



## New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEW BURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116  
John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

### **COUNCIL SOLICITING CONTRACT WORK** **Preparation of Discussion Document** **Re: Offshore Spawning of Atlantic Herring** **March 27, 2019**

#### **Project Description**

The New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) requires the services of an independent contractor to prepare a Discussion Document that summarizes all scientific research and other relevant information about offshore spawning of Atlantic herring, *Clupea harengus*. The document should include a summary of all relevant information available about offshore spawning locations, seasons, patterns, and trends, including identification of any potential impacts on offshore spawning of Atlantic herring. The Council intends to use this Discussion Document to support future deliberations about potential management measures that may be considered to minimize impacts on spawning of Atlantic herring on Georges Bank and Nantucket Shoals. This is a short-term, temporary contractor role, commencing on or about May 1, 2019 and ending when the Council reviews the Discussion Document (tentatively September 2019). It is anticipated that the contractor will research and prepare the Discussion Document and then work with Council staff to present the document to the Herring Plan Development Team (PDT) and Council. The information also will be shared with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC).

#### **Project Background**

The Council is working on a number of herring work priorities in 2019, including preparation of a Discussion Document that reviews and summarizes all scientific research and other relevant information available on spawning of offshore Atlantic herring. This Discussion Document will be the first step to summarize all relevant scientific information available. It will be presented to the Herring PDT and Herring Oversight Committee of the Council. The full Council then will decide the appropriate next steps for this topic.

The Discussion Document, at a minimum, should contain the following updated information:

- Results from recent stock assessments prepared by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) and other indicators of spawning trends and activity;
- Review of historical and current research collected on spawning of Atlantic herring;
- Description of potential impacts of fishing on spawning of Atlantic herring, which may include a summary of data from observers and other sources (i.e. portside sampling);
- Review of measures in place in other fisheries for spawning protections of herring;
- Summary of other sources of mortality and risks for successful spawning of Atlantic herring; and
- Recent management actions by the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils and ASMFC that may have impacts on spawning of Georges Bank Atlantic herring.

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, which likely will include a presentation to the Herring Oversight Committee in September 2019. Following the meeting, some additional time likely will be needed to finalize the discussion document.

### **Statement of Work**

The primary role of this contract is to prepare a Discussion Document that summarizes all scientific research and other relevant information available about offshore spawning of Atlantic herring, *Clupea harengus*. 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 present this document to the Herring PDT, as well as the Herring Oversight Committee of 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. General understanding of fishery management programs at the state, interstate, and national levels.
2. Familiarity with the use of scientific information in the fishery management process.
3. Awareness of relevant scientific journals and other potential sources of information. Ability to research and compile fisheries management policies and scientific research with minimal supervision.
4. Experience interacting with fisheries managers, scientists, and stakeholders.
5. Strong writing and speaking skills. Demonstrated ability to summarize complex policies and procedures, as well as scientific research, in clear, easily read documents or through concise verbal discussions.
6. Advance degree in a fisheries policy or technical field preferred.
7. Ability to develop fishery maps with minimal supervision (i.e. recreate historical maps of known offshore Atlantic herring spawning locations).
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 that conflicts with the actions or judgments of an individual because it could:

- a. Impair the individual's objectivity;
- b. Create an unfair competitive advantage for any person or organization; or
- c. 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. A detailed list of deliverables will be negotiated.

1. Serve as primary author of Discussion Document under supervision of Council staff.
  - a. Summarize the status of Atlantic herring, including historical and updated research about spawning activity.
  - b. To the extent information is available, provide maps showing historical and current spawning locations and herring egg beds.
  - c. Summarize all fishery data (direct and incidental) that could have relevant information about the location, season, condition, or trends in Atlantic herring spawning activity (i.e. at-sea observations of spawning activity, portside sampling of herring landings, mapping of historical and current data on spawning of Atlantic herring, etc.).
2. Present Discussion Document
  - a. Review draft with Herring PDT and incorporate input during summer 2019.
  - b. Present to Herring Oversight Committee, likely in September 2019.
  - c. Finalize Discussion Document during October 2019.

### **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 April 22, 2019** and addressed to Thomas Nies, NEFMC, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950 or submitted by e-mail to [tnies@nefmc.org](mailto: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 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.