



New England Fishery Management Council

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COUNCIL SOLICITING CONTRACT WORK

Discussion Document

Stocks in the Atlantic Herring Fishery

December 14, 2017

Project Description

The New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) requires the services of an independent contractor to update a discussion document to support the Council's deliberations regarding whether it may be necessary or appropriate to include river herring and shad (RH/S) as stocks in the Atlantic herring fishery. This is a short-term, temporary contractor role, commencing on or about February 1, 2018 and ending when the Council reviews the updated Discussion Document (tentatively April 2018). It is anticipated that the contractor will research and update the discussion document and then work with Council staff to present the document to the Herring Plan Development Team (PDT) and Council.

Project Background

In January 2015 the Council reviewed a discussion document that reviewed the management and legal considerations about adding River herring and Shad as stocks in the Atlantic Herring Fishery. At that time the Council decided to update the document in three years and revisit the issue. This document will serve as a primary source of information considered when the Council discusses the potential management of RH/S under the Atlantic herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Since 2015 there is new research, data collected, management guidance, and legal considerations that should be reviewed and summarized. The overall goal of this update is to summarize all available information to support important deliberations of the Council related to the potential management of river herring and shad.

The Discussion Document should at a minimum contain updated information including:

- Updated Magnuson Stevens Act National Standard guidance related to stocks that require conservation and management;
- Summaries and status of relevant lawsuits;
- Results from recent stock assessments prepared by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), and other indicators of resource health;
- Review of updated research and data collected on RH/S biology and life history;
- Description of RH/S directed and incidental fisheries;
- Description of RH/S management (state and federal);
- Summary of other sources of mortality and risks, as well as efforts to improve habitat and recovery (e.g. dam removal);
- Recent management actions by the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASFMC);

- Summarize possible management approaches.

The successful candidate will present a draft of the Discussion Document to the Herring PDT for review and input. Subsequent to that meeting the contractor will work with staff to finalize the document for Council consideration, potentially at the April 2018 Council meeting. Following the meeting there will likely be time needed to finalize the discussion document.

Additional information on the Discussion Document considered in January 2015 that needs to be updated can be found at <https://www.nefmc.org/library/herring-january-2015>.

Statement of Work

The primary role of this position is to update the January 2015 Discussion Document that reviewed and summarized the management and legal considerations about adding River Herring and Shad as Stocks in the Atlantic Herring Fishery. Under the overall direction of the NEFMC Herring Plan Coordinator the contractor will research information to summarize in the Discussion Document, be the primary author of the Discussion Document, and present the Discussion Document to several different audiences. The contractor will be expected to operate independently, with little administrative support. A key part of the contractor's assignment will be to take full responsibility of the Discussion Document including researching updated information and writing clear summaries of relevant information to support Council deliberations on this topic. The successful candidate will also present this document to the Herring PDT as well as the New England Fishery Management Council.

Necessary office space and equipment will be provided by the contractor; approved travel expenses will be reimbursed by the Council.

Desired Experience and Demonstrated Skills

1. Familiarity with the U.S. federal fisheries management system, including an understanding of the key relevant statutes (e.g. Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Administrative Procedures Act, Endangered Species Act, etc.) and regulatory guidance. Familiarity with federal fisheries management in New England is preferred but not required.
2. General understanding of fishery management programs at the state and national levels.
3. Experience interacting with fisheries managers, scientists, and stakeholders.
4. Familiarity with the use of scientific information in the fishery management process.
5. Ability to research and compile fisheries management policies and scientific research with minimal supervision.
6. Strong writing and speaking skills. Demonstrated ability to summarize complex policies and procedures in clear, easily read documents, or through concise verbal discussions.
7. Advance degree in a fisheries policy or technical field preferred.
8. Demonstrated ability to summarize conflicting information in an objective manner.
9. Candidates employed by advocacy organizations or by organizations that are parties in fishery lawsuits related to this issue will not be considered.
10. The successful candidate will not have a conflict of interest, defined as any financial or non-financial interest which conflicts with the actions or judgments of an individual because it:

- a. Could impair the individual's objectivity;
- b. Could create an unfair competitive advantage for any person or organization;
- c. Could create the appearance of either item listed above.

Expected Responsibilities and Deliverables

The following list illustrates the activities expected from the Contractor. This list is not all-inclusive and a detailed list of deliverables will be negotiated.

1. Under the supervision of Council staff, primary author of Discussion Document.
 - a. Identify and compile relevant statutes, regulations, and policy guidelines about management of River herring and Shad in both state and federal waters.
 - b. Summarize all relevant legal actions regarding River herring and Shad.
 - c. Summarize the status of River herring and Shad stocks including updated research about biology and life history.
 - d. Summarize all fishery data (direct and incidental) as well as other sources of mortality.
 - e. Evaluate River herring and Shad with respect to the guidance for stocks that require conservation and management as specified in 50 CFR 600.305(c).
 - f. Summarize potential management approaches for the Council to consider.
2. Present Discussion Document
 - a. Review draft with Herring PDT and incorporate input during early March 2018.
 - b. Present to full Council in April 2018 and incorporate input.
 - c. Finalize Discussion Document during May 2018.

Application Submission Contact

Interested professionals are encouraged to submit a letter of interest, current resume or CV, examples of similar work completed for other organizations or publications, and budget with expected expenses. In addition, applicants should describe the approach that would be used to meet the requirements of this project, including deliverables. Travel expenses need not be included as approved travel will be reimbursed by the Council. Letters of interest and supporting materials should be received **no later than January 15, 2018**, and addressed to Thomas Nies, NEFMC, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950, or by e-mail tnies@nefmc.org. Questions concerning this proposal should be directed to the same address.

This work will be funded under New England Fishery Management Council Award #NA10NMF4410007. Compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (P.L.401-208 as amended) and the Council's standard contract terms and conditions will be expected.

NEFMC takes affirmative action toward to ensuring equal opportunities; the Council encourages women-owned businesses, protected veterans, and individuals with disabilities to submit letters of interest and other requested materials for consideration under this announcement.

Disclaimer

1. All costs associated with the preparation and presentation of the proposal will be borne by consultants submitting letters of interest.
2. Materials submitted will not be returned.

3. Respondents must disclose any relevant conflicts of interest, and will be expected to comply with all federal grant contracting requirements.
4. The Council reserves the right to accept or reject any or all letters of interest received; negotiate with all qualified potential candidates; cancel or modify the RFP in part or in its entirety; and/or change the application guidelines, when it is in its best interests.