



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Inventory of Restoration-Quality Sediment Needs Across the Gulf of Mexico **RFP #122435**

Deadline for proposal submission: **October 1, 2024, 5:00pm Central Time**

BACKGROUND

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) is a partnership of the five Gulf States, federal agencies, academic organizations, businesses, and other non-profits in the region. Our goal is to significantly increase regional collaboration to enhance the environmental and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico. For more information about the Gulf of Mexico Alliance visit <https://gulfofmexicoalliance.org/>.

GOMA's Habitat Resources Priority Issue Team works to improve habitat conservation and restoration for priority Gulf habitats including seagrasses, oyster reefs, salt marshes, mangroves, and benthic habitats. Actions are focused on priority habitat assessment, living shorelines, and regional sediment management. Funding is available to the Habitat Resources Team to implement a project that will estimate the quantity of restoration-quality sediment needed across the Gulf of Mexico region within the next 50 years.

There is growing consensus that sediment resources must be carefully managed to accomplish coastal habitat restoration and resilience goals now and into the future. Current project-centric approaches are not always consistent with the system-wide, long-term planning needed to ensure finite sediment resources are available for current efforts and the increased volume of sediment that will be needed to offset future sea level rise and land loss scenarios. A comprehensive estimate of sediment needs can be used to inform state and federal sediment inventory efforts, resulting in more efficient and effective coastal management.

Through this Request for Proposals (RFP), funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will be available to support an inventory of restoration-quality sediment needed for projects across the five U.S. Gulf states. This effort is needed to more efficiently and effectively manage coastal habitat resources as well as enhance data sharing across the region. Therefore, all terms and conditions of the resulting sub-contract will be subject to Federal regulations concerning the receipt and use of Federal funds.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Title: Inventory of Restoration-Quality Sediment Needs Across the Gulf of Mexico

Scope of Work: GOMA seeks proposals for a project that will develop first-order estimates of restoration quality sediment necessary to offset present and projected needs for key habitat maintenance and restoration in the five U.S. Gulf states (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas). The estimates should cover the near-term (next five years), short-term (five to 15 years), and long-term (within the next 50 years); they should also be delineated by sand (70- 100% sand), mixed sediment (30-70% sand), and fine sediments (<30% sand). The analysis should include a review of past and current efforts, project reports, and studies to identify the magnitude of sediment needs. Project proposals should be informed by relevant regional, state, and local planning efforts and leverage existing information including the GOMA Habitat Team's *Technical Framework for a Gulf Regional Sediment Management Master Plan* (<https://gulfofmexicoalliance.org/resources/publications/>).

The contractor is expected to coordinate closely with GOMA's Habitat Team throughout the duration of the project through quarterly status updates, task-related calls, and other meetings as required. In addition, the contractor should collaborate with partners and additional stakeholders to identify needs, available datasets, and data gaps/challenges.

Travel to a GOMA Conference: The contractor of the winning proposal will be required to attend at least one GOMA meeting. This will include travel to the 2025 Gulf of Mexico Alliance All Hands in Biloxi, MS for the dates of May 5-8, 2025. Proposals should consider these costs.

Deliverables:

(1) A final report that includes:

- i. Literature review that includes past and current efforts, project reports, and studies
- ii. First-order estimates of restoration-quality sediment necessary in each of the five Gulf states
- iii. Geographic delineation of the Gulf into appropriate regional compartments to summarize findings
- iv. Detailed description of data used in the analyses, methodology, and results
- v. Appendix cataloging all datasets used in the assessment that includes source information, point of contact, and links to publicly available web-hosted data layers

(2) One webinar to present project results to stakeholders

Proposals should provide for the delivery of a draft final technical report to the GOMA Project Management Team, review and return of comments by the project team, and revision by the contractor of the draft based on received comments before delivery of a final report to GOMA. All relevant project-derived material (data, metadata, reports, products, etc.) must be provided to GOMA at the completion of the project. Project leads are encouraged to consult with GOMA to determine appropriate data discovery, access, dissemination, data formatting, and archival measures. This may include connecting relevant geospatial data to GOMA's Gulf of Mexico Open Data Platform, the Northern Gulf of Mexico Sediment Availability and Allocation Program Tool, and/or other relevant tools or applications. More information about these tools is available on GOMA's website (<https://gulfofmexicoalliance.org/resources/tools/>).

Proposal Specifications, Content and Format:

(1) Title Page (GOMA fillable PDF form, contact Christina Mohrman at christina.mohrman@gomxa.org to request form)

(2) Proposal Description and Budget (GOMA fillable PDF form; 5 pages maximum, not including requested attachments)

GOMA’s Proposal Form requires that the narrative / description and budget be no longer than 5 pages and should contain the following elements:

Description:

- Technical Qualifications (see technical qualifications below), goals and objectives, methods or approach to achieve goals and objectives
- Work to be performed, hours, timeline, and project team
- Any identified or potential collaborating organizations

Budget:

- Proposal Cost Details: Salary, Fringe, Travel, Supplies, Equipment, Contractual, Federally Negotiated Indirect Rate or Federally-acceptable Profit Margin
- Justification should be provided for each applicable cost category
- A contract line-by-line may be included with the proposal

Technical Qualifications:

The Offeror, in its proposal, shall, as a minimum, include the following:

- Prior Experience with similar initiatives, provide examples
- Organization, Size and Structure
- Staff Qualification (only include resumes of staff to be assigned to the project team, position in the firm, years and types of experience, etc.)
- Understanding of Work to be Performed
- Certifications (if applicable)

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Proposals will be evaluated by members of the GOMA Headquarters staff and representatives from any of the Priority Issue Teams as deemed necessary. Proposed start date should be planned for December 1, 2024.

Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria (40 maximum points):

1. Proposal Merit (5 points) – Proposal describes the work to be performed, including procedures, estimated hours, timeline, and other pertinent information.
2. Experience (10 points) - Contractor has the experience in delivering similar projects.
3. Qualifications (10 points) – Contractor team is well qualified to perform the proposed work and demonstrates intent to be active on GOMA Team(s) throughout the term of the contract. Contract lead and other assigned staff are experienced and have proper expertise to perform the proposed work.
4. Proposal Specifications (5 points) – Proposal is limited to 5 pages and contains all information required by the RFP.
5. Budget (10 points) – Budget costs are detailed, reasonable and justifiable.

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance contemplates award of the contract to the responsible offeror with the highest total points. Note: The Gulf of Mexico Alliance reserves the right to re-advertise this RFP if an adequate number of responses is not received.

FEDERAL FUNDING INFORMATION

Federal Awarding Agency: Department of Commerce – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Subcontracting Entity: Execution of any contract agreement will be with GOMA.

Entities Eligible to Apply: This RFP is open to all types of domestic applicants other than individuals.

Agreement Type: Procurement Contract for Services

Budget: Not to exceed \$125,000.00

Performance Period: The base period of the contract shall be twelve (12) months, beginning on approximately December 1, 2024.

Number of Contracts Anticipated from this RFP: 1 (one)

Proposals for Renewal of Existing Projects Accepted: Yes

Proposals for Supplementation of Existing Projects Accepted: Yes

Proposals for New Contracts Accepted: Yes

Cost Sharing or Matching Required: No

Pre-Award Cost Authorization Allowed: No. All costs incurred in preparation of a proposal responding to this RFP will be the responsibility of the Offeror and will not be reimbursed by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance.

Foreign Travel Allowed: No

Proposal Deadline: October 1, 2024, 5pm U.S. Central Time

Question and Answer Period Regarding this RFP: Questions about this RFP will be received until September 17, 2024, 4pm U.S. Central Time. No questions regarding this RFP will be considered after this time period. Questions should be sent by email to Christina Mohrman, GOMA Program Manager, at christina.mohrman@gomxa.org. No questions by telephone will be considered. On September 19, applicants will receive a copy of questions and answers by email from Christina Mohrman at christina.mohrman@gomxa.org.

CANCELLATION OF SOLICITATION OR CONTRACT

GOMA reserves the right to rescind award of a contract at any time, before execution of the contract by both parties, if rescission is deemed to be in GOMA’s best interest. In no event shall GOMA have any liability for cancellation of this Solicitation or the rescission of award.

Proposals Received After the Proposal Deadline will not be Considered

Preferences: When the opportunity exists, GOMA reserves the right under applicable laws and regulations to apply preferences for Women-Owned Small Businesses, Small Disadvantaged Businesses and 8(a) Small

Businesses, Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZone) Small Businesses, and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB).

Limits on Number of Applications: An entity or Principal Investigator may only be associated with one proposal for this announcement. If more than one proposal is received for the same entity or Principal Investigator, only the first will be accepted. Any subsequent associated proposals will be discarded.

Submission Instructions:

Via Email: Proposals should be submitted in PDF format to:
Christina Mohrman, GOMA Program Manager
christina.mohrman@gomxa.org
with RFP-INVENTORY OF SEDIMENT NEEDS in the subject line

Proposals must contain an original or digital signature.

Notification of Award: It is expected that a decision selecting the successful contractor will be made within four (4) weeks of the closing date for the receipt of proposals. Upon conclusion of final negotiations with the successful contractor, all offerors submitting proposals in response to the RFP will be informed, in writing, of the name of the successful contractor.

It is expected the contract shall be a twelve-month fixed price contract.

Eligibility Criteria at time of Application:

1. Offeror entity must have a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number in SAM.GOV
2. Offeror entity and any Principal Investigator(s) must be not be debarred or suspended.
3. Offerors must have the institutional, managerial, and financial capability to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of the project.
4. Offerors must have established safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
5. Offerors must have the capacity to initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame.

Requirements of Successful Contractors

Laws and Policies: If selected, Contractor must agree to follow provisions of the U.S. Constitution; Federal, state, local, and tribal laws and regulations; terms and conditions of the award agreement, including any required flow-down provisions; and National Policy requirements, including but not limited to, those protecting free speech, religious liberty, public welfare, the environment, and prohibiting discrimination.

Reporting: If selected, Contractor must agree to financial and programmatic reporting on a regular basis as required by terms and conditions of the contract.

Failure to Meet Eligibility Criteria: Failure to meet eligibility criteria at the time of execution of the contract may be grounds for eliminating an applicant and making an award to another contractor.