

Responses to Questions

Request for Proposals: Inventory of Restoration-Quality Sediment Needs Across the Gulf of Mexico RFP #122435

1. It looks like this proposed work overlaps with the USACE South Atlantic Coastal Study (SACS) which covered a large portion of the NGOM (FL, AL, MS). Since 50-year needs have already been evaluated for these states, should the focus of this current effort be on LA and TX?

As stated in the RFP, the project should estimate the quantity of restoration-quality sediment needed across the Gulf of Mexico region and include all five U.S. Gulf states (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas).

The analysis should include a review of past and current efforts, project reports, and studies to identify the magnitude of sediment needs. This could include the USACE South Atlantic Coastal Study, if appropriate.

2. How did GOMA envision determining sediment needs for each state? When USACE did a similar exercise for the SACS, it required a large number of stakeholders representing state and federal agencies as well as academia and private industry (there were over 1400 stakeholders) and a number of meetings to coordinate with them to determine needs. This level of effort may not be possible under this budget.

GOMA does not have a specific vision for determining sediment needs for each state. As stated in the RFP, the contractor should collaborate with partners and additional stakeholders to identify needs, available datasets, and data gaps/challenges. The contractor should determine the specific methods or approaches to achieve the goals and objectives of the project within the timeline and proposed budget.

The contractor of the winning proposal will be required to attend at least one GOMA meeting, which may provide specific opportunities for partner and stakeholder engagement. GOMA's network includes over 1,100+ members from 165+ organizations across the five Gulf states.

3. We are hoping for some clarification on the degree to which this funding would support novel research to inform these projections [of sediment availability on decadal timescales]. Would this type of research fall within your funding scope?

The project should develop first-order estimates of restoration quality sediment necessary to offset present and projected needs for key habitat maintenance and restoration; the analysis should include a review of past and current efforts, project reports, and studies to identify the magnitude of sediment needs. The contractor should determine which specific methods or approaches are applicable to achieve the goals and objectives of the project.