

Long Island Sound and New England Watershed Investment Plan Development FAQ's

1. Who conducted the GIS work for Phase 1 of the project? Are they an incumbent for this work?

This procurement is an open, competitive process for which NFWF does not have predetermined entity in mind.

2. Will NFWF provide a copy of the contract terms for this project – there was not an attachment included?

NFWF cannot share the contract terms at this point in the application process

3. Are there any reviewers of products other than NFWF staff? Approximately how many NFWF staff will be reviewing?

Only NFWF staff will review products. A team of up to five (5) NFWF staff will be involved in review and comment. NFWF will seek to consolidate comments.

4. What is the anticipated budget range for this project?

NFWF cannot share information about the budget for this contract. The proposed cost should be adequate for the level of effort necessary to produce the deliverables. The final scope and budget will be negotiated between NFWF and the selected contractor.

5. Will NFWF provide a subject matter expert with expertise in the ecology of the Long Island Sound to work with the selected team?

It is expected that contractors will secure technical expertise as needed to successfully complete the project. NFWF will provide a data scientist with experience in aquatic/marine systems.

6. Approximately how many data layers are in the Phase 1 packet?

There are approximately 40 data layers that the previous contractor delivered. All of these layers will have to be reviewed and used for prioritization, but not all are expected to be put on the online mapping product.

7. Can NFWF provide potential offerors access to the current spatial data layers or metadata for review?

NFWF will provide these data layers to the selected offeror. However, the data layers' architecture for each set of spatial data products includes the following components:

- 1) A geodatabase that contains all final and intermediate raster and vector files necessary to recreate each part of the specific analyses;*
- 2) A data dictionary in the form of a text file (.txt) that describes each data layer with pertinent information (source, resolution, brief description, etc.);*
- 3) The memoranda associated with each specific analysis for easy access to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Long Island Sound and New England Watershed Investment Plan Development;*

- 4) A summary results Excel spreadsheet containing all acreages and other results from the specific analysis, as well as overlay analyses demonstrating co-occurrence (and presumed co-benefits) with other relevant analyses;
- 5) Additional supplemental information (included only when necessary and relevant).

These data packets are available for the following strategies. 1) Agricultural BMP expansion; 2) Urban/suburban BMP expansion; 3) Riparian buffer expansion; 4) Pathogen and pollutant abatement; 5) Marine debris abatement; 6) Embayments (quantification of all outcomes by large and small embayments); 7) Fish passage enhancement through removal of barriers to diadromous and freshwater fish; 8) Eastern brook trout and coldwater habitat expansion and enhancement; 9) Oyster reef expansion; 10) Tidal marsh expansion and connectivity; 11) Living shorelines expansion and resiliency; and 12) Coastal forest expansion and connectivity.

- 8. For the spatial analysis plan and prioritization, the RFQ states that “Data queries/questions will be provided by NFWF.” Can you provide a couple of examples of the sorts of questions/queries you expect to include in this work? Are those questions well defined at this point, or might there be iteration during the project?**

NFWF has identified multiple questions, such as the following examples:

- *Where are the best opportunities for riparian buffer expansion to improve water quality? Where are the opportunities for planning/installation of farm practices to prevent nutrients, phosphorus and sediment into waterways?*
- *Where are the best opportunities for habitat restoration or management activities in the coastal zone?*

The Offeror can incorporate an opportunity to work with NFWF to refine these questions at the outset of the project.

- 9. Can NFWF make the report, data, and any other documentation/products associated with Phase 1 available to proposers prior to the proposal due date?**

Other reports, data, and documentation will be made available to the selected contractor.

- 10. The RFP notes that Phase 2 will include six Important Coastal Habitat Types, while the Long Island Sound Study weblink in the RFP lists twelve Important Coastal Habitat Types. What habitat types were used to organize the Phase 1 data and analysis? Will the same habitat types apply for Phase 2 work?**

Data packets are available for the following strategies associated with the listed habitat types: 1) Agricultural BMP expansion; 2) Urban/suburban BMP expansion; 3) Riparian buffer expansion; 4) Pathogen and pollutant abatement; 5) Marine debris abatement; 6) Embayments (quantification of all outcomes by large and small embayments); 7) Fish passage enhancement through removal of barriers to diadromous and freshwater fish; 8) Eastern brook trout and coldwater habitat expansion and enhancement; 9) Oyster reef expansion; 10) Tidal marsh expansion and connectivity; 11) Living shorelines expansion and resiliency; and 12) Coastal forest expansion and connectivity.

The habitat types for focus in this analysis from the Long Island Sound Study Important Coastal Habitat Types are: tidal wetlands, beaches and dunes, estuarine embayments, coastal and island forests, riverine migratory corridors and shellfish reefs.

- 11. The RFQ lists six habitat types as important coastal habitats of Long Island Sound (beaches and dunes, islands, coastal forest, tidal marsh, riverine migratory corridors, and shellfish reefs). Is this a comprehensive list of the habitats types NFWF anticipates conducting spatial analyses for as part of this effort (i.e., will there be a total of six habitat types)? If not, does NFWF have a complete list that could be provided?**

See response to question 10.

- 12. What is the spatial resolution of any raster products from Phase 1?**

Spatial resolution of data layers varies.

- 13. Task 3 includes the potential for multiple 'interactive session(s)' – is there a particular number of interactive sessions that we should assume?**

The offeror should estimate what is needed to share interim results and receive NFWF feedback in order to successfully develop the products listed in the RFQ.

- 14. Task 3 includes an 'interactive session' with NFWF staff to provide feedback in the spatial analytical approach. Does NFWF have a preferred or expected platform or structure for this meeting (i.e. are virtual meetings and discussion sufficient, or should we consider a more 'hands-on' formal interactive session with a platform such as Mural.co).**

Any virtual meeting platform (e.g., Teams, Go to Meeting) will suffice for these discussions.

- 15. It is not explicit in the RFP, but is there a need or desire for integration of public/community engagement during the project?**

No.

- 16. Does NFWF have any specific metadata or data dictionary requirements for spatial data deliverables?**

While we do expect metadata and the data dictionary to be thorough, NFWF does not have a strict set of guidelines for these items. Metadata should be attached to the spatial data layers.

- 17. From the RFQ: "Selected contractor will host the interactive web map, at least initially". For how long does NFWF expect the selected contractor to host the Task 6 web map?**

Approximately 1-2 years.

- 18. Is NFWF interested in market-based approaches to conservation/restoration (i.e., mitigation/conservation banking, carbon markets, water quality trading, etc.)?**

No.