

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Buoy Debris Removal Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Implementation Period

Approximately January 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025

Application Package Due

November 17, 2024
11:59 PM Pacific Standard Time

OVERVIEW

Purpose

In 2023, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, the chief non-profit partner to America's National Marine Sanctuary System, was awarded a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Program with funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to support "High-Impact and Large Marine Debris Removal throughout the National Marine Sanctuary System." Large marine debris that will be removed consists of abandoned and derelict vessels, derelict fishing gear, and other large items, including vessels and large debris in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (NMS).

Project Background

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary comprises over 6,000 square miles of marine habitat in Central California that contains extensive kelp forests, one of North America's largest underwater canyons, and close-to-shore deep ocean environments. These habitats harbor an incredible variety of marine life, including 36 species of marine mammals, more than 180 species of seabirds and shorebirds, at least 525 species of fish, and an abundance of invertebrates and algae. Visitors and residents enjoy the sanctuary for diving, fishing, surfing, boating, research, whale watching, and many other commercial and recreational activities. Anchor and chain debris from old demarcation buoys remain in and on the seabed in several areas within the Monterey Bay NMS.

Need

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (the Foundation), in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Program and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, requires support for the removal buoy anchor and chain debris in nine locations across 4 zones within Monterey Bay NMS. Equipment may be buried under the surface of the seafloor and require special equipment to locate and remove.

Funding Availability

Except as otherwise specified herein, the contractor shall furnish the personnel, materials, equipment, and services, and otherwise complete all activities necessary for and incidental to completion of this Statement of Work. The budget shall not exceed \$121,000.

SCOPE OF WORK

Deliverables

The scope of work shall include all phases of planning, removal, and disposal including (1) pre-removal survey assessment, (2) removal/salvage plan development and approvals, (3) removal, (4) disposal of debris, and (5) closeout. Removal activities encompass nine locations across four zones within sanctuaries. **Budgets and timelines may be provided by individual zones or combined.**

- *Pre-removal survey assessment*, as used in this contract includes, but is not limited to, use of a remotely operated vehicle, glider, side scan sonar, magnetometer, technical divers, or other means to assess the specific location and condition of debris to support the development of a removal/salvage plan.
- *Removal/salvage plan development*, as used in this contract includes, but is not limited to, collaboration with the Foundation and partners including NOAA to finalize and approve a salvage plan.
- *Removal*, as used in this contract includes, but is not limited to, the operations and recovery of debris from below or on the surface of the seafloor.
- *Disposal*, as used in this contract includes, but is not limited to, any land based disposal of debris.
- *Closeout*, as used in this contract includes, but is not limited to documentation of completed work which should contain pre- and post-bathymetric survey and/or GIS-linked underwater photography, or other forms of underwater imagery. Please specify the proposed method in the proposal. Provide disposal records that include the name and location of the disposal site, the volume/weight, and scale record.

Project Specifications

Target Locations

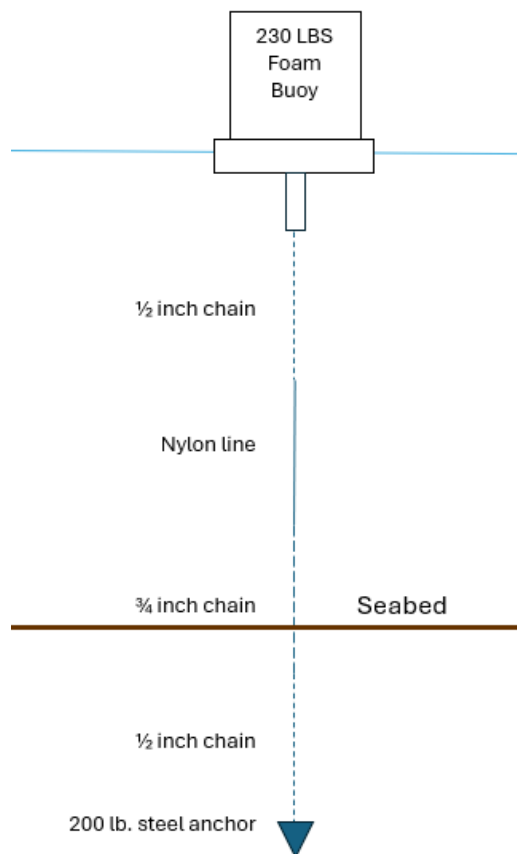
The debris is located across four zones directly outside Pillar Point, Santa Cruz, Moss Landing, and Monterey harbors. Detailed coordinates for the last known locations will be provided to the selected contractor. The number of removal sites and depth ranges are as follows:

	Coordinates	Depth (feet)
Zone/Harbor	# of Debris Sites	Depth
Zone 1: Pillar Point Harbor	2	20 -40 feet
Zone 2: Santa Cruz Harbor	3	60-90 feet
Zone 3: Moss Landing	2	50-204 feet
Zone 4: Monterey	2	80- 270 feet

Target Specifications

Each debris location may include multiple steel anchors, and multiple lengths of chain which have accumulated over the past two decades of buoy maintenance and service. Each steel anchor weighs two hundred pounds and may be attached to lengths of $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ inch chain.

Example diagram of MPWC mooring:



Technical Requirements

Labor and Equipment

The Contractor shall supply all labor, materials, tooling, engineering, surveying, and dive and salvage equipment needed to complete the work.

Skills and Experience

The Contractor must possess skill and experience with use of magnetometer/sonar for surveys; use of divers for shallower targets; and grapple/ROV for deeper targets.

Insurance and Liabilities

Contractors will, at their own expense, provide and maintain all necessary insurances during the entire performance of the project and provide certificates of insurance to the Foundation.



Coverage limits include Workers' Compensation and Employer Liability and Commercial General Liability, including Maritime Liability, coverages of \$1,000,000.

Compliance

The Contractor shall follow all directives and regulations outlined by the Foundation and Monterey Bay NMS, including terms and conditions of all permits, and will comply with all applicable Federal and state safety and health standards and regulations applicable to this work, including but not limited to the Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) Act, 29 U.S.C. 651§ et seq. To the extent the Contractor relies on sub-contractors in executing this work, the Contractor will have sole responsibility for ensuring the sub-contractors are qualified, appropriately trained and outfitted, and comply with all applicable safety and health standards and regulations.

Permitting & Certifications

The Foundation will secure the required permits. Work may not commence until all permitting requirements are met by the Foundation. The Foundation is currently in the process of securing required permits.

All aspects of the Contractor's salvage plan must be approved by the Foundation and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Salvage plans must include the following:

Marine Wildlife Observers:

- One or more marine wildlife observers will be present during debris removal activities to monitor and maintain a protective perimeter around the work area and to ensure work does not proceed if it would pose a risk of entanglement or harm to any whale or other marine mammal.
- A marine wildlife observer will be present on all project vessels during transit to maintain a protective perimeter and minimize the potential for ship strikes, or
- All project vessels will limit speeds in transit to below 10 knots.

Applicants must have proper certifications for conducting salvage operations.

Closeout

Documentation of completed work should contain pre- and post-survey and/or GIS-linked underwater photography, or other forms of underwater imagery. Please specify the proposed method in the proposal.

Provide disposal records that include the name and location of the disposal site, the volume/weight, and scale records.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must have a proven track record of doing similar salvage projects and have the technical ability to complete the project within the provided budget.

By submitting an offer in response to this RFP, the offeror certifies that it and its principal officers are not debarred, suspended, or otherwise considered ineligible for an award by the U.S.



Government. The Foundation will not award a contract to any firm that is debarred, suspended, or considered to be ineligible by the U.S. Government.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications should be submitted by 11:59 PM Pacific Standard Time on November 17, 2024.

Please submit your application package to the Foundation through C-STAAR – the Foundation’s Collaborative System for Tracking Activities, Awards, and Reporting – using the following link: [C-STAAR](#).

Step 1:

You will need to register your organization to begin your application. You can find registration steps and instructions [here](#).

Step 2:

Once you have set up your organization profile, navigate to the applicant home page. You can always access the homepage by clicking the “Applicant Homepage” button in the top right corner. You should then scroll down and click “View Active Contract RFPs” to find the **Buoy Debris Removal Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary** RFP. Click the “Apply to RFP button” to see the application page and be sure to click the blue “Start Application” button at the bottom of the page to begin the application.

Step 3:

Complete the application.

If you would like additional people to have access to the application, you will need to add them as an alternate contact in the application. C-STAAR will be used to draft, execute, and manage the contracts selected from this RFP. As such, we strongly encourage you to add at least one alternate contact to your application so that others in your organization have access to it and the ensuing agreement and management activities. These contacts will receive an email from the system to accept the invite and register in the system. They should register as an organization not an individual using your organization's full legal name and their own contact information. Once registered and set-up in C-STAAR, alternate contacts will have access to the application as it is in draft mode so they can edit the application. They will also have access to the application once it is submitted as well as the resultant contract and management activities if your organization is selected as the contractor for this RFP.

Step 4:

Upload any supplemental materials, including examples of past work in the Supplemental Attachments section of the RFP application on C-STAAR as pdf documents.

Please direct all questions regarding the RFP and registering in C-STAAR to support@marinesanctuary.org with the email subject line: RFP QUESTION Buoy Debris Removal Monterey Bay NMS [Organization Name].

Proposal Elements

Proposals should include the following elements:

- A description of the company with an explanation of why you are qualified to complete this project including key personnel,
- A description of the pre-assessment survey and salvage operations plan including :
 - Details of any plans for initial surveys via divers, side scan sonar or other operations to assess targets.
 - Types of equipment required to remove debris including any surface support vessels, and if anchoring will be necessary.
 - Method of salvage, for example, float and lift, and how that will be accomplished.
 - Deliverables and proposed dates and duration of removal efforts.
 - Any anticipated direct or indirect impacts of removal efforts on the sanctuary (i.e., any known hazardous or petroleum products and methods for mitigating any impacts or spills; any potential impacts to the substrate)
 - BMPs or other mitigation methods that will be utilized to reduce impacts to sensitive species and critical habitats (cetaceans, marine mammals, seabirds) including use of Mammal Wildlife Observer;
 - Subcontractors, including qualifications and experience, if applicable,
 - Project timeline (s),
 - Regulatory compliance;
- A detailed budget;
 - **Budgets and timelines may be provided by individual zones or combined.** If applicable, budgets of subcontractors should be included;
- Two or more examples of past work; and
- Three references.

REVIEW PROCESS

Evaluation Criteria

All applications will be screened for relevance and completeness and will then be evaluated based on the extent to which they meet the below criteria and how they are weighted. Proposals may be evaluated by technical experts outside of the collective representative agencies.

Criteria - Total 50 maximum points:

- Eligibility – as noted above, if the company is not eligible, your proposal will be removed and not graded;
- Qualifications– Experience and proven history of executing similar salvage jobs in similar conditions with positive outcomes. *(Total maximum of 10 points)*
- Requirements- Demonstrates ability to meet the technical requirements and capabilities outlined in RFP *(Total maximum 15 points)*
- Work Plan– thoroughness of salvage operations plan that meets deliverables within required timelines. *(Total maximum of 15 points)*
- Budget- The budget includes details on specific costs and is reasonable and realistic. *(Total maxim of 10 points)*

Review/Proposal Timeline

- RFP closes: November 17, 2024



- Review/Negotiation period: December 9-20, 2024
- Estimated Contract Start Date: January 1, 2025

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is a leading voice for U.S. protected waters, working with communities to conserve and expand those special places for a healthy ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes. Working together, we safeguard species and the places they call home, and preserve America's maritime history.

Established in 2000, the Foundation is the official non-profit partner of the National Marine Sanctuary System. The Foundation directly supports America's national marine sanctuaries through our mission to protect species, conserve ecosystems, and preserve cultural and maritime heritage. We accomplish our mission through community stewardship and engagement programs, on-the-water conservation projects, public education and outreach programs, and scientific research and exploration. The Foundation fosters innovative projects that are solution-oriented, scalable and transferable, and develop strategic partnerships that promote the conservation and recovery of species and their habitats. Learn more at marinesanctuary.org.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

This is a Request for Proposals only. Issuance of this RFP does not in any way obligate the Foundation to make an award or pay for costs incurred by potential offerors in the preparation and submission of an offer. In addition:

- (a) The Foundation may cancel RFP and not award;
- (b) The Foundation may reject any or all responses received;
- (c) Issuance of RFP does not constitute award commitment by The Foundation;
- (d) The Foundation reserves the right to disqualify any offer based on offeror failure to follow RFP instructions;
- (e) The Foundation will not compensate offerors for a response to RFP;
- (f) The Foundation reserves the right to issue an award based on an initial evaluation of offers without further discussion;
- (g) The Foundation may negotiate with short-listed offerors for their best and final offer;
- (h) The Foundation reserves the right to order additional quantities or units with the selected offeror;
- (i) The Foundation may reissue the solicitation or issue formal amendments revising the original RFP specifications and evaluation criteria before or after receipt of proposals;
- (j) The Foundation may modify the specifications without issuing a formal notice to all offerors when the revisions are immaterial to the scope of the RFP;
- (k) The Foundation reserves the right to waive minor proposal deficiencies that can be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition.

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is an equal opportunity provider that is committed to diversity and inclusion. We prohibit discrimination and harassment of any kind based on race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, pregnancy, or any other protected characteristic as outlined by federal, state, or local laws.