

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
COMPETITIVE SEALED  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**Amendment No. 1**

**Request for Proposals (RFP) for Benthic Habitat Mapping Services-Oyster Phase I**

This Amendment No. 1 (Amendment) hereby amends or modifies the Request for Proposals for Benthic Habitat Mapping Services – Oyster Phase I released on April 14, 2021 by making the following changes (changes that include additions are denoted by being bolded and underlined, and deletions are denoted by being bolded and stricken through):

**Section XIV. Proposal Acceptance Period**

The original proposal and all attachments shall be signed and submitted in a sealed envelope or package to:

**RFP for Habitat Mapping Services-~~Western Mississippi Sound~~ Oysters Phase I  
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality  
Attn: Melanie Green  
515 East Amite Street  
Jackson, Mississippi 39201**

no later than 3:00 p.m. CST on May 14, 2021. Optionally, proposals may be submitted electronically. Electronic submissions must be made through MAGIC (MAGIC RFX# 3120002201), no later than the time and date specified for receipt of bids. If submitting proposals electronically, all identifying information, including files uploaded in accordance with Paragraphs V(C)-(K), must be labeled as “Identification Materials” and separated from the non-identification materials submitted. Timely submission of a proposal is the responsibility of the offeror. Proposals received after the specified time shall be rejected.

The only acceptable evidence to establish the time of receipt at the MDEQ office identified for proposal opening is the time and date stamp of that office on the proposal wrapper or other documentary evidence of receipt used by that office.

**Response to Inquiries No. 1 is attached to this Amendment No. 1 as Exhibit A and is hereby incorporated in the RFP through this Amendment No.1.**

**Pre-submittal Conference Transcript is attached to this Amendment No. 1 as Exhibit B and is hereby incorporated in the RFP through this Amendment No. 1.**

In accordance with Section V(J) of the RFP, offeror must acknowledge receipt of any Amendment issued in relation to this RFP by signing and returning the Amendment with its proposal. Such acknowledgement must be received by MDEQ by the time and at the place specified for receipt of offers. Any documentation submitted under this Section is not included in the thirty (30) page limit of the proposal.

By signing this Amendment No. 1, offeror acknowledges receipt of this Amendment No. 1, including its attachments, and that the provisions of said Amendment No. 1, including its attachments, have been noted and that its proposal is being offered in compliance therewith.

Offeror's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

By (Print Name): \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## EXHIBIT A

### MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMPETITIVE SEALED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

#### Response to Inquiries No. 1 Request for Proposals (RFP) for Benthic Habitat Mapping Services – Oysters Phase I

This document serves as the Question and Answer document from the Pre-submittal Conference that occurred on April 29, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. CST, and the Register of all questions received by May 6, 2020 and corresponding answers in accordance with Sections 3-202.07 and 3-203.08 of the Public Procurement Review Board's Office of Personal Contract Review Rules and Regulations ("Regulations"). Although this Attachment is included as part of Amendment No. 1 and is treated as an amendment in accordance with Sections 2-202.08.1 and 2-203.09 of the Regulations, it is intended to provide clarifications to the requirements of the RFP only, and in no way amends the RFP's requirements. In the event of any conflict between the RFP and this Response to Inquiries No. 1, the RFP, as amended by any applicable amendments, shall govern. All defined terms in this Response to Inquiries No. 1 not herein defined shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the RFP.

Q1: Since this is a multi-year contract, can the offeror include an annual escalation in the fee schedule?

**A1: The offeror may include an annual escalation so long as the corresponding amount is included in the price provided. If the amount associated with an escalation is not included in the budget, no escalation will be allowed during the contract period of performance.**

Q2: What firm was selected to provide the Benthic Habitat Mapping Services for the Western Mississippi Sound?

**A2: This question is outside of the scope of this RFP.**

Q3: Has other Benthic Habitat Mapping Services been awarded? If yes, what firm was selected?

**A3: These questions are outside of the scope of this RFP.**

Q4: Has the work begun for the Pascagoula Oyster Reef Complex?

**A4: This question is outside of the scope of this RFP.**

Q5: NOAA charts show soundings to be 4-5' in project area. Is this accurate?

**A5: This is accurate for most of the project area; however, the area near the channel is approximately 6-8'.**

Q6: What is the expected grid resolution for data?

**A6: MDEQ is not requiring specific thresholds for resolution or vertical and horizontal accuracy/precision. A submitted plan for project management (Section V(A) of the RFP)/management plan should include the proposed methodologies and techniques and outline the anticipated spatial resolution and horizontal and vertical accuracy.**

Q7: What are the rules on processing side for interpolation for raw data?

**A7: This is at the discretion of the offeror.**

Q8: Please confirm if Word format is acceptable for submitting resumes, project experience, etc. and are not required to be submitted in a SF330 format?

**A8: No specific format is required.**

## EXHIBIT B

### MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMPETITIVE SEALED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

#### Pre-submittal Conference Transcript RFP for Benthic Habitat Mapping Services-Oysters Phase I

This document serves as the written recordation of the orally/visually recorded Pre-submittal Conference that occurred on April 29, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. CST (“transcript”). This transcript is being provided in accordance with Sections 3-202.07 and 3-203.08 of the Public Procurement Review Board’s Office of Personal Contract Review Rules and Regulations (“Regulations”), which states that “[o]nce the conference is over, the Chief Procurement Officer shall put the recordings from the conference and the Question and Answer document from the conference in writing and send them as an Amendment to all known prospective bidders who received the [RFP] and post them on the Mississippi Contract/Procurement Opportunity Search Portal website and the soliciting agency's website.”

**PLEASE NOTE:** Although this transcript is being included as an amendment in accordance with Sections 3-202.07, 3-203.08, 2-202.08.1, and 2-203.09 of the Regulations, **this Exhibit B is NOT amending the RFP.** The audio recording of this pre-submittal conference is available at <http://www.mdeq.ms.gov/request-for-proposals>.

The bolded language in the below transcript is not a portrayal of what has been said on the Pre-submittal conference call/webinar, it is additional information included in the transcript and is provided to indicate to the reader: 1) who is speaking and 2) what is occurring during the Pre-submittal Conference.

#### **Oyster Mapping Pre-Bid**

Apr 29, 2021. 10:47 A.M. ID: 411716405

#### **Transcript**

**[speaker Camille Smith]**

This will now be recorded.

**[speaker Melanie Green - MDEQ]**

Thanks, Camille.

I am the procurement officer for the Office of Restoration at MDEQ.

This is the Pre-Submittal Conference for the RFP for Benthic Habitat Mapping for the Oyster Phase one project. This project is being administered by DEQ as part of NFWF GEBF agreement for Oyster Restoration and Management.

I will go ahead and just ask that everyone, please make sure that you're on mute so we don't get a lot of feedback.

Thank you.

We are recording this webinar today, and we will make it available, as well as, we'll provide a transcript as an amendment to the RFP.

Today's agenda, we will first call roll, and then we will do a brief presentation on the project and highlight the requirements of the RFP, and then we'll move into a question-and-answer session.

If anything said verbally today, conflicts with the RFP, please note that the RFP will prevail unless it is modified with an amendment.

We are required to have sign in sheet for this solicitation. So, if you will make sure that when we go through the roll call, that we get your name and your organization, so that we can develop that sign in sheet.

As we move into the question-and-answer session, you may be able to submit your questions through the chat box in the right corner on the screen, or you can come off mute and ask your question verbally.

I will ask that you please state your name, your organization, and then ask your question.

Give me a second to record the question, and then we'll try to provide a response.

If we are unable to provide a response today, we will provide a response in the question-and-answer document that will be part of an amendment to this RFP. Please note that if we do provide any answers today, that it is subject to change in the question-and-answer document in so the final written response in the Q&A document will be DEQ's final response to any questions asked today.

With that, we can go ahead and start our roll call. Again, I'm Melanie Green, I'm the Procurement Officer with DEQ. Who else do we have on the call from DEQ?

**[speaker Tabatha Baum]**

Tabatha Baum - DEQ

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

Ok, who do we have on the line with Covington Civil and Environmental?

**[speaker Tom Strange]**

Tom Strange.

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

Thanks, Tom.

**[speaker Brad Marler]**

Allen Engineering and Science.

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

All right, and who's the representative?

**[speaker Brad Marler]**

Brad Marler.

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

Thank you, Brad. Who else do we have participating?

**[speaker Melissa Pringle]**

Melissa Pringle, also with Allen Engineering and Science.

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

Hey Melissa. It's been awhile.

**[speaker Melissa Pringle]**

Hello.

**[speaker Melissa Pringle]**

Yes it has.

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

Ok. Who else do we have?

**[speaker Ryan Dodd]**

Ryan Dodd, Envision Solutions.

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

Hi Ryan. Who else?

**[speaker Charles Thibault]**

Charles Thibault with Earthcon, a WSP company.

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

Hey Charles, I'm glad you said your name I would have butchered that if I had tried to say it.

**[speaker Charles Thibault]**

Good morning, all my life.

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

I bet. Green is easy. Who else do we have?

**[speaker Lindsay Spurrier]**

Lindsay Spurrier with Cypress.

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

Hey, Lindsay.

**[speaker Lindsay Spurrier]**

Hi.

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

Who else do we have?

**[speaker Randy Bekkers]**

Randy Bekkers with Ballard Marine Construction.

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

I'm sorry, I heard, Marine, what did you say before that?

**[speaker Randy Bekkers]**

Ballard, B-A-L-L-A-R-D, Marine Construction.

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

Thank you. Who else do we have?

**[speaker Tim McClinton]**

Hey, Melanie. This is Tim McClinton, with David Evans and Associates.

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

Hey, Tim. How are you?

**[speaker Tim McClinton]**

Great. How are you?

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

I'm doing well. Who else do we have?

I see Boyd Boswell. Are you on? I see Mr. Boswell coming off mute, but I can't hear you. I do

have you down as in attendance.

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

I believe that's everyone that I can see on the webinar. Is there anyone else that has not announced themselves, that may have called in?

Ok, we can go ahead and get started.

Tom, if you will go through the presentation that you have, and then we can move into the question and answer session. If you have questions as Tom's going through the presentation, please feel free to utilize the chat box, or you can wait until the end and then ask your question at that time.

**[speaker Tom Strange]**

Ok, thanks Mel.

Ok, so what we're going to do today is just go through a brief project overview, and cover the deliverables and the project area. Much of the information in this presentation is in the RFP solicitation itself. So, you can always go back and reference that, if needed. Just a brief overview here. The purpose of the mapping project is to collect physical characterization data for existing oyster reef restoration site and Back Bay Biloxi, located just south of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, not too far off of Front Beach and the Ocean Spring Harbor. The mapping will take place once per year, in the September, October timeframe for three years. The sites contain oyster restoration plots and subplots that represent a variety of substrate types and reef heights. The September October timeframe is important. This is essentially the end of oyster growing season. It's also when MDMR will be conducting dive samples in the area, sampling the reefs. So, that observational data could be used for validation of the mapping products.

The second purpose is to use the collected data to monitor the reef structure for three years. So, what we're looking for is for the company to analyze changes in the reef material dimension over time by plot and subplot. This is the map that was included in the RFP solicitation. The total project area is 54 acres, the actual plots and subplots equal about 30 acres. But we want to be able to capture the areas in between, as well. Here's some more detailed look. As I mentioned before, the subplots vary in the size class of the material that was deployed in 2020 and it varies by the height of the materials deployed. So, we have subplots that are averaged of three inches of height, eight inches of height, and 16 inches, which is depicted by the number in each subplot. The size classes are depicted by color. In red, we have number 57 material, and in blue, we have 4 x 1 limestone.

The expected deliverables through the project include complete spatial coverage of the bottom types in the project area in a GIS format. A Geodatabase of bathymetry rasters, including "difference" rasters showing changes in the reef structure from year to year. ISO compliant metadata records for all collected data, and other products as requested by DEQ, including raw image files.

One more thing I want to note here: Construction surveys from the deployment, As- built surveys, were collected in August and September of last year; however, you guys remember Hurricane Zeta came through in late October. We were not able to go out and map the area post-storm. So we do anticipate some changes in the structure from the as built surveys, which is why the areas surrounding the subplots should be mapped. All right, let's open it up for questions.

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

Thanks, Tom. So far, we have not received any questions to run through. So, I will just open the floor. Again, if you will just state your name and your organization and then ask your question.

**[speaker Tim McClinton]**

Hi, Melanie. This is Tim with David Evans and Associates. Given that this is a multi-year contract, can we include an annual escalation in our fee schedule?

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

Yes, you can do that, and I would just encourage you to notate that in your budget breakdown, so that when the evaluation committee is analyzing that, they'll see that you factored that into your price.

Any other questions?

While y'all are thinking about additional questions, I'll just mention a couple of things that I would like to highlight, and then we'll go back to questions.

The deadline for submitting questions is May 6th. DEQ does intend to issue any responses to questions received via an Amendment by May 10th. Please be sure that it will, or please note that we are experiencing mail delays. We are still experiencing mail delays, so please, be mindful of that. Uh, we are, let me think how to say this, Fedex and UPS and US Postal Service, they are not guaranteeing delivery by the time specified. So, either you need to submit... the last one I saw was about a week delay, um, and they had a three day lead time before the deadline, so, it was about a week and a half after the offer had submitted or sent their proposal.

You do have the option to submit your proposals electronically using MAGIC. If you do, do that, please make sure that you follow the instructions about notating which attachments are non-identifiable information and labeling as required.

Please make sure that you include in your pricing budget breakdown of your costs and notating that hourly rates are a minimum requirement. So, you're able to list out other items in your budget that that will get you to your proposed price for services that you described.

Please be sure to go through the RFP, and compare those requirements to the evaluation criteria that are listed in the RFP. That will be what the evaluation committee is utilizing to score your

submission. I will pause, right there. We have received a question. Um, the question is, what firm was selected to conduct similar services for the Western Sound? And has that work begun?

Tom, those are running together for me, we've recently done two, the Western Sound, is that the NFWF Project?

**[speaker Tom Strange]**

Yes, that's the NFWF Oyster Phase II.

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

FC&E was the contractor that was selected to perform those services. Work has not begun.

The question I received is, what was the other solicitation for Benthic Habitat Mapping Services? We did have a previous RFP for Benthic Habitat Mapping services for the Pascagoula Reefs Relay and Enhancement Project.

Ok, do we have any other questions?

**[speaker Tabatha Baum]**

I would just say, too, um, the question-and-answer portion for this project is related to this specific RFP. So, if you have questions specific to this RFP?

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

We did get one more question, and we can, we'll just discuss offline whether to include it in the Q&A or not.

The question is, who was selected to do the Pascagoula work and has that work begun and Cypress Environmental Science was the contractor selected to do that work, and I believe, that work has begun.

Any other question? We did receive another question. Tom, do you want to take that question? I'm sorry, you might not see it.

**[speaker Tom Strange]**

No, I can't see it.

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

The question is, NOAA charts are showing foundings to be 4 to 5 feet in the mapping area. How accurate is that?

**[speaker Tom Strange]**

Yes, that is, that is fairly accurate. I believe the minimum depth in which the materials were deployed were approximately four feet, mean low low water. Water does get deeper the closer you get to the navigation channels, particularly to the south, where water depth can range anywhere from 6 to 8 feet, I believe.

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

Any other questions?

**[speaker Ryan ]**

Hi this is Ryan Dodd with Envision Solutions. I was just wondering what would be your expected final grid resolution for data?

**[speaker Tom Strange]**

Yeah Ryan, we don't have a set spacing for the survey line. I think that would be driven by water depth and that technology that you're employing. I will say that the as-built surveys used a 50 foot spacing. So, I think that would be the maximum for us. So, if we can get higher resolution than that would be good.

**[speaker Ryan]**

Ok perfect. Actually, I gotta ask one more question. What are the rules on the processing side for interpolation?

**[speaker Tom Strange]**

That would be at that discretion of you guys. We don't have anything thing specific for the interpolation method of the raw data.

**[speaker Ryan]**

All right. Perfect. Thank you.

**[speaker Tom Strange]**

Sure.

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

Any other questions? Okay, I wait a couple more minutes and give you time to think of any additional questions that you may have. Please note if you received a copy of the RFP from someone other than me, that you are not on my e-mail lists to contact you in the event that an amendment is issued. We do know that we will be issuing a couple of amendments: 1 to provide the transcript for this meeting, another in response to any inquiries received. I did note, as I was preparing for the meeting today, that I failed to update the title in paragraph 14, which is the deadline for submissions. The title of this solicitation is, Benthic Habitat Mapping for Oyster Phase One, not the Western Mississippi Sound. So, I will issue an amendment to correct that as well.

The deadline for submission is May 14th at three PM. If you do intend to submit your proposal electronically, I would ask that you please go into MAGIC, and make sure that your login information is up to date. If you wait till the day of submission, you may not receive a response from the Helpdesk, the MASH Helpdesk, in time for you to submit your proposal, nor will you have time to notify them if you have any issues or need assistance uploading documents into the system. We do see delays, usually each time, we do see delays or missed submissions, because as a result of waiting to the last minute, so, I would just say, please don't wait till the day of to test that information. And then also, if you need me to confirm that it's, my understanding is it's not clear from the submission side, you don't get notification, or it's not, it's unclear whether or not your proposal was submitted successfully so if I need to verify that, I don't mind doing that either. You can just shoot me an e-mail and ask me to confirm receipt. I usually get that request even when things come in the mail. That's an option as well.

Any other questions?

Tabatha, Tom, do you have, do you have any additional comments?

**[speaker Tabatha Baum]**

I do not.

**[speaker Tom Strange]**

No Ma'am, all good here.

**[speaker Melanie Green]**

Ok, Well, just a reminder, if you, if you do have any questions, you can send those to me via e-mail by May 6th, and we will respond by May 10<sup>th</sup>. And I do appreciate your interest in working with DEQ. We really do appreciate the competition on these solicitations, and we look forward to your proposals, and I hope you all have a great day.

**[speaker unknown]**

Thank you.

**[speaker Tom Strange]**

Thanks, everyone.