

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Removal of *Verna A. II* Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Estimated Contract Start Date

February 17, 2025

Application Package Due

January 17, 2025
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 a personal aircraft and vessel in Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (NMS).

Project Background

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, located north and west of San Francisco Bay, is an extraordinarily diverse marine habitat and a dynamic hub where research, conservation, tourism, recreation, exploration, and learning thrive. In 2015, Greater Farallones expanded northward to protect the source waters of a globally ecologically significant coastal upwelling center, which transports nutrient-filled water along the southern Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin, and San Francisco coast to the waters over Cordell Bank and around the Farallon Islands and down through San Mateo County. This expansion more than doubled the sanctuary's original size; the site now encompasses 3,295 square miles. The ecosystem supports 36 marine mammal species, including one of the planet's most significant white shark populations. The sanctuary is also home to blue, gray, and humpback whales; seals and sea lions; dolphins; and more than 250,000 seabirds. Sanctuary personnel respond to an average of 6-10 vessel incidents per year in the sanctuary and the northern portion of Monterey Bay NMS.

In September 2016, the fishing vessel *Verna A. II* ran aground and became stranded in the intertidal

zone on Salmon Creek Beach. Details are provided in the Vessel Specification section of this Request for Proposals.

Need

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (the Foundation), in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Program and Greater Farallones NMS, requires support for the removal of *Verna A. II*, a 54' vessel that ran aground on Salmon Creek Beach in Greater Farallones NMS.

SCOPE OF WORK

Deliverables

The scope of work shall include all phases of planning, removal, and disposal including (1) removal/salvage plan development and approvals, (2) mobilization, (3) removal, (4) disposal, (5) demobilization, (6) closeout.

- *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 a vessel removal plan.
- *Mobilization*, as used in this contract includes, but is not limited to, the establishment of all operations, including equipment and gear, from the work location.-
- *Removal*, as used in this contract includes, but is not limited to, the operations for full removal of wreck and associated debris of *Verna A. II*.
- *Disposal*, as used in this contract includes, but is not limited to, any testing, abatement, deconstruction, and disposal of *Verna A.II*.
- *Demobilization*, as used in this contract includes, but is not limited to, removal of all operations, including equipment and gear, from work location.
- *Closeout*, as used in this contract includes, but is not limited to documentation of completed work which should contain disposal records that include the name and location of the disposal site, the volume/weight, and scale record.

Project Specifications

The *Verna A II* is a 54- foot-long steel troller. Fuel, oil, and batteries were removed after the stranding in 2016. The vessel has been buried and reexposed over the years. The series of photos in Figure 1 demonstrates some of the changes to vessel exposure.

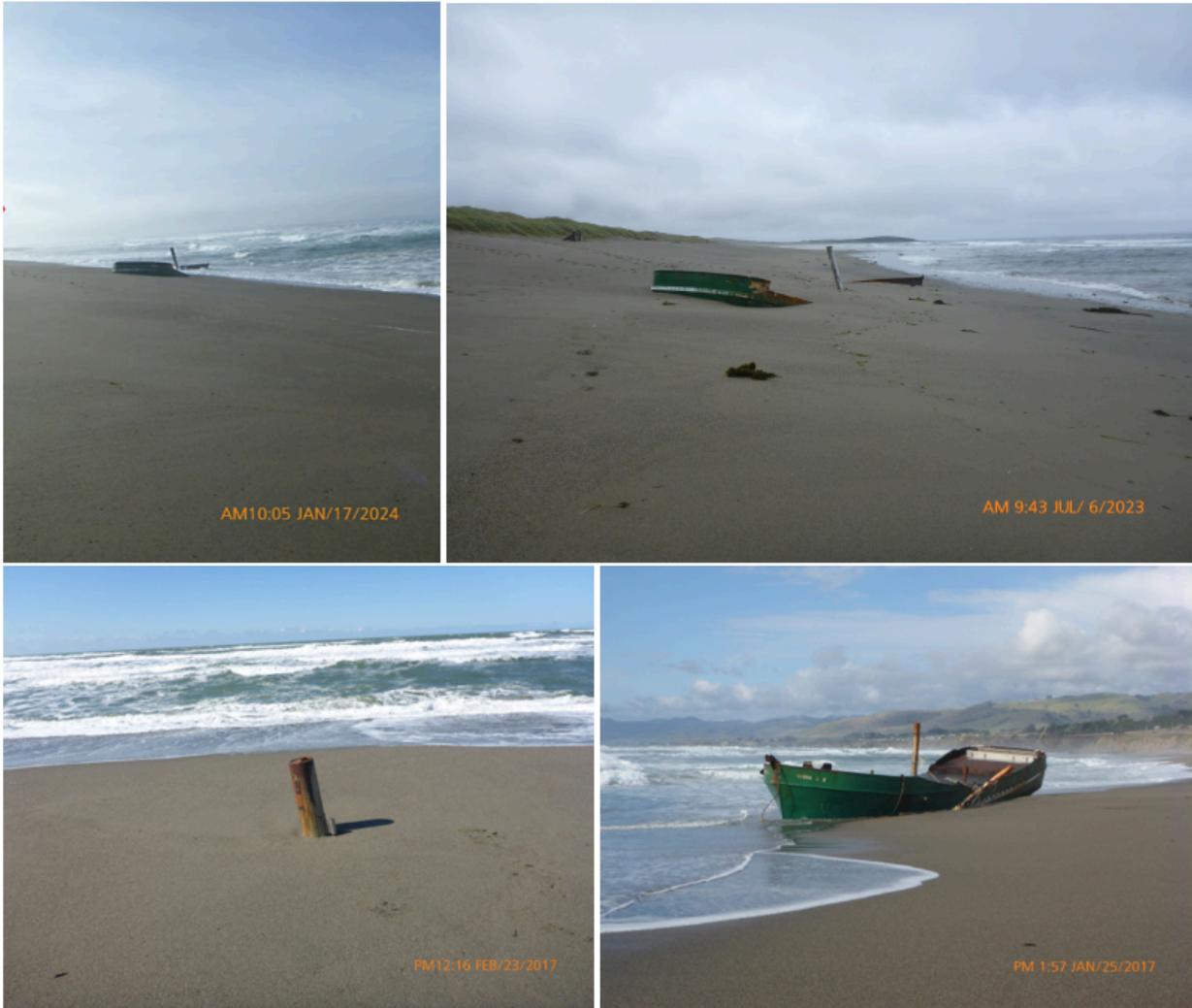


Figure 1. Images of Verna A. II Credit: Greater Farallones NMS

Target Location

Verna A. II is located on a sandy beach in an active surf zone on Salmon Creek State Beach, Sonoma Coast State Park/Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. A nearby parking lot is available to move the vessel for transportation to a disposal facility.

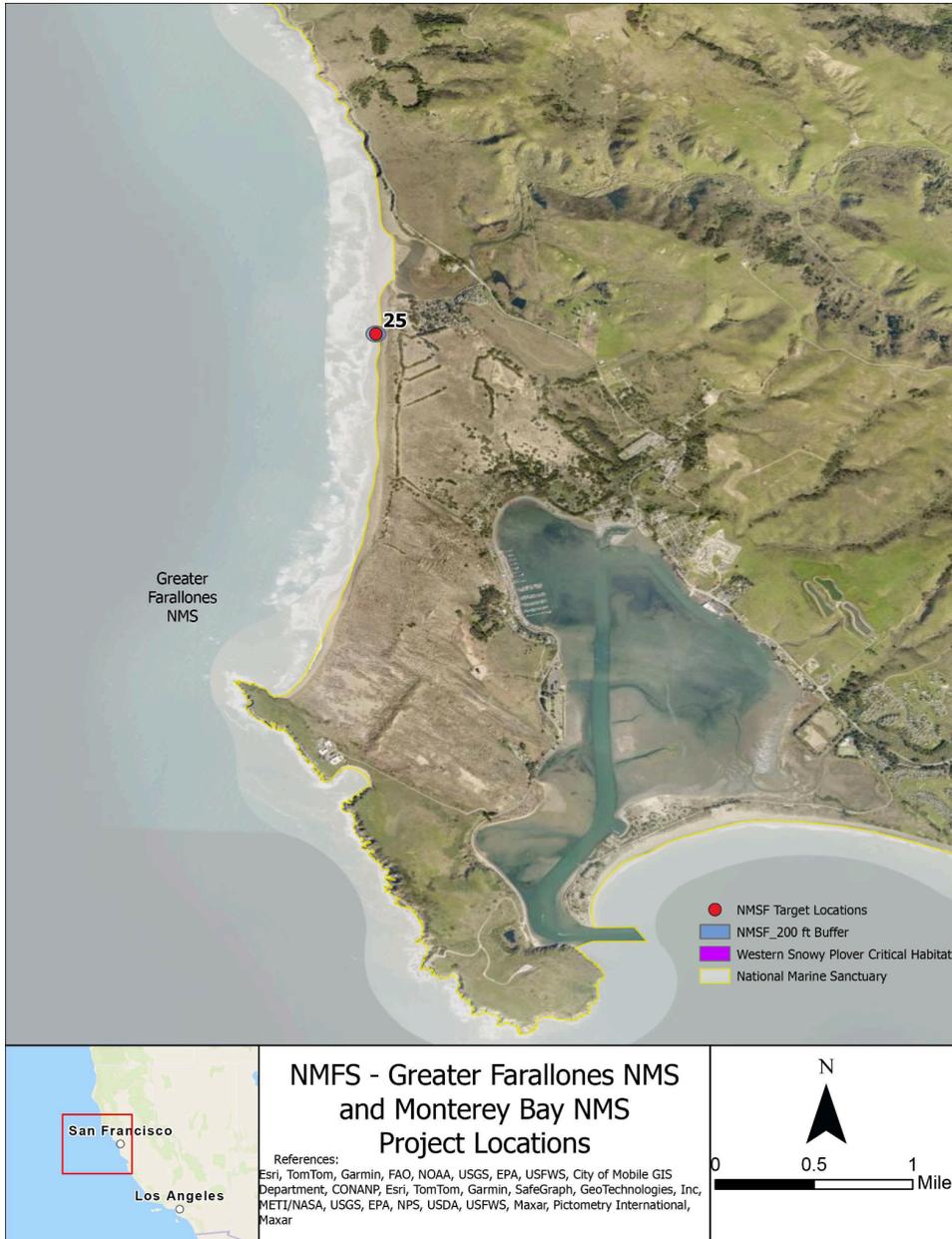


Figure 2. Location of the wreck of fishing vessel Verna A. II (NOAA ORR/RPI)

Technical Requirements & Capabilities

Labor and Equipment

The Contractor shall supply all labor, materials, tooling, engineering, dive and salvage equipment, and land transport for disposal as needed to complete the work.

Skills and Experience

The Contractor must possess experience conducting similar work in similar situations with positive outcomes and possess skill and experience with the use of all equipment proposed to conduct salvage & transport debris.

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 Commercial General Liability Insurance covering bodily injury and property damage in a form and with coverage that is satisfactory to the State. This insurance shall include personal and advertising injury liability, products and completed operations, and liability assumed under an insured contract. Coverage shall be written on an occurrence basis in an amount of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence. Annual aggregate limit shall not be less than \$2,000,000. The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and the State of California, its officers, agents, and employees are to be covered as additional insureds with respect to liability arising out of work or operations. Automobile Liability Insurance covering all owned, non-owned, and hired vehicles with a combined single limit of not less than \$1,000,000 for bodily injury and property damage. The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and the State of California, its officers, agents, and employees are to be covered as additional insureds with respect to liability arising out of work or operations. Workers Compensation & Employers Liability Workers' Compensation Insurance as required by the State of California, with Statutory Limits, and Employer's Liability Insurance with limit of no less than \$1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury or disease. The Workers' Compensation policy shall be endorsed with a waiver of subrogation in favor of the State of California.

Compliance

The Contractor shall follow all directives and regulations outlined by the Foundation and Greater Farallones 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.

Wildlife Observers:

- One or more wildlife observers will likely need to be present during debris removal activities to monitor and maintain a protective perimeter around the work area and to ensure wildlife (especially snowy plovers) are not impacted by the salvage activities or work does not proceed if it would pose a risk of disturbance or injury to birds or marine mammals on the beach.
- Construction vehicles and machinery will need to observe established speed limits while transiting areas of the beach where snowy plovers may be present to ensure birds are not crushed or disturbed.

Permitting & Certifications

The Foundation will secure 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 removal plan must be approved by the Foundation, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, and potentially other agencies as required.

Applicants must have proper certifications for conducting salvage operations.

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

Application packages should be submitted by 11:59 PM Pacific Standard Time on Friday, January 17, 2025.

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 **Removal of Verna A. II Greater Farallones 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 all elements of the C-STAAR Application. Be sure to review the Proposal Elements and Evaluation Criteria below before completing your 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 Verna A. II Greater Farallones NMS [Organization Name].

Proposal Elements

Applications 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 salvage operation plan including:
 - Method of salvage, and types of equipment required to remove debris.
 - Deliverables and proposed dates and duration of removal efforts.
 - Any anticipated direct or indirect impacts of removal efforts on the sanctuary
 - BMPs or other mitigation methods that will be utilized to reduce impacts to sensitive species and critical habitats (cetaceans, marine mammals, seabirds) including the use of Wildlife Observers, speed limits, or other mitigation measures to avoid harm to wildlife;
 - Subcontractors, including qualifications and experience, if applicable,
 - Project timeline (s),
 - Regulatory compliance;
- A detailed budget, including budgets for subcontractors if applicable;
- 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.

Technical Criteria - Total 70 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 projects with positive outcomes. *(Total maximum of 20 points)*
- Requirements- Demonstrates ability to meet the requirements outlined in RFP. *(Total maximum 20 points)*
- Workplan– thoroughness of project narrative, clear and feasible salvage plan and timeline, meets deliverables within required timelines. *(Total maximum of 30 points)*

Financial Criteria- Total of 30 maximum points

- The budget includes detail on specific costs and is reasonable. Subcontractor costs are broken out and detail provided. (Total maximum of 20 points)
- Overall pricing (*Total maximum 10 points*)

Review/Proposal Timeline

- RFP closes: Friday, January 17, 2025
- Review/Negotiation period: January 21 - February 19, 2025
- Approximate Contract Start Date: March 1, 2025

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 only. Issuance of this RFP does not 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 offer or 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;
- (l) 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.