



PACIFIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

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Request for Proposals

Gulf of Alaska Video Monitoring

ACTUAL ISSUE DATE: *MARCH 28, 2005*

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: *APRIL 20, 2005*

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

- April 7, 2005** Request for Proposal (RFP) issued and distributed.
- April 14, 2005** Deadline for written questions.
- April 15, 2005** Deadline for written responses.
- April 20, 2005** Deadline for submission of proposals
- Emailed proposals will be accepted and are the preferred format.
Email to: front_office@psmfc.org
- Faxed proposals will be accepted.
ATTN: DAVE COLPO
FAX to: 503-595-3232
- One (1) original may be sent or delivered to:
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
ATTN: DAVE COLPO
205 SW Spokane, Suite 100
Portland, Oregon 97202
Tele: 503-595-3100
- April 25, 2005** Proposal Review Committee Meeting
- April 26, 2005** Project Finalists Selected

Overview

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) is seeking bids from qualified contractors to install and maintain video monitoring systems on three to six trawl vessels fishing out of Kodiak Alaska and to analyze the video data from those vessels to detect the discard of catch. Systems would need to be installed by 7/4/2005 and would collect video data until approximately 7/20/2005. Depending on contractor qualifications and the proposals received, PSMFC may choose one or more contractors.

The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council is in the process of developing a program to rationalize the rockfish fisheries in the Central Gulf of Alaska. As currently envisioned, this program would give a portion of the annual quotas for Pacific Ocean Perch (POP), northern rockfish and pelagic shelf rockfish to cooperatives built around a shoreside processor and the catcher vessels that deliver to that processor. The program would also give a portion of the annual quotas for certain “secondary species”, principally Pacific cod and sablefish, as well as a portion of the Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) allocation of halibut to the each cooperative.

Under this program, member vessels of a cooperative would be allowed to harvest their rockfish and secondary species up to the allocations that they have been issued, provided that they do not catch more halibut PSC than they were allocated. The fleet of catcher vessels that will harvest the majority of the cooperatives’ quotas is almost entirely made up of vessels between 60 and 125 feet that currently carry observers only 30% of the time. Because increasing observer coverage may not be economically feasible for this fleet, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) anticipates that catch accounting will take place when catch is delivered and that participating vessels will be required to retain all catch that they are not required to discard for regulatory reasons. In most cases, this would mean that vessels will be required to discard halibut but required to retain all other catch. Depending on the exact regulations developed for this program, vessels might also, under certain circumstances, be required to discard other, non allocated, species such as arrowtooth flounder.

NMFS currently has no way to monitor a full retention policy unless the vessel is carrying an observer at all times. Because all of the groundfish species co-occur, it will not be possible for a cooperative to continue fishing once they reach the limit of any given quota. Thus, one quota or another will always be perceived as limiting the potential harvest of all other quotas and there may be incentives to under report catch of the limiting species. PSMFC, in cooperation with NMFS wishes to investigate whether a limited no discard policy can be effectively monitored using video technology.

The video investigation would take place between July 5th and approximately July 20th, 2005 and would be part of a larger cooperative project between PSMFC and NMFS that will involve approximately 20 catcher vessels delivering to four processing plants in Kodiak, Alaska. Vessels participating in the larger project will be asked to retain all catch that they are not required to discard. In the event that a vessel is unable or unwilling to retain all catch from a given haul, the captain will be asked to inform PSMFC staff that discard occurred at the time a delivery is made.

Prior to the beginning of the project, NMFS and PSMFC will identify vessel owners who are

willing to participate in the video monitoring phase of the project. The contractor(s) would be required to install and maintain a video monitoring system on the chosen vessels throughout the project period. At the end of each fishing trip, data from the vessels would be collected (this could be done either by the contractor or by NMFS/PSMFC staff) and analyzed to determine when and where the discard of non-halibut took place.

Description of the fleet and fishery

The summer trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska are prosecuted by trawl vessels between 60 and 125 feet. The vessels deliver the vast majority of their catch to plants in Kodiak Alaska. The fishery currently opens on July 5th. Though all of the flatfish and rockfish targets open at that time, almost all of the fishing effort is directed towards POP. Because this fishery normally closes after approximately a week, the fishing activity is very intense and fast paced, with vessels wanting to get catch offloaded as quickly as possible so that they can return to the grounds. Most fishing trips run 2-3 days, so the average boat will be able to complete two to three trips. When POP closes, effort shifts to the Northern Rockfish fishery, which normally closes after another week to ten days. Once rockfish has closed, some vessels will remain in Kodiak and continue fishing for flatfish, while others will move into other fisheries. Flatfish fishing will normally continue until the trawl allocation of halibut PSC has been used, generally during August. In addition to fishing for rockfish and flatfish targets, vessels will also often fish for sablefish and Pacific cod. These species are more valuable than the rockfish, but can only constitute 7% (for sablefish) and 20% (for Pacific cod) of the total retained catch at any given time.

The amount of sorting that takes place varies markedly from boat to boat though all boats sort catch to a greater or lesser extent. The most common scenario is that catch is dumped from the codend into the trawl alley where crewmen partially sort the catch. Halibut may not be retained and, to the extent possible, vessel crew will attempt to remove them from the catch. Sablefish are often sorted from other catch, bled, and put into ice totes on deck. unmarketable/low value catch is also often discarded at this time. Depending on the vessel configuration, the discarded catch leaves the boat from as few as two locations. However, on vessels with low bulwarks or limited area to work, discard may leave the boat at any point along the rail or aft through the trawl alley. Discard of unsorted catch by bleeding the codend or dumping the bag once it is on deck also takes place when the vessel has reached its capacity or the catch is undesirable.

Project Goals and Deliverables

- 1 *Design monitoring system.* At the very least, the monitoring system must be capable of reliably recording all net retrieval and fishing activity at a resolution sufficient to determine when discard takes place (including detecting net dumping or bleeding events) and, if the discard is sorted, whether that discard consists of flatfish or roundfish. Ideally, the system would be able to reliably determine whether flatfish discard consisted of halibut or other flatfish. Because boats in this fleet vary in size and how sorting takes place, design of the system will have to be vessel specific. The system must also, at a minimum, be interfaced with a GPS unit and give the exact location and time of each event.

- 2 *Install and maintain monitoring system.* Contractor(s) will need to schedule the installation of the system with boat owners/operators. Approximately two thirds of the fleet is Kodiak based and most of these vessels would be available for installation at any time prior to departing for the fishery. The other third of the fleet is based in Oregon or Washington and generally arrives in Kodiak as little as two days before the fishery begins. Because participation in the project is voluntary, the contractor will be required to disrupt the vessel's schedule as little as possible. Contractor(s) will be expected to ensure that the system operates properly throughout the project period. If necessary, the contractor(s) will be expected to go to sea with the vessel in order to monitor the system's performance or troubleshoot problems. Because this is a fast paced fishery and the vessels are frequently in port for as little as eight hours between trips and they may arrive or depart throughout the day and night. The contractor(s) will be expected to work closely with NMFS/PSMFC staff and ensure that they are available to do required maintenance whenever vessels are in port.
- 3 *Collect Monitoring System Data.* At the end of each fishing trip, contractor will need to collect monitoring system data or coordinate the collection of the data by NMFS staff. Because this is a voluntary program, NMFS and PSMFC are not requiring participating vessels to turn over data at the end of the trip. While we anticipate that participating vessels will release all monitoring data, we can envision scenarios where the vessel may prefer that a given trip's data not be reviewed. In the event that a vessel does not wish to turn over monitoring data, the contractor will need to inform the project coordinator and give the data to the vessel skipper.
- 4 *Analyze Monitoring System Data.* Following data collection, the contractor(s) will analyze video data to determine when and where discard of roundfish took place and what sort of discard event was recorded. This will be reported to the project coordinator at the end of the project period. Contractor will maintain a log of all data collected and analyzed. Original data will also be returned to PSMFC at end of project.

Performance Measures

The contractor's performance will be based on the following measures:

- 1 Monitoring system installed and removed from participating vessels in accordance with project time schedule. Installation and removal must be conducted in a manner that does not delay vessels from participating in the fishery. At the end of project period, vessels must be returned to their pre-project state.
- 2 Monitoring system must be maintained such that no more than 10% of the potentially collectable data is lost due to monitoring system down time.
- 3 Contractor will identify no less than 75% of the roundfish discard events reported by observers or vessel crew while the system was in operation. Such events will be identified as to vessel, location and time of event.

- 4 NMFS mentoring. Contractor and contractor staff will fully explain all aspects of any installation or the analysis of any tape data to NMFS project staff. NMFS project staff must be allowed to observe installation and maintenance procedures as well as tape analysis procedures.

Basis of Award

PSMFC may choose to award this contract to one or more contractors. Applicants will be rated based on:

1. Proposal (40%). Technical feasibility of approach described, completeness of description, availability of technical staff to complete installation and maintenance of system and timely accurate analysis of data.
2. Contractor Experience (40%). Contractor must have experience in the development and deployment of video systems in the fishing industry. Contractor should have proven record of working with fishing vessels off Alaska or in the Pacific Northwest.
3. Price (15%). Because the number of vessels in the project is not yet determined, contractor should quote price on a per vessel/ per fishing day basis.
4. Additional System Capabilities (5%). To what extent does the proposed system have the ability to record other data that may be of use to fisheries managers (such as fishing depth, exact time/location/duration of fishing activity, etc) or to what extent can the system be expanded in the future to accommodate such needs.

Materials and Equipment

System lease cost. The contractor shall lease necessary equipment to PSMFC for the length of the project with an option to purchase all or part of said equipment at the end of project period. Cost proposal should detail lease as well as optional purchase costs.

Other materials and supplies. PSMFC may choose to reimburse contractor for expendable equipment and supplies or to provide those supplies to the contractor.