

Applicant Questions and Answers

Related to NFWF Coastal Habitat Restoration and Fisheries Request for Proposal

May 21st, 2026

Contract Logistics

Q: Are there any formatting requirements or recommended page limits, including CVs and budget narrative?

A: Please see suggested page limits below for each section:

1. Cover letter – 1 page
2. Technical approach and methodology – 5 pages
3. Project team and qualifications – 6 pages
4. Work plan and timeline – 4 pages
5. Budget and budget narrative – N/A (both contained in the Excel Budget Template)
6. Relevant past performance and references – 5 pages
7. Evidence of financial stability – N/A
8. Contact information – 1 page

Q: What is the expected contract type (e.g., fixed-price, time-and-materials, etc.)?

A: The contract is expected to use a time-and-materials method.

Q: Is there any flexibility in the selected timelines for these tasks, contingent on the condition of the data?

A: The outputs and deliverables of this role will be used to inform other ongoing and planned work at NFWF. Because of that, the timelines have limited flexibility. However, during the work NFWF will engage and evaluate if unanticipated challenges warrant flexible timing to not impact the integrity of the deliverables.

Budget

Q: What is the expected budget range for this contract?

A: Budgets should be cost effective and reasonable. We estimate the budget for this contract to not exceed \$200,000.

Geographic Priorities

Q: Should a proposal focus on any specific representative high-priority regions and, if yes, which regions, habitat types, fisheries, or geographies are considered priorities?

A: Proposals should focus on demonstrating the team's ability to complete the stated tasks. While it is not necessary to focus on any specific fishery or geography, an initial analysis of program footprints indicates that some fisheries with the highest likely overlap include Gulf reef fish, Gulf shrimp, Pacific Northwest Salmon, and possibly Chesapeake Bay recreational fisheries.

Data Processing

Q: Which specific data sources or datasets does NFWF has access to and can make available to the contractor? Is the contractor expected to independently request fisheries-dependent data from official sources such as NMFS or state agencies?

A: The contractor is expected to request access to fisheries-dependent data independently, apart from NFWF facilitating connection with federal and state agencies. Proposals should preferably document experience requesting and properly handling such data. In certain instances, some of the richest EMR data may be held by NFWF grantees, and we can assist in identifying and requesting that data.

NFWF can provide direct access to program information and benthic and coastal habitat data. Updated spatial data layers from NFWF's fish index identifies valuable habitat for species of concern in both the terrestrial (aquatic) and marine environments.

Q: Should contractors anticipate any coordination or data-access support from NFWF for fisheries-dependent datasets in key overlap regions?

A: NFWF will be able to facilitate connection to entities that hold data and provide context on the data's conservation use and value.

Deliverables

Q: What decision will this analysis ultimately support (e.g. identify sites for future NCRF investments, understand whether past NCRF projects generated fisheries benefits, develop screening methodology, etc.)?

A: Outputs of this work will support an increased understanding of the potential impact of future NCRF investments and improved understanding of the impact of past investments. Products may also support future uses of fisheries electronic data collection tools.

Q: Are there examples of previous work from NFWF or other agencies that represent the desired analyses or outcomes?

A: NFWF is not aware of any examples of precisely this kind of analysis. The primary analysis is to understand **if** there is a link between nearshore coastal NbS and fish abundance or other fisheries metrics. If there is a link, then diving in to understand which fisheries and more about the link.

NFWF is concurrently developing fisheries evaluations at the project level, connecting investments in nature-based solutions (habitat protection, creation and restoration) for coastal resilience at the local scale to fisheries benefits.