



PACIFIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

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RecFIN Mobile Data Collection App RFP

Q&A

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1. *Is the preferred platform iOS or Android?*

Since this is a new implementation, we don't have to conform to any preexisting systems. We are open to either platform and will look to the proposers for guidance and recommendations given their experience and the project needs. Tablets will be acquired for the state employees' use in sampling so we will have the latest versions of hardware and operating systems, negating the need for backward compatibility. If it is feasible to test both iOS and Android based applications, we are open to doing so if development costs do not prohibit it.

2. *Our primary business is web development and we are relatively new to mobile development. Would that be a significant impediment to us being awarded the project provided the rest of our proposal looks good?*

No; the key will be demonstrated knowledge and capability in mobile app development. If experience is limited, please demonstrate your proficiency with the technical components of mobile app development with a focus on programming components designed to enter and save data fields. Feel free to cite web development examples that involved a significant data management component.

3. *Technical question: In section 2.5.2 (Data Management Capability) the final bullet point is "Data to be merged with data from current process in a MS SQL Server database". Would we be responsible for developing the API for the MS SQL Server database end or would there be another developer on hand to implement that end of the system? Also, how flexible would that part of the system be to conform to technology within the app?*

The data deliverable for this project would be a data set residing on our server in a format that can be imported into MS SQL. Each state's data analysts will be responsible for the next steps once the data is made available to them to download on a daily basis. There is flexibility in the specifics of how this component is implemented as these SQL databases are currently under development. We would hope that you can work along with our IT staff to address some of these issues.

4. *Which level of ADA compatibility is being targeted? Priority I, II, or III?*

Upon further review, ADA compatibility will not be required.

5. Do you have a UI Navigation structure or design in mind that will need to be followed?

No

6. How is data from the paper surveys recorded and saved today?

Entered in customized PC entry programs and stored in SAS datasets.

7. Will the PSMFC staff provide a test environment and test data for sending and receiving survey related information?

Yes

8. Have you had a project similar to this developed previously? If so, what was the outcome?

PSMFC has never been involved with the development of a mobile app.

9. Is the aim to develop the iOS and Android builds side-by-side or would it be preferred to build one platform ahead of the other?

PSMFC anticipates developing either an iOS app or Android app, not both.

10. Should the app be designed to be able to create and modify the surveys via an “admin” type section or should this to be controlled via a standalone application that will also need to be developed?

The app should be developed so that modifications to the survey can be completed via an “admin” function.

11. Is there a specific weatherproof case that should be considered and does it restrict device functionality?

The devices will be outfitted with a weatherproof case. No specific case has been identified yet. A decision on which case to use will be made during testing.

12. The RFP mentions the existing MS SQL database. Can you confirm that this will be used, as is, for the application development to store questions and results.

Yes, this MS SQL database will be used as is.

13. Does database authentication already exist (usernames, passwords, secure token creation, etc) or does this need to be designed and developed?

Authentication protocols already exist.

14. Would it be possible to review a few sample surveys to get an idea of size and scope?

Yes, a copy of the survey form for California is attached. The focus of this pilot project will be the State of California, so all development and testing will be based on the forms

for California. The other two states' forms are similar enough that they can be adapted at a later date.

15. Outside of the high level flow mentioned in the RFP, do you have a mobile development process you wish us to follow are you happy for us to use our own standard processes?

The bidder is free to suggest their own process.

16. Do you want us to use an existing Pacific States Marine Fisheries defect tracking database or can we use our own?

We are not aware of an existing defect tracking database within PSMFC. If that is the case you are welcome to use your own.

17. Our methodology is rooted in quality requirements that are gained by user discovery and Agile development - what will our access be during the project to the users to perform interviews and observations?

PSMFC can provide input and interaction with samplers. This may be used as needed or appropriate as determined by PSMFC.

18. Is this open to all qualified businesses in the US?

Yes

19. Is it just for iPADS and Tablets? (or is it just for iPhones and Android Phones

That is our thought at this point, but we are open to ideas. Ease of navigation is important and we will supply the samplers with hardware devices.

20. Is the intention in a fully implemented program to allow samplers to use any mobile device they choose or does RECFIN anticipate selecting a specific hardware platform for all field samplers?

RecFIN will select the final device based upon recommendations from the successful bidder.

21. Will the data elements be the same for every state or differ on a state by state basis?

They are very similar for all states.

22. Are the surveys text only? If not, for example with images of the fish, do we need to create the imagery?

Currently, the surveys are text only. PSMFC would eventually like to have the ability to attach pictures of fish caught to the survey. It is not expected that the app developer would need to create imagery.

23. A number of forms in the application will require various data sources (i.e. species selection). Is this expected to be a fixed, built-in data, or is there any on-line data source that the application should synchronize with?

At this time it is expected that this will be fixed, built in data.

24. Does the 9 month contract term include the three month field testing phase?

Yes.

25. Do PSMFC states already own mobile devices?

No. The devices that will be used for this survey will be purchased after the mobile app is developed.

26. How is the data currently accessed?

Raw data is entered manually through web forms and stand-alone applications. Processed data is accessed through the RecFIN website application and SAS programming

27. Are PSMFC technologists available to support integration with the PSMFC database?

Yes. RecFIN staff and IT personnel will assist in this process.

28. Does the PSMFC server have an existing API which will be used to communicate with the mobile device(s)?

No. This will be the first mobile app developed by/for PSMFC. No mobile APIs currently exist.

29. Do all five states use the same PSMFC database?

The three states of CA, OR and WA use the same RecFIN database. ID and AK do not do this sampling.

30. Is the data centrally managed or will each state require integration with their own unique database?

It is centrally managed at PSMFC in RecFIN, but each state will also access the data. The states will need to have the ability to download their data daily.

31. Does the sample assignment database exist currently or will it need to be built in conjunction with the mobile application?

There is a sample assignment database in place, but it may require some modification to interact with the mobile application.

32. Will the chosen company be responsible for creating different versions of the app for each state?

Perhaps, but see question 14.

33. What documentation do you need to receive from the application developer e.g. Functional Spec., Design Spec., Test Plan etc?

PSMFC would need to receive the design specs.

34. Is there a page limit to the response?

No.

35. If we have only worked with private sector and not public agencies in providing mobile apps, will this be a limiting factor for the vendor?

No.

36. Are you expecting vendors to quote this on a T&M (hourly rate) basis or a fixed bid basis? To quote as fixed bid sufficient information may not be available.

It is expected that vendors quote based on a T&M basis, but fixed bids are also accepted.

37. Should this be a native application or can it be a hybrid (HTML5) app which can be distributed through appstores?

This application will not be made available through appstores. Only a small, fixed number of users will have access to this application and will only use it on devices provided by PSMFC.

38. What is the current budget for this project?

Since PSMFC has never been involved with developing a mobile app, we are expecting the bidders to provide us with a ballpark figure of the cost for this work. PSMFC will secure the appropriate amount of funding to move forward with the project that meets our needs.

39. Is the vendor expected to implement the mobile API on the back-end and integrate it with the database?

Our expectation is that the selected bidder will assist us with whatever is necessary to deliver the data from the tablets onto our server. The data can be in any ascii/text format. We will assume responsibility for integrating the data into our MS SQL database. Our IT staff will be available to assist with technical questions throughout the process.

40. Is the application expected to be a native app or html5 app?

We don't have a specific expectation for either, whatever will best meet the needs for the app and can ease the process of potentially modifying the app to be used in different states or for different survey forms.

40. Are the forms to be fixed or configurable?

For purposes of this pilot project the forms can be fixed. However, if the pilot project is successful, the app will be used for some different survey forms in the future. It would be advisable to offer different options for each.

41. How many users/fish techs will be using the app at any given time?

At peak season, the State of California will have 65 samplers around the state inputting data from surveys. There are far less in Oregon and Washington, but for the purpose of this pilot project we're focusing on the 65 in California.

