



**Request for Proposal
Consultant for National Marine Sanctuaries Act Roundtables
August 2020**

Summary of Solicitation

In October 2022, the Nation will celebrate the National Marine Sanctuaries Act’s 50th anniversary. This milestone is an important opportunity to set a future vision for the National Marine Sanctuary System. The Foundation is seeking a partner to work with us and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to design, plan, and facilitate a series of virtual roundtable discussions and interviews with national leaders to provide recommendations for promoting the protection, restoration, and effective management of the National Marine Sanctuary System.

We expect the project to last six months from inception.

Introduction

The National Marine Sanctuary System protects nationally significant places in our ocean and Great Lakes. It includes 14 national marine sanctuaries, and two marine national monuments, Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll. The System encompasses more than 600,000 square miles of marine and fresh waters from Washington State to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. Sanctuaries provide safe havens for rare, threatened and endangered species and preserve historically significant shipwrecks while allowing compatible commercial and recreational activities. National marine sanctuaries are places where anyone can go to experience the power and beauty of the ocean and Great Lakes and participate in recreational activities in protected natural settings. They are sources of inspiration, recreation, rejuvenation, and discovery and they enhance our understanding of our cultural connections to the ocean and Great Lakes. Ranging in size from less than one square mile to 137,792 square miles, each site is a unique place requiring special protections. Natural classrooms, cherished recreational spots and valuable commercial industries – marine sanctuaries represent many things to many people.

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (“ONMS”) serves as the trustee for the National Marine Sanctuary System and also leads the National Marine Protected Areas Center, the nation's hub for building innovative partnerships and tools to protect our ocean. Since 1972, ONMS has worked cooperatively with the public and federal, state and local officials to promote stewardships of our ocean and Great Lakes. Increasing public awareness of our marine heritage, scientific research, monitoring, exploration, outreach and educational programs are just a few of the ways that ONMS fulfills its mission to the American people.

The **National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (“Foundation”)**, established in 2000, is the national non-profit partner of the National Marine Sanctuary System. Working in close partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Foundation supports on-the-water conservation projects and scientific research and promotes community stewardship of our environment. Through our

work with national marine sanctuaries and monuments, we protect species, conserve ecosystems and preserve America’s cultural and maritime heritage.

Project Purpose

In October 2022, the Nation will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. We will look back at its accomplishments, but more importantly we want to look forward to the next 50 years and a new vision for how to protect and sustain our ocean and Great Lakes through the National Marine Sanctuary System. The purpose of this project is to create a vision for the National Marine Sanctuary System for the next 50 years that engages individuals, communities and businesses in the stewardship of our ocean and Great Lakes. We want this vision to be: inclusive of the diversity of the United States; engage multi-generational audiences who must protect sanctuaries today as well as foster the next generation of guardians; and, address issues of equity in how we protect and manage national marine sanctuaries.

The Foundation is seeking to contract with a partner to work with the Foundation and ONMS to design, plan, facilitate and summarize a series of virtual roundtable discussions and interviews with national leaders to provide recommendations for promoting the protection, restoration, and effective management/operations of the National Marine Sanctuary System through executive and legislative actions. The recommendations should provide a vision for the next 50 years. Recommendations must include how we address the critical issues of increasing diversity, equity and inclusion in the National Marine Sanctuary System.

Products/Deliverables

The partner will work with the Foundation and ONMS to design the structure of the roundtables and interviews, and identify the national leaders to invite to participate in this effort.

The final deliverable should be a report that summarizes recommendations and the context for each recommendation. Recommendations should represent multiple stakeholder interests. We are not interested in individual sector recommendations but collaborative ones. Recommendations must include how we address the critical issues of increasing diversity, equity and inclusion in the National Marine Sanctuary System.

Tasks

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation seeks a partner to work with project leads at the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. For this contract, the project manager will submit a proposal and, if selected, work closely with the Foundation and ONMS to create a work plan and final list of deliverables for this project

Task 1. Develop the work plan, schedule, and list of deliverables

Task 2. Develop a list of national targets to be invited to participate and decide who will be on which roundtable or if they would be scheduled for an interview. It is proposed that the roundtables will include input from the following:

Recreation, travel, and tourism interests

Commercial use interests (besides recreation and tourism)
Protection and conservation interests
Maritime heritage interests
Underrepresented populations
Youth
Education experts
Researchers
Federal, tribal and state partners
Chairs of Sanctuary Advisory Councils

Task 3. Develop questions and materials to be used during the roundtables and interviews.

Task 4. Design and schedule the roundtables and interviews ensuring appropriate ONMS and Foundation staff will be available as needed, including associated logistics (e.g., scheduling, providing agenda, managing virtual platform, etc.)

Task 5. Facilitate the roundtables and interviews in conjunction with the Foundation.

Task 6. Provide a written summary of each roundtable and interview.

Task 7. Provide a summary document of all roundtables and interviews that includes recommendations.

Project Schedule: Once notified of the selection of your organization to conduct this work, a final product is due by six (6) months.

Total Budget for Project: \$30,000

Proposal Guidelines and Instructions:

A description of how the applicant would approach the scope of work sought including parameters such as timeline, who is involved, scope of involvement, and deliverables and milestones to be met.
The resume of the primary consultant.

A list of project deliverables, including estimated timelines for each deliverable and overall project completion.

A detailed project budget that includes the cost of the consultant's time, materials, supplies, and any other expected expenses to bring the project to a successful completion.

A brief history of your work, including examples of work for similar organizations. Please provide two sample deliverables from past projects with similar size and scope.

Credentials and qualifications of consultant, including three professional references.

Proposal Deadlines: Please submit the above requested documents no later than Friday, September 25, 2020 to becca@marinesanctuary.org with the subject line: 50th Anniversary Proposal. Questions may be directed to Shannon Colbert, Director of Policy and Conservation, at shannon@marinesanctuary.org.