REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST/REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER N40192-26-2-0002

PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2026

Project Title: Sea Turtle Aerial Surveys on Farallon de Medinilla (FDM) Nearshore Waters

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will be used to identify potential Recipients for a project to be funded by the Department of the Defense (DOD) to conduct Sea Turtle Aerial Surveys in FDM Nearshore waters

The anticipated funding to support this project is approximately $200,000.00, subject to the availability of funds.

Type of Assistance Instrument Anticipated: Cooperative Agreement

Authority: Cooperative Agreement under 16 USC §670c-1 (Natural Resources Management – Sikes Act)

Eligible Applicants: Any Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) cooperative partner who qualifies under the DoD Grant and Agreement Regulations (DoDGARS) Part 34 or 2 Code of Federal Regulations 200 is eligible to apply.

Cost Sharing: Not required

Background:
The Endangered Species (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Acts (MMPA) serve as the federal statues regulating the protection of the nation's sea turtles and marine mammals. The nearshore waters surrounding FDM fall within the "significant nexus" and "navigable waters" of the United States; and therefore, sea turtles are afforded protection under the ESA, whereas marine mammals are afforded protection under the MMPA. Surveys for sea turtles have been conducted around FDM nearshore waters since 2005 (NAVFAC Marianas, 2017), however, the first aerial surveys for marine mammals were initiated in 2019.

This project will provide baseline data on the abundance and distribution of sea turtles and marine megafauna in the nearshore waters surrounding FDM using aerial surveys, such that mission-essential training activities can be conducted to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to these species and/or their habitat. Additionally, these metrics can be modeled to help improve conservation and management actions to protect sea turtles inhabiting the nearshore waters surrounding FDM, while also supporting the Navy mission. This project will provide information to address these concerns, meet requirements specifically identified in the JRM Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP); and maintain compliance with federal requirements (e.g., Sikes Act, ESA, MMPA, and the National Environmental Policy Act).

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

The Recipient shall:

1. Develop and submit a Work Plan, HACCP Plan, AHA, and APP pursuant to tasks 1, 2, & 3 below for the performance of the Statement of Work (SOW) that will accomplish the following technical requirements;
2. Conduct aerial surveys for incidental sightings of marine megafauna identification, abundances, and distributions. The Recipient is required to execute all aerial transect and survey activities utilizing the specific methods detailed in Naden, L. et al., 2025.
3. Submit monthly progress reports, draft final report(s), and final reports detailing the sea turtle and marine mammal identifications, abundances, and distributions in the nearshore waters surrounding FDM.

Period of Performance:
The Government anticipates an initial period of performance for the Agreement to be twelve (12) months starting from the date of award. After completion of the initial period of performance, the total performance period may include up to four (4) option periods of twelve (12) months each dependent upon the availability of funds and the unilateral election of the Government to exercise an option to extend the term of the Agreement. The total duration of this Agreement, including the Option Years and any cost modifications shall not exceed 60 months.

Period of Performance	Anticipated Award Date
12 Months from Date of Award	July 2026

A thirty (30)-day period, starting on the date of award, will be used for the Recipient to provide preliminary documents to the Cooperative Agreement Administrator and Cooperative Agreement Technical Representative. Documents include, but are not limited to, Insurance documents and certificates, Accident Prevention Plans, Draft and Final Work Plans, etc.

This project is a non-severable completion-based service that results in a comprehensive deliverable (Task 1-3– Draft and Final Project Report).

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:
Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to thelman.m.fontenot.civ@us.navy.mil, niamarie.b.serneo.civ@us.navy.mil, jerica.a.santos.civ@us.navy.mil (Approximate length: 3-6 pages plus curriculum vitae, single-spaced 12 pt. font):

1. Name, Organization and Contact Information
2. Statement of Qualifications (including):
    a. Curriculum vita of Principal Investigator
    b. Curriculum vita of Project Manager
    c. Curriculum vita of Biologist/Data Collector
    d. Curriculum vita of Geographic Information System (GIS) Technician
    e. Principal Investigator Biographical Sketch
    f. Relevant past projects and clients with brief descriptions of these projects
    g. Staff and faculty available to work on this project and their areas of expertise
3. Project proposal to include timelines, roles and responsibilities of personnel, specific tasks to be conducted, and deliverables.
4. Any brief description of capabilities to successfully complete the project you may wish to add (e.g. equipment, laboratory facilities, field facilities, etc.).

5. A proposed detailed budget of the costs to implement the proposed project.

Review of Statements Received:
Proposals will be evaluated based on the following three factors: 1) Credentials of Key Personnel, 2) Technical Approach, and 3) Reasonableness of Cost.

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF EVALUATION FACTORS – Factor 1, 2, and 3 are of equal importance.

NOTE: All requirements listed are minimum requirements. Offerors will be assessed on their ability to adhere to the listed requirements, complete responses, follow directions, comply with restrictions and provide quality control on their submittals. All page limits refer to 12-point font and single spaced one-sided pages. Submissions that exceed the page limitation specified within its corresponding factor may have additional pages removed from consideration.

Factor 1 - Credentials of Key Personnel
The Offeror shall provide qualified personnel to design and execute all fieldwork activities and data collection methods along with any statistical analyses that may be appropriate when summarizing the data. The technical approach used must be scientifically sound and defensible using accepted methodologies. Proper experience for key personnel conducting this research is critical. Those conducting this work will meet the following minimum qualifications:

a. **Principal Investigator (PI):** 1 individual
The PI shall meet the following requirements:
- A doctoral degree in biology, botany, natural resources, conservation biology or similar field.
- A minimum of six (6) years of experience managing multiple concurrent projects as a senior scientist or project manager working with biological studies and any other environmental related work.
- Experience ensuring compliance with the agreement terms and conditions; review of project documents to ensure product consistency, assigning personnel consistent with agreement requirements and performing as the agreement's representative.
- Experience ensuring management of natural resources with all federal and local regulations, their state counterparts, and other applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements.
- Ability to provide technical oversight to Project Manager and Project Assistants.

b. **Project Manager (PM)**: 1 individual
The PM shall meet the following requirements:
- Possess at least a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree in biology, zoology, population genetics, marine/fisheries biology, ecology, or a related field;
- At least two (2) years of PM or professional work experience in the field of zoology, population genetics, marine/fisheries biology, ecology, or a related field;
- At least one (1) year of experience in management of aerial survey-related projects, preferably with applied research experience in managing threatened and/or endangered species and/or marine mammals; and

- At least one (1) year of experience working in the Pacific region and a familiarity with aerial survey design; and sea turtle and/or marine mammal identification, distribution, and abundances.

c. **Biologist/Data Collector**: 1 individual
The Biologist shall meet the following requirements:
- Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree in biology, zoology, population genetics, marine/fisheries biology, ecology, or a related field;
- At least one (1) year of experience in management of aerial survey-related projects, preferably with applied research experience in managing threatened and/or endangered species and/or marine mammals; and
- At least one (1) year of experience working in the Pacific region and a familiarity with aerial survey design; and sea turtle and/or marine mammal identification, distribution, and abundances.

d. **Geographic Information System (GIS) Technician**: 1 individual
The GIS technician shall meet the following requirements:
- B.S. in Geographical Information Systems OR at least five consecutive years of experience performing GIS-related tasks that support scientific studies/projects
- Ability to utilize the Esri ArcGIS Enterprise platform
- Ability to maintain and create geographic data
- Ability to create maps and visualizations, upon request, to answer scientific questions related to this Agreement
- Ability to create distribution maps, e.g. species distribution maps
- Ability to utilize software to create illustrations, visualizations, AND animations to show relationships between marine resources data at various locations and at different time intervals

Offerors shall submit documentation (i.e. resume, curriculum vitae, references, and/or similar) that substantiates the candidates meet the minimum qualifications. Information shall include the title of the project, location, and duration including the specific number of hours that were spent working on relevant projects. The Offeror shall also provide three references (with contact information) that are familiar and can confirm the candidate(s) meet the minimum qualifications. One person can occupy more than one key personnel position.

Factor 2 – Technical Approach

The Offeror shall develop an outline for their approach to addressing the anticipated work stated above. The Offeror shall be evaluated as to the soundness of the overall approach and use of any innovative techniques to accomplish project objectives.

Factor 3 - Reasonableness of Cost

After technical evaluation of the proposal, the offers will be analyzed for fair and reasonable pricing. The Offeror shall use OMB Circular A-21 “Cost Principles for Institutions of Higher Education”, 48 CFR part 31 “Contract Cost Principles and Procedures,” or 2 CFR 200 Subpart F “Audit Requirements” as applicable.

Evaluations will include an analysis to determine the Offeror’s comprehension of the requirements of the solicitation as well as to assess the validity of the Offeror’s approach. A clear cost breakdown of work elements to be accomplished detailing quantities for the various work items, unit, unit prices and extended prices will be required and will be evaluated. Evaluation will include an analysis to determine the Offeror’s comprehension of the requirements of the proposed agreement as well as to assess the validity of the Offeror’s approach.

NOTE: Every deviation from the scope of work requirement must be identified. Proposer must identify the paragraph in the scope of work that is applicable and provide sufficient information to justify why the deviation is in the best interest of the government.

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:
We request that Statements of Interest be submitted no later than 27 July 2026 at 4:00 P.M. Chamorro Standard Time. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until a team is selected. Statements of Interest received after 27 July 2026 at 4:00 P.M. Chamorro Standard Time is considered "late" and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than 17 July 2026 at 10:00 A.M. Chamorro Standard Time.

Please send electronic responses and questions to:
- Thelman Mark Fontenot, Cooperative Agreement Administrator, NAVFAC Marianas: thelman.m.fontenot.civ@us.navy.mil
- Nia Serneo, Cooperative Agreement Specialist, NAVFAC Marianas: niamarie.b.serneo.civ@us.navy.mil
- Jerica Santos, Cooperative Agreement Specialist, NAVFAC Marianas: jerica.a.santos.civ@us.navy.mil