for use during the project; service fees are the responsibility of the participant.

2021 Gear Options

	Greenstick Gear	Buoy Gear		Deep Drop Rod & Reel Gear
Target Species	BAYS*	Swordfish	Swordfish	Swordfish
All participants must possess the triple pack permits				
Additional Permitting Requirements	None	Exempted Fishing Permit	Directed Swordfish Permit or Exempted Fishing Permit	None

*BAYS include bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas. You may use buoy gear to target both BAYS and swordfish if you have all necessary permits. You are NOT required to use buoy gear to target both BAYS and swordfish. If you are interested in using buoy gear to fish for BAYS and you are selected to participate in the project, you must apply to NOAA for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP). This EFP also allows you to fish for swordfish if you do not have a directed swordfish permit. Furthermore, if participants have the proper permits and the EFP, they can use a power-hauler for buoy gear. NFWF cannot guarantee EFP approval.

Buoy Gear Permits Explained

