



# Support for Elkhorn Coral Recordkeeping Management

## Funding Opportunity Overview

[National Marine Sanctuary Foundation](#), in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is excited to offer funding for a contractor to provide scientific and professional services to evaluate existing tools and practices to advance standardized data management for elkhorn coral.

### Funding Availability and Eligibility

**Total Funding Available:** Up to \$50,000

The objective of the request for proposals is to seek a contractor to support elkhorn coral recordkeeping management.

*Funding is available for U.S. individuals or organizations based in the United States or territories.  
Match is not required.*

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### Implementation Period

December 1st, 2024 – June 30th, 2025

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### Application Package Due

Friday, November 15th, 2024  
11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time

Please see the **SCOPE OF WORK/HOW TO APPLY**  
for more information.

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## BACKGROUND

This project will further the work of [Mission: Iconic Reefs](#), a collaboration between NOAA's Office of Habitat Conservation and Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, the State of Florida, Coral Restoration Foundation, Mote Marine



Laboratory and Aquarium, The Florida Aquarium, The Nature Conservancy, Reef Renewal and University of Florida. The partners aim to restore coral reef ecosystems along the Florida Reef Tract.

Elkhorn coral (*Acropora palmata*) populations have significantly declined in the Florida Keys, and recordkeeping tools are needed to advance collaboration between conservation practitioners and ensure effective restoration solutions are implemented. This project will further efforts to produce a population management strategy for *A. palmata* that assesses the needs, gaps, and function requirements for restoration of this critical species.

## OVERVIEW OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

### Objective

The contractor will provide scientific and professional services to evaluate existing tools and practices to advance standardized data management for elkhorn coral.

This work would build on work previously funded by the Foundation to the Smithsonian's National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute. The existing project is developing a status assessment based on practitioner input, management recommendations for the marine heat wave, and a final status report that will summarize the major areas of work remaining. The Foundation would connect the selected contractor with the points of contact for this existing work to share relevant documents.

## SCOPE OF WORK

### Required Tasks:

The contractor's duties will include:

- Conduct a comprehensive review of current recordkeeping tools and practices based on work previously undertaken by a Foundation-funded project by the Smithsonian's National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute
- As needed, continue engagement with conservation practitioners, researchers, and managers to understand their data requirements
- Identify areas of improvement and functional requirements for elkhorn coral population management recordkeeping
- Collaborate with others to create a report that outlines the recommendations from the results of the above duties

### Required Skill Set:

- Proven writing skills in relevant subject area
- Ability to synthesize information and summarize materials concisely
- Ability to work collaboratively with others

## DELIVERABLES



Deliverables include advancing all of the tasks outlined above and providing a final report of accomplishments to the Foundation by June 30th, 2025.

## FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

The maximum amount for this contract is not to exceed \$50,000 and will reimburse the hourly rate of the contractor for the work performed as well as approved travel, as needed. The project timeline is expected to span from December 1st, 2024 to June 30th 2025, with the awardee announced by November 20th, 2024. Final deliverables are required to be sent to the Foundation no later than June 30th, 2025. The timeline of project activities and overall completion should be clearly addressed and outlined in the applicant's proposal.

## ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

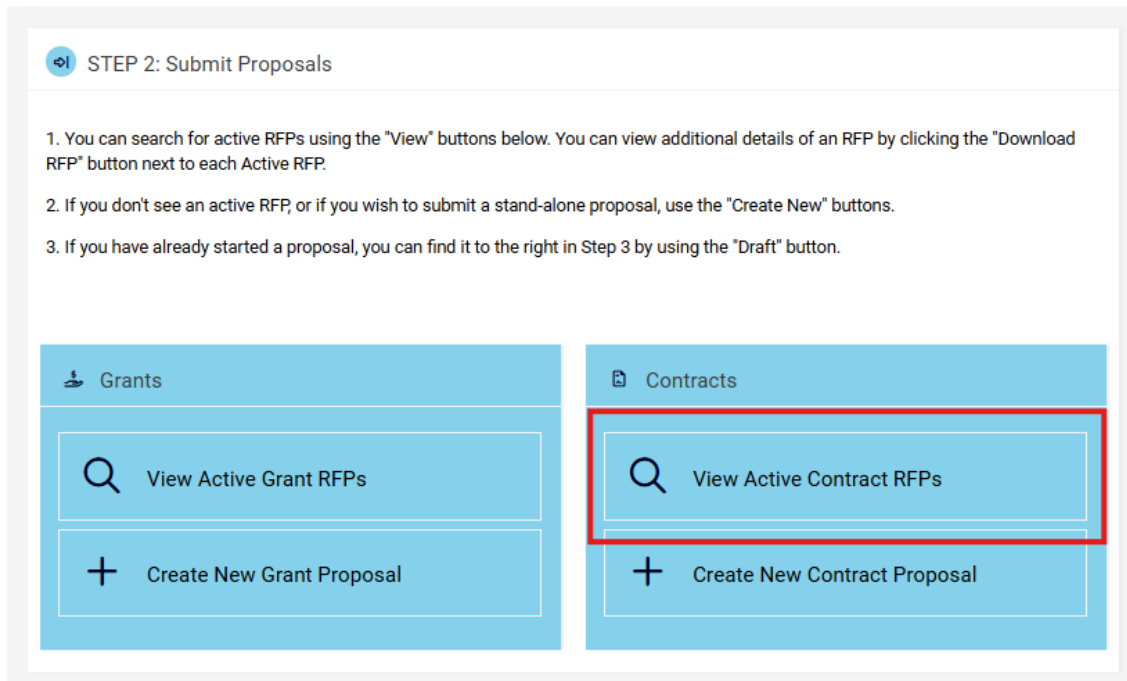
- The applicant must not have a paid staff member serving on the Foundation's Board of Trustees.
- Project work is conducted by a U.S. individual or organization based in the United States, territories, or Freely Associated States. Federal government agencies, employees, or foreign entities are not eligible to apply.
- The applicant can provide a U.S. federal tax ID #.

## HOW TO APPLY

Application packages should be submitted by 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time on November 15th, 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: <https://marinesanctuary.smartsimple.com/>

If you are new to our system and have not yet registered in C-STAAR, please take a few moments to do so. You can find the registration steps [here](#). If you are a returning applicant, please navigate to C-STAAR via the following link: <https://marinesanctuary.smartsimple.com> and login to complete your application for funding.

After you update your profile, select the appropriate button for viewing an active contract RFP, as shown below:



The applicant should include these additional materials in their project proposal (these documents will not count towards the 5-page limit):

- PI's CVs and/or outline of qualifications
- 2-3 references

Please direct all questions regarding this RFP to [support@marinesanctuary.org](mailto:support@marinesanctuary.org) with the email subject line: RFP QUESTION Iconic Reef Guardians – MIR Elkhorn Recordkeeping: [Name of Organization].

Determinations will be made by November 20th, 2024, and applicants will be notified shortly thereafter.

## ABOUT US

The [National Marine Sanctuary Foundation](#) was founded in 2000 by America's most influential ocean conservation leaders and works with communities and NOAA to conserve and expand these special places for a healthy ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes. Sanctuaries and monuments are our essential network of protected waters, owned by every American and championed by us. Connected by currents, they sustain miraculous species, coastal communities, and our shared heritage. The Foundation is a leading voice for U.S.-protected waters, and our work extends from the ocean floor to the classroom to Capitol Hill. The Foundation supports a growing portfolio of Community Stewardship, Outreach, and Education programs aimed at providing students, educators, and lifelong learners with opportunities to explore and discover connections to the natural world, no matter where they live.

## TERMS & CONDITIONS



This is a Request for Proposals (RFP) 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 offer or;
- (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 may choose to award only part of the activities in the RFP or issue multiple awards based on multiple RFP activities; and
- (l) The Foundation reserves the right to waive minor proposal deficiencies that can be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition.

### **Disclaimer**

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.