

Request for Proposals

Testing a Flexigrid System to Reduce Bycatch of Juvenile Sablefish in the West Coast Groundfish Bottom Trawl Fishery



Actual issue date: 06 May 2021

Schedule/Instruction/ Provision/Clauses

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: 20 May 2021

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Section 1: PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Testing a Flexigrid System to Reduce Bycatch of Juvenile Sablefish in the West Coast Groundfish Bottom Trawl Fishery

06 May 2021 Requests for Proposals (RFP) distributed

13 May 2021 Deadline for written questions on RFP

Any questions should be directed to:

Mark Lomeli

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

2032 SE OSU Drive

Newport, OR 97365

Email: mlomeli@psmfc.org

Phone: (541) 867-0544

Fax (541) 867-0505

14 May 2021 PSMFC answers to written questions posted on website:

www.psmfc.org/Open_RFPs

20 May 2021 Deadline for proposals

One (1) original to:

Michael Arredondo

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

205 SE Spokane Street, Suite 100

Portland, OR 97202

Email: marredondo@psmfc.org

Phone: (503) 595-3100

Fax: (503) 595-3444

24 May 2021 Select Contractor

15 August – 30 Oct. 2021 Desired timeline to complete research project

Section 2: STATEMENT OF WORK

DESCRIPTION/SPECIFICATIONS/WORK STATEMENT

The contractor shall furnish the necessary crew, material, equipment, services and facilities to perform the following Statement of Work/Specifications. For a description of the terms used within this Statement of Work, please consult the Definitions (Section 3.1).

2.1. GENERAL

2.1.1. The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) intends to charter one groundfish bottom trawl vessel for 10 sample days (depending on charter rate) to test a Flexigrid system to reduce bycatch of juvenile sablefish in the West Coast groundfish bottom trawl fishery. The Flexigrid system consists of a double grid system to provide smaller-sized sablefish increased escapement opportunities (Fig. 1). The desired timeline to completed this work is between 15 August and 30 October 2021. PSMFC will be responsible for designing the project and providing all scientific equipment needed for the project. The Contractor agrees to furnish a vessel, crew, main wire, and doors necessary for bottom trawling for groundfish species. PSMFC will supply the sweeps, trawl, Flexigrid excluder, and codend. The captain and crew must be available during all scientific operations. To ensure full use of each sample day, the captain and crew should make any necessary transit arrangements to begin fishing operations at the start of each sample day. All fishing will occur during daylight hours.

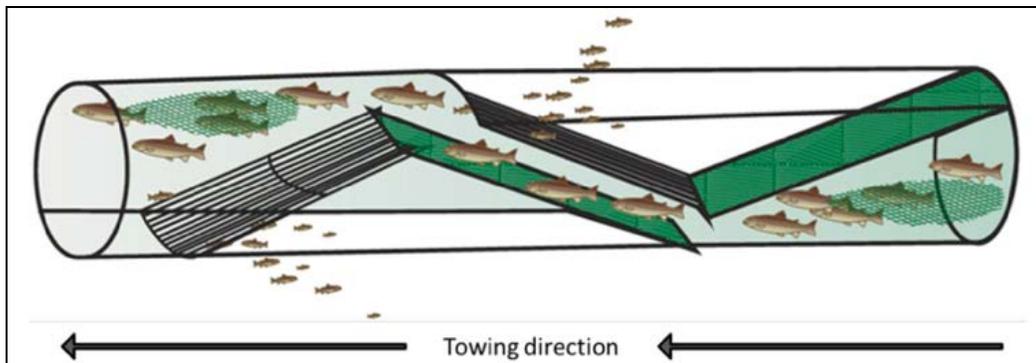


Figure 1. Schematic example of a Flexigrid system

2.2. PROJECT OBJECTIVE

2.2.1. The objective of this study is to test the efficacy of a Flexigrid system designed to reduce bycatch of juvenile sablefish in the West Coast groundfish bottom trawl fishery.

2.3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- 2.3.1. This study will measure the size selectivity of a Flexigrid system designed to reduce bycatch of juvenile sablefish in the West Coast groundfish bottom trawl fishery. The Flexigrid system is a four-seam tube of 114 mm netting that is 88 meshes in circumference and 50 meshes long. The sorting grid component of the Flexigrid system will consist of grids of 7.62 x 7.62 cm openings to provide smaller-sized sablefish escapement opportunities. To model the size selection properties of the Flexigrid system, we will use the covered gear method by installing a cover (e.g., recapture net) over each grid section and blinding the codend with an inner small mesh liner). For each tow, a light meter and CTD sensors will be placed on the trawl.
- 2.3.2. Approximately 10 sample days (depending on charter rate) are expected for this project. Per each sample day (section 3.1. defines a sample day) this project looks to conduct up to 4 to 6 tows of 30 to 60 minutes in duration (depending on time of day, anticipated catch levels, etc.). After each tow, catches from each cover and the blinded codend will be sorted to species, and length measurements from each catch will be collected on target groundfishes (i.e., sablefish, thornyheads, lingcod, Dover sole, petrale sole).
- 2.3.3. Although 10 sample days are anticipated for this project, additional days will occur for mobilization, demobilization, and offloading of fish. Precise cruise dates will be somewhat flexible given weather, sampling logistics, and personal constraints. One full day will be necessary for mobilization and demobilization (Section 4).
- 2.3.4. Two to three fish offloading days are expected during this project. However, based on catch rates, condition of marketable fish, weather conditions, plant operations, and/or scientific/project objects, the number and timing of fish offloading days may be subject to change.
- 2.3.5. This research cruise will terminate when, as determined jointly by the vessel captain and chief scientist, either: (1) the scientific objectives of the cruise have been met, (2) available funds have been exhausted, (3) due to equipment failure, inclement weather, or other cause that appears the scientific objectives cannot be met within a reasonable time frame, or (4) the limit of compensable sampling days has been reached. The chief scientist, in consultation with the contractor, will determine the vessels sampling schedule.
- 2.3.6. If the project is terminated before the limit of compensable sampling days has been reached, an additional cruise may be scheduled at the discretion of PSMFC, at a time determined jointly by PSMFC and the contractor. Fishing grounds for this study will be jointly determined by the vessel captain and scientific crew prior to departure, but may also be modified during the cruise to address scientific objectives.
- 2.3.7. For terms of this agreement, only days meeting the definition of “sample days” as defined in Section 3.1, are compensable as sample days. If, during a cruise,

inclement weather, vessel equipment failure, or other development makes it impossible or unwise to continue sampling operations, the contractor and PSMFC may elect to terminate the cruise and return to port. Alternatively, PSMFC and the contractor may jointly elect to suspend sampling operations and wait for conditions to improve. Time lost due to vessel equipment breakdown or time spent at the dock, such as waiting for the tide, or waiting to unload product, supplies or crew, is not compensable under agreement (except as mobilization and demobilization days).

2.4. VESSEL OPERATIONS

- 2.4.1. The vessel must be an active groundfish trawl vessel.
- 2.4.2. The vessel must have at least 500 square feet of back deck space. Sufficient deck area is needed to allow space for the fish sample equipment (e.g., baskets, scales, sampling table, measuring boards, etc.) and processing the landed catches.
- 2.4.3. The vessel must provide the main wire, and doors for bottom trawl fishing. PSMFC will provide the sweeps, trawl, Flexigrid, and codend.
- 2.4.4. PSMFC will reimburse the contractor for all fuel costs and ice fees accrued during the project. Receipts must be provided for reimbursement.
- 2.4.5. Fish sales: 40% of the overall revenue generated from the sales of fish caught during this project will go to the contractor. PSMFC will keep the remaining 60%. PSMFC may elect to use their fish sales proceeds to support additional charter days beyond the original 10 charter days of work if funding allows.
- 2.4.6. The Contractor is **NOT** required to carry an observer on board during this project. All fish caught during this project are for research and will **NOT** come off the Contractor's individual fishing quota.
- 2.4.7. The vessel must have clean and sanitary living conditions and adequate space for two to three scientific crew members (men and/or women).
- 2.4.8. The vessel must have one head and a functional shower available for use by the scientific crew. Doors to toilet or bathing facilities must be fitted with an operational lock or latch to ensure the user's privacy. The vessel will furnish soap, toilet paper, and paper towels.
- 2.4.9. The vessel must have sufficient fresh water capacity to accommodate reasonable shower use by a two to three person scientific crew and a three person vessel crew. The vessel's shower must also be serviced by a hot water heater.
- 2.4.10. The vessel must have work spaces and berthing spaces that are adequately ventilated and free from excess engine noise and hydrocarbon fumes. Smoking of tobacco inside the vessel is prohibited while on charter.

- 2.4.11. The vessel must have adequate deck lighting to support early-morning or nighttime work operations. Lighting from several angles to reduce shadows is desired.
- 2.4.12. The Contractor hereby assumes full responsibility for the operation, repair, and maintenance of the boat and other equipment furnished by him/her. Contractor agrees to provide labor to repair the vessel as needed.
- 2.4.13. The vessel must have available 110-volt power inside the vessel that can be used for re-charging back deck fish sampling equipment (e.g., digital equipment housed within two small pelican cases) after the end of each sampling day.

2.5. CREW REQUIREMENTS

- 2.5.1. The Captain must have a minimum of five years of bottom trawl fishing experience as master of a comparable-sized vessel in ocean waters and at least 10 years total fishing experience. The captain must also have experience fishing for groundfish off the Oregon and Washington coast.
- 2.5.2. The captain shall be competent in the use of modern navigational and fish-detecting equipment.
- 2.5.3. The vessel crew will assist the scientific crew with repairs that may need to be made to the trawl, Flexigrid, and/or codend if damaged, attaching and removing the light meters and CTD to the trawl upon trawl deployment and retrieval, and sorting of fish catches.
- 2.5.4. The crew shall consist of a captain and at least two deckhands. In addition to the normal duties reserved for the deckhands, one or more of the deckhands or the captain will also accomplish the responsibilities of engineer and cook. If desired, the crew may include an additional deckhand capable of operating the vessel to provide additional flexibility for the crew and to ensure all crew members receive adequate rest.
- 2.5.5. The deckhand undertaking the responsibilities of engineer shall have a minimum of five years of experience.
- 2.5.6. Captain/crew members with previous research experience and/or knowledge of bycatch reduction devices are highly desired.
- 2.5.7. The captain must record logbook data on all tows conducted during the research project. At conclusion of the project a copy of the logbook data must be provided to the chief scientist.

2.6. SCIENTIFIC CREW

- 2.6.1. One scientist will be designated the Chief Scientist. This person will be responsible for implementing the cruise plan, compliance with charter terms, and disposition of

catches. The Chief Scientist 1) ensures that research is conducted according to established protocols, 2) follows good scientific practices to ensure data quality, 3) serves as the supervisor of the scientific staff, 4) ensures that the entire team adheres to safety regulations and rules of conduct, 5) has the necessary contact information for all scientific personnel, and 6) confirms all permits, emergency contact information, cruise plans, and protocols are read, understood and aboard prior to departure.

2.6.2. The scientific crew shall consist of two to three individuals and may include women.

2.6.3. The scientific crew will provide personal bedding, towels, life vests, and emersion suits.

2.7. PERMITS & PROCEDURES

2.7.1. PSMFC will provide all permits necessary for the research and selling of fish.

2.7.2. Marine Mammal Protocol: The Chief Scientist must confirm with the captain or the bridge that no marine mammal(s) have been seen in the vicinity (e.g., 0.3 miles) for 10 minutes prior to the deployment of any gear. In general, if there are marine mammal(s) in the vicinity, the vessel will remain on site for 10 minutes to see if they move off. If the marine mammal(s) do not move off or reappear during the second 10-minute watch, the site may be abandoned and the vessel will proceed to an alternate area. If a marine mammal is sighted after the trawl doors are deployed, the trawl operation will proceed through completion.

2.8. OPERATING PROCEDURES

2.8.1 Before departure and commencement of operations, the Chief Scientist will provide a joint orientation meeting with the captain, crew members, and scientific staff. This orientation will cover the objectives and methods for accomplishing the project goals.

2.8.2. Workday length and hours will be determined by the Chief Scientist in consultation with the captain. The length of working days will range from 12 to 16 hours. Work schedule decisions will be based on the type of activity expected (in-port preparations, transit, sampling, etc.), prevailing weather conditions, and the provisions of the cruise plan. The Chief Scientist has the final authority except in matters relating to safety of the vessel and crew. The work day of the vessel crew will likely exceed that of the scientific crew, since they will be required to be awake and conduct a wheel/anchor watch (as required by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Navigational Rules of the Road) at night while the vessel runs to the next station, drifts, lies at anchor, or runs to the first sampling station early in the morning. **Failure to maintain a wheel/anchor watch (as required by the United States Coast Guard [USCG] Navigational Rules of the Road) will result in a breach of contract and termination of charter work.**

2.8.3. The Chief Scientist and captain will work together to resolve all problems, which may occur regarding the project. In the event the Chief Scientist and captain are unable to resolve a problem which has the potential for invalidating the project or threatens the safety or welfare of the scientific crew, the Chief Scientist will direct the vessel to return to port where an acceptable solution will be arranged between the PSMFC and the Contractor or the research cruise will be terminated. In such situations, the vessel will go off charter if required to return to port and will remain off charter until the problem has been resolved and the vessel has returned to the project area. Note: Grounds for such actions include specifically the requirement that scientific crew not be harassed, assaulted, opposed, impeded, intimidated, threatened, interfered with, or subject to unwelcome advances.

2.8.4. The contractor shall provide three nutritionally balanced meals each sampling day. Meal times will be coordinated between the captain and the Chief Scientist to accommodate both the need to complete sampling and the time required by the cook to prepare meals. The vessel will provide meals for the scientific crew during all sampling days.

2.9. CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

2.9.1. The Contractor will be responsible for all vessel-related gear needs (other than that supplied by PSMFC), including supplies normally needed for routine maintenance, and for any vessel-related gear lost or damaged during the charter.

2.9.2. Contractor shall be responsible for the sale of all fish. Contractor should consult with Chief Scientist on locating a suitable buyer(s) for the fish. PSMFC personnel may assist in locating potential buyer(s) in certain ports in the case the buyer(s) selected by the Contractor are unable to accept the catch.

2.9.3. The captain and crew shall exercise due caution and follow safety procedures as directed by the Chief Scientist to help prevent damage or loss of scientific gear and equipment. The Chief Scientist may present specific safety procedures in writing to the captain. If loss of or damage to scientific equipment is the result of negligent disregard of such instructions and procedures, repair or replacement costs may be deducted from charter payments.

2.10. COVID-19 & VESSEL SAFETY PROTOCOL

2.10.1. COVID-19: The scientific staff and vessel crew must quarantine at home for 10 days prior to vessel mobilization. During this quarantine period, the scientific staff and vessel crew should only leave isolation, if absolutely necessary, for essential tasks such as food, hygiene items, medications, and work. During this quarantine period, if any scientific staff or vessel crew are found performing non-essential tasks that are deemed unsafe from a COVID-19 safety standpoint they will be prohibited from project participation. On approximately day 7 of the 10 day quarantine, the scientific staff and vessel crew will take a COVID-19 PCR diagnostic lab test. Prior

to the vessel departing from port to begin the first charter sample day, the scientific staff and vessel crew will take a COVID-19 rapid antigen test. PSMFC will cover the costs of all COVID-19 tests. Any scientific staff or vessel crew with a positive or inconclusive test result from either COVID-19 test will be prohibited from project participation. Any scientific staff or vessel crew that have been fully vaccinated (vaccine documentation required) are not required to quarantine prior to vessel mobilization, but will still be required to take the COVID-19 PCR diagnostic lab and rapid antigen tests described in this section (2.10.1.). A vessel where all its crew members have been fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine is highly preferred.

- 2.10.2. The vessel captain is responsible for all matters related to the safety of all crew, the vessel, and equipment operation. The captain will adhere always to Navigational Rules of the Road whether sampling, running, drifting, or at anchor. The captain shall review safety procedures and equipment with the scientific crew at the beginning of each cruise leg. At all times while at sea, the captain shall post a wheel/anchor watch (as required by the USCG Navigational Rules of the Road). The captain shall post a wheel/anchor watch at night while the vessel runs to the next station, drifts, lies at anchor, or runs to the first station early in the morning to ensure that the vessel and all crew are secure. **Failure to maintain a wheel/anchor watch (as required by the United States Coast Guard [USCG] Navigational Rules of the Road) will result in a breach of contract and termination of charter work.**
- 2.10.3. The Contractor shall provide USCG approved survival suits for all vessel crew members. The scientific crew members will provide their own suits. Adequate dry storage for all survival suits shall be provided.
- 2.10.4. The Contractor shall provide USCG approved life jackets for all vessel crew members. The scientific crew members will provide their own life vests.
- 2.10.5. The vessel must be equipped with a USCG approved self-inflating covered life raft with capacity sufficient to accommodate all vessel crew and scientific crew members.
- 2.10.6. A Category I EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon) must be affixed to the exterior of the vessel in a manner approved by the USCG.
- 2.10.7. Before leaving the dock to commence sampling operations or when any crew change occurs, the Contractor will conduct a safety drill detailing locations of all safety equipment, description of vessel station bill, and instructions on operating appropriate safety and communications equipment. Station bills must be posted in prominent places.
- 2.10.8. No Sex, alcohol, or drugs – This rule will be stated as part of the Chief Scientist’s orientation before the common.

2.11. UNITED STATES COAST GUARD SAFETY DECAL

2.11.1. The vessel must have a valid USCG Safety Decal. The decal must remain valid during the entire contract period and all requirements of the decal must remain valid for the entire contract period. This includes EPIRB batteries and life raft repacking. For example, if a vessel has a valid sticker, but the EPIRB battery is expired the vessel will need to have the battery replaced before the project can begin. In such situations, the vessel will go off charter and will remain off charter until the problem has been resolved.

2.12. POST-AWARD AND POST-PROJECT MEETINGS

2.12.1. Upon award of contract and prior to the start of the charter, a post-award meeting or conference call will be held to discuss issues relating to the charter and project. All vessel personnel participating in the charter work are encouraged to participate in the meeting. PSMFC, upon award of the contract, will schedule the date and time for the meeting.

2.12.2. After completion of the project, a post-project debriefing will be held at an agreed upon location. The purpose of the debriefing is to provide the Contractor an evaluation of the performance of the vessel and crew during the charter and for the crew to voice any suggestions or concerns they may have. All vessel personnel participating in the charter work are required to attend the meeting. PSMFC, upon completion of the project will schedule the date and time for the meeting.

2.13. EXECUTION OF CONTRACT

2.13.1. The Contractor hereby agrees to execute the project design as described, or a modification of said plan or design based upon agreement between the Contractor and PSMFC.

Section 3: INSTRUCTIONS, CONDITIONS, AND NOTICES TO OFFEROR'S

3.1. DEFINITIONS

As used in this provision –

3.1.1. “Contractor” is defined as the owner of a vessel selected to take part of the project

3.1.2. “Captain” is defined as the master or primary vessel operator who will have final say on all matters on the behalf of the vessel crew.

3.1.3. “Chief Scientist” is defined as the member of the scientific team who oversees the research operations on board the vessel.

3.1.4. “Sample day” is defined as a day when the vessel completes one or more tows.

3.1.5. “Mobilization day” is defined as a day preceding scientific operations required for loading or installing of scientific equipment, trawl, etc.

- 3.1.6. “Demobilization day” is defined as a day succeeding scientific operations required for unloading or removal of scientific equipment, trawl, etc.
- 3.1.7. “Project Design” is defined as the statistical and procedural methodologies employed to determine the sampling gear, sampling stations, deck protocols, and data analyses.
- 3.1.8. “Cruise Plan” is defined as the logistical methodologies employed to implement the project design.
- 3.1.9. “Fish Offloading Day” is defined as a day or time when the vessel is offloading fish caught during the research project. A fish offloading day does **NOT** count as a sample day.

3.2. QUESTIONS

- 3.2.1. Questions shall be submitted in writing no later than 13 May 2021 to:

Mark Lomeli, Pacific State Marine Fisheries Commission

2032 SE OSE Drive

Newport, OR 97365

Phone: (541) 867-0544 / Email: mlomeli@psmfc.org

3.3. AMENDMENTS TO SOLICITATIONS

- 3.3.1. If this solicitation is amended, all terms and conditions that are not amended remain unchanged. Offeror’s shall acknowledge receipt of any amendment to this solicitation on offeror’s proposal.

3.4. SUBMISSION, MODIFICATION, REVISION, AND WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSALS

- 3.4.1. Deadline for proposals is 20 May 2021.

- 3.4.2. Proposals must be submitted to:

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

Attn: Michael Arredondo

205 SE Spokane St., Suite 100

Portland, OR 97202

Email: marredondo@psmfc.org

Phone: (503) 595-3100 / Fax: (503) 595-3444

3.4.3. Proposals and modifications to proposals must be submitted in paper media, facsimile, or email.

3.4.4. Proposals must include the completed forms found in Sections 4 and 5 of this RFP.

3.4.5. In addition to requested information (Section 4 and 5), the proposal must show:

The name of the solicitation;

The name, address, and telephone and facsimile numbers of the offeror (and email address if available);

Name, title, and signature of person authorized to sign the proposal. Proposals signed by the agent shall be accompanied by evidence of that agent's authority, unless that evidence has been previously furnished to the issuing office;

3.4.6. The PSMFC reserves the right to consult with and to consider information from its own sources, including information from state and federal agencies regarding the offeror's prior performance or the status of outstanding investigations or warrants involving the offeror.

3.4.7. Offeror's are responsible for submitting proposals, and any modification or revisions, to reach PSMFC by 4:00 p.m., local time, on 20 May 2021.

3.4.8. Late proposals

3.4.8.1. Any proposal, modification, or revision received at the PSMFC office designated in the solicitation after the exact time specified for receipt to offers is "late" and will not be considered unless it is received before award is made, the Program Manager determines that accepting the late offer would not unduly delay the acquisition; and

3.4.8.2. There is acceptable evidence to establish that it was received at the PSMFC installation designation for receipt of offers and was under the PSMFC's control prior to the time set for receipt to offers; or

3.4.8.3. It is the only proposal received.

3.4.8.4. However, a late modification of an otherwise successful proposal that makes its terms more favorable to the PSMFC will be considered at any time it is received and may be accepted.

3.4.8.5. Acceptable evidence to establish time of receipt at the PSMFC installation

includes the time/date stamp of that installation on the proposal wrapper, other documentary evidence of receipt maintained by the installation, or oral testimony or statements of PSMFC personnel.

- 3.4.8.6. If an emergency or unanticipated event interrupts normal PSMFC processes so that proposals cannot be received at the office designated for receipt of proposals by the exact time specified in the solicitation, and urgent PSMFC requirements preclude amendment of the solicitation, the time specified for receipt of proposals will be deemed to be extended to the same time of day specified in the solicitation on the first work day on which normal PSMFC processes resume.
- 3.4.8.7. Proposals may be withdrawn by written notice received at any time before award. Proposals may be withdrawn via facsimile received at any time before the award, subject to the conditions specified in the provisions in Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 52.215-5, Facsimile Proposals. Proposals may be withdrawn in person by an offeror or an authorized representative, if the identity of the person requesting withdrawal is established and the person signs a receipt for the proposal before award.
- 3.4.8.8. Offeror's shall submit proposals in response to this solicitation in English and in U.S. dollars.
- 3.4.8.9. Offeror's may submit modifications to their proposals at any time before the solicitation closing date and time, and may submit modifications in response to an amendment, or to correct a mistake at any time before award.
- 3.4.8.10. Offeror's may submit revised proposals only if requested or allowed by the Program Manager.

3.5. OFFER EXPIRATION DATE

- 3.5.1. Proposals in response to this solicitation will be valid for 30 days following the time specified for solicitation of offers (unless a different period is proposed by the offeror).

3.6. RESTRICTIONS ON DISCLOSURE AND USE OF INFORMATION

- 3.6.1. Offeror's that include in their proposals data that they do not want disclosed to the public for any purposes, or used by the PSMFC except for evaluation purposes, shall: mark the title page with the following legend: "This proposal includes data that shall not be disclosed outside the PSMFC and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed—in whole or in part—for any purpose other than to evaluate this proposal. If, however, a contract is awarded to this offeror because of – or in connection with – the submission of this data, the PSMFC shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the resulting contract. This restriction does not limit the PSMFC's right to use information contained in this data if it is obtained

from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in sheets [insert numbers or other identification of sheets]”; and mark each sheet of data it wishes to restrict with the following legend: “Use of disclosure of data contained on this sheet is subject to the restriction on the title page of this proposal”.

3.7. CONTRACT AWARD

- 3.7.1. The PSMFC intends to award a contract or contracts resulting from this solicitation to the responsible offeror(s) whose proposal(s) represent the best value after evaluating in accordance with the factors and subfactors in the solicitation.
- 3.7.2. The PSMFC may reject any or all the proposals if such action is in the PSMFC’s interest.
- 3.7.3. The PSMFC may waive informalities and minor irregularities in proposals received.
- 3.7.4. The PSMFC intends to evaluate proposals and award a contract without discussions with offeror’s (except clarifications as described in FAR 15.306(a)). Therefore, the offeror’s initial proposal should contain the offeror’s best terms from a cost or price and technical standpoint. The PSMFC reserves the right to conduct discussions if the Program Manager later determines them to be necessary. If the Program Manager determines that the number of proposals that would otherwise be in the competitive range exceeds the number at which an efficient competition can be conducted, the Program Manager may limit the number of proposals in the competitive range to the greatest number that will permit an efficient competition among the most highly rated proposals.
- 3.7.5. The PSMFC reserves the right to make an award on any item for a quantity less than a quantity offered, at the unit cost or price offered, unless the offer specifies otherwise in the proposal.
- 3.7.6. The PSMFC reserves the right to make multiple awards if, after considering the additional administrative cost, it is in the PSMFC’s best interest to do so.
- 3.7.7. Exchanges with offeror’s after receipt of a proposal do not constitute a rejection or counteroffer by the PSMFC.
- 3.7.8. The PSMFC may determine that a proposal is unacceptable if the prices proposed are materially unbalanced between line items or subline items. Unbalanced prices exists when, despite an acceptable total evaluated price, the price of one or more contract line items is significantly overstated or understated as indicated by the application of cost or price analysis techniques. A proposal may be rejected if the Program Manager determines that the lack of balances poses an unacceptable risk to the PSMFC.

3.7.9. If a cost realism analysis is performed, cost realism may be considered by the source selection authority in evaluating performance or schedule risk.

3.7.10. A written award or acceptance of proposal mailed or otherwise furnished to the successful offeror within the time specified in the proposal shall result in a binding contract without further action by either party.

3.7.11. The PSMFC may disclose the following information in post award debriefings to other offeror's:

3.7.11.1. The overall evaluated cost of price and technical rating of the successful offeror;

3.7.11.2. The overall ranking of all offeror's, when any ranking was developed by the agency during source selection; and

3.7.11.3. A summary of the rationale for award.

3.8. PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

3.8.1. The following criteria and evaluation weighting will be used for evaluating both solicited and unsolicited proposals.

- Charter rate and availability (30 Points)

- Vessel characteristics (25 Points)
 - Vessel size, horsepower, number of net reels, etc.
 - Wheelhouse electronics, space and layout
 - Available deck space and lighting
 - Communication equipment
 - Number of available berths

- Captain/crew members fishing experience, particularly for West Coast groundfish (15 Points)

- Captain/crew members experience with excluders and/or fisheries research work (15 Points)

- Other desirable characteristics (15 Points)
 - Safety equipment
 - Crewmember with formal survival and firefighting training
 - Crewmember with certified first aid and EMT

3.9. PROPOSAL SELECTION PROCEDURE

3.9.1. All proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the above evaluation criteria. There will likely be two to three reviewers for each proposal depending on the number of proposals received. Each reviewer will independently score each proposal. The reviewers will then meet and discuss the scoring criterion for each proposal as a group. The proposal that scores highest on the evaluation criteria section (3.8.1.) and that best suites the project requirements will be awarded the contract.

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Section 4: SUPPLIES OR SERVICES AND PRICE/COSTS

Provide vessel, captain, crew, fuel, ice, and fishing gear necessary to conduct the work described in sections 2-3 of the RFP titled “Testing a Flexigrid System to Reduce Bycatch of Juvenile Sablefish in the West Coast Groundfish Bottom Trawl Fishery”. PSMFC will reimburse the contractor for all fuel, ice, and any moorage fees accrued during this project (receipts must be provided for reimbursement). The timeline to completed this work is between 15 August and 30 October 2021.

	Quantity of Full Charter Days	Daily Charter Rate	Vessel Bid Amount
Sampling Days	10	\$_____	\$_____
Mobilization Day	1	\$2,000 *	\$ 2,000
Demobilization Day	1	\$2,000 *	\$ 2,000
Total			\$_____
Additional charter days beyond 10 days (if elected, and if funding supports)		\$_____	
Name of Vessel:_____			
Authorized signature:_____			
Printed Name:_____			

* = amount paid to the contractor by PSMFC for Mobilization and Demobilization days.

Section 5: ATTACHMENTS

5.1. BID PROPOSAL WORKSHEET: VESSEL CHARACTERISTICS

1. GENERAL VESSEL CHARACTERISTICS

Owner Name _____

Registration
No. _____

Vessel Name _____

Phone
(____) _____

Address _____

Primary Port of Vessel _____

Hull Type _____

Registered Vessel Length (LOA) _____

Vessel Back Deck Width _____

Equipped for bottom trawling up to depths of _____ fathoms.

Main Engines:

Number _____ Mfg. _____ Model _____ Total HP _____

Vessel License Information

Does your vessel have a 2021 Oregon Commercial Fishing Boat License? Yes / No

Fishing Net Reel(s) Specifics

What is the number and location of available fishing net reel(s)?

Number _____, Location on deck _____

Which net reel do you typically use when bottom fishing? _____

Wheelhouse Electronics, Space, and Layout

Is there available electrical power supply (110 V.A.C.) in the wheelhouse? Yes / No

Is there available space within the vessel for the scientific crew to store and use their laptop computers, and re-charge the back deck fish sampling equipment? Yes / No

Please note any other available wheelhouse electronics other than communication and navigational electronic equipment.

Available Deck Space and lighting

Appropriate clear deck area available for working catches _____ square feet.

Comments: _____.

Amount of dry deck storage available for storing of scientific supplies and equipment _____(ft³).

Is lighting available from several angles on the deck? Yes / No

Comments: _____

Communication and Navigational Electronic Equipment

Does your vessel have Satellite Telephone available: Yes / No

Please note any available communication and navigational electronic equipment.

5.3. CAPTAIN/CREW MEMBERS BYCATCH REDUCTION DEVICES (BRDs) AND FISHERIES RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

NAME _____

List below any experience you have using excluders, and/or conducting fisheries research.

5.4. SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING

Life Raft Capacity _____

EPIRB: No. _____ Class _____

EPIRB Battery Expiration _____

USCG Certification of Inspection Expiration Date _____

Have all crew members had formal survival and firefighting training? Yes / No

Comments: _____

Have all crew members had a certified first aid and Emergency Medical Training (EMT) course?

Yes / No

Comments: _____

Have all crew members been fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine? Yes / No

Comments: _____

5.5. VESSEL AVAILABILITY

The desired timeline to completed this work is between 15 August and 30 October 2021. Do you have any engagements during the above timeline to complete that would potentially conflict with conducting this research (i.e. other charter work commitments, commercial fishing activities, boat yard work, vacations, etc.)?

5.6. IDEMNITY AND INSURANCE

IDEMNIFICATION

Contractor agrees to indemnify PSMFC, its officers, agents, and employees, boards and commissions, against all loss, damage, expense and liability resulting from injury to or death of person, including, but not limited to, employees of PSMFC or Contractor, or injury to property, including, but not limited to, property of PSMFC, Contractor, and third parties, arising out of or in any way connected with the performance of this contract, however caused, regardless of any negligence of PSMFC, whether active or passive, excepting only such injury or death or property damage as may be caused by the sole negligence or willful misconduct of PSMFC.

_____ Yes _____ No

INSURANCE COVERAGE

1) Minimum Coverage. Please indicate if able to present evidence to show, as a minimum, the amounts of insurance coverage indicated below:

a. Protection and Indemnity in the amount of \$1,000,000

_____ Yes
_____ No

b. Jones Act coverage for vessel crew in the amount of \$1,000,000

_____ Yes
_____ No

c. Vessel Hull and Machinery Coverage

_____ Yes
_____ No

SUBROGATION WAIVER PROVISION

Contractor agrees that in the event of loss due to any of the perils for which Contractor is required to provide or perils insured under the Maritime Employer’s Liability, and Vessel Liability or equivalent Policy coverage, Contractor shall look solely to its insurance for recovery. Contractor shall hereby grant PSMFC, its officers, agents, employees, boards, commissions, and cooperative agency participants on behalf of any insurer providing, Maritime Employer’s Liability, and Vessel Liability or equivalent Policy coverage to either Contractor or PSMFC with respects to the service of Contractor herein, a waiver of any right to subrogate which any such insurer of said Contractor may acquire against PSMFC its officers, agents, employees, boards, commissions by virtue of the payment of any loss under such insurances.

_____ Yes _____ No

- 1) Evidence of Insurance provision. Before the final execution of this contract, Contractor shall produce a standard Accord from Certificates of Insurance with Insurance Carriers acceptable to the PSMFC/NMFS, evidencing all required insurances. The Certificate shall also comply with the Subrogation Waiver Provision and forward actual endorsements from the contractor’s insurance carriers evidencing required coverage amendments.
- 2) Renewal/Cancellation. The respective Insurance Carriers and the Certificate of Insurance shall allow for a minimum of 30 days written notice of cancellation, non-renewal or reduction or required coverage’s before the expiration date thereof and the Certificate shall delete the word(s) “endeavor” and the last two lines of a standard Accord Certificate (“But failure to mail such notice shall impose no obligation or liability of any kind upon the company, its agents or representatives”). Renewal Certificates evidencing the same shall be received 10 days prior to the expiration of the coverage’s so evidenced. The Certified evidencing all requirements herein and any reduction of required coverage’s or cancellation shall be sent to **Rick Masters, PSMFC, 205 SE Spokane Street, Suite 100, Portland, OR 97202 Phone: (503) 595-3100 Fax: (503) 595-3232.**
- 3) Sufficiency of Insurance. The insurance limits or coverage’s required by PSMFC are not represented as being sufficient to fully protect the Contractor. Contractor is advised and responsible to determine his own adequate coverage sot limits.
- 4) Qualifications. Insurance companies shall be legally authorized to engage in the business of furnishing insurance in the State of the exposure.