

MLA & SMAST ventless trap survey in Vineyard Wind Development Area 2019

MLA / SMAST / VW Ventless Trap Survey Vessel Services 2019

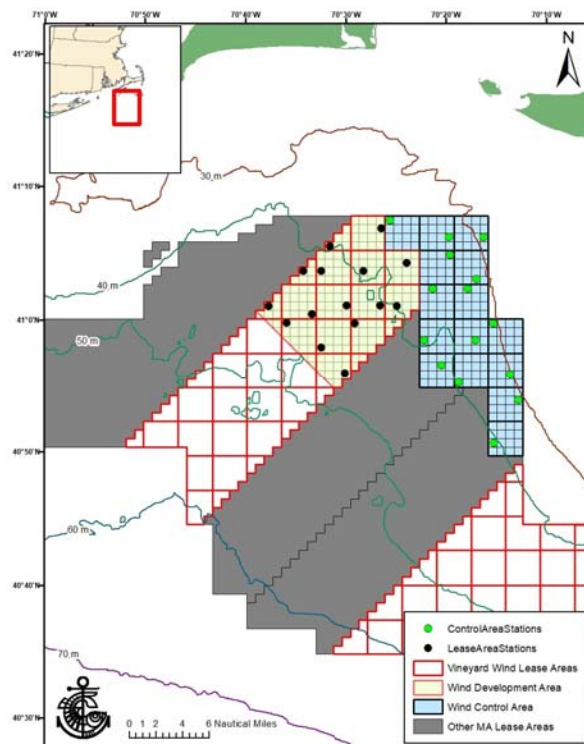
ISSUE DATE: April 11, 2019

Close Date: April 25, 2019

Purchasing Entity	Massachusetts Lobstermen's Assoc.
Address	8 Otis Place
City, State Zip Code	Scituate, MA 02066
Procurement Contact Person	Beth Casoni
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RFP Name/Title	MLA / SMAST / VW Ventless Trap Survey Vessel Services 2019

Project Summary

The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association (MLA) in conjunction with the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST), seek to establish a ventless lobster trap survey with a tagging component to assess the American lobster resource in the Vineyard Wind (VW) development area and adjacent control sites. Concurrently a black sea bass study will be conducted during this survey to gather the much need data on relative abundance, fecundity, feeding habits, as well as age and size structure. SMAST will also determine relative abundance and distribution of larval lobster and fish using a towed neuston net. This survey will consist of sampling thirty pre-determined locations (15 in the development area and 15 in the control area), as depicted on the map below. Results from this study will provide a baseline for federal and state mandatory monitoring plans.



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Seeking Contractors

The MLA is seeking a Request for Response (RFR) and requires the services of two commercial lobstermen and their vessels to bait, set, haul, and maintain MLA-owned lobster traps and black sea bass pots for lobster and black sea bass population monitoring, as well as deploying and hauling a plankton net in the Vineyard Wind Development Area. The MLA will contract 2 vessels to conduct the survey work through an open RFR which will be made available for the public on our website www.lobstermen.com on April 11, 2019 at 4:00pm and will close on April 25, 2019 at 4:00pm.

Estimated Number of Awards

The target maximum number of Contractors is 2.

Expected Duration of Contract and Project Duration

Contract Duration	Number of Years / Months
Project Duration	6 Months
Total Maximum Contract Duration	6 Months

Contract Performance and Service Overview

Vessels must be in the 28-48 ft range, be capable of cruising at a minimum of 8 knots, and have a covered area that will protect scientific equipment from weather and waves. The vessel must be equipped, at a minimum, with a compass, depth recorder, plotter, radar, GPS, VHF radio, hydraulic pot hauler, and davit.

The vessel also must be capable of hauling, re-baiting, and deploying experimental traps arranged in 6 pot trawls, hauling one sea bass pot per location, and towing a 8' x 2' x 5' plankton sampling frame at each pre-determined location under the direction of SMAST staff. The duration of the study is 6 months (May – October), during which each contractor will be expected to complete a total of 4 sea-days a month in no more than a continuous ten-day period. See site location chart in attachment A.

The contractor will also have two land-based days before the study begins to configure the gear and one sea day at the beginning of the study period in order to initially set the gear on location, and one sea day at the end of the study to bring the gear back to the dock.

Contractors will retrieve the gear prior to the first sea days. The contractor is responsible for loading gear onto the vessel and providing bait as needed. The contractor will provide the necessary personnel who will be responsible for operating the boat and assisting in the deployment, operation and retrieval of equipment. An SMAST employee or contracted agent will serve as Chief Scientist and will supervise sampling, or experimental operations onboard the vessel.

The bidders must possess a valid Massachusetts commercial lobster license. Vessels must possess sufficient room to accommodate a minimum of up to two sea samplers/scientists in addition to the normal crew.

Procedures will be agreed upon between the SMAST Chief Scientist and the contractor in advance of any at-sea operation. The safety of the vessel and personnel on it will be the responsibility of the contractor at all times. The contractor shall be responsible for all fuel, lubricants, dockage, bait, and other consumables necessary to conduct the operation. It will be important for contractors to communicate with each other; we would prefer deployment / hauling schedules to be in synch for each vessel and would also prefer if each contracted vessel use the same type of bait.

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The vessel shall be properly licensed by all pertinent state and federal agencies and carry safety equipment in conformance with all U.S. Coast Guard regulations. The vessel must possess an up-to-date Coast Guard Voluntary Safety Dockside Exam Certificate prior to the start of work. S Mast personnel will supply their own immersion suits. The contractor is responsible for obtaining any necessary insurance, including additional coverage for non-crew members (scientists or observers).

Prospective contractors must submit a bid for the cost per sea-day of operation and a land day rate to configure the trawls. The costs of the vessel, fuel, and use of gear, docking fees, bait, insurance and any other related expenses should be included within the day rate. Acceptance of a bid is not a guarantee that MLA will contract for services; it merely sets up a mechanism so that a vessel may be contracted if necessary. A maximum of 2 contracts will be awarded for work in Lobster Conservation Management Area 2. **NO CATCH (INCLUDING BYCATCH SPECIES) CAN BE LANDED FROM THE SURVEY GEAR.**

Contractors must submit responses that meet all the submission requirements. Only responsive proposals that meet the submission requirements will be evaluated, scored and ranked by the evaluation team according to the evaluation criteria. Additional information may be requested for evaluation purposes.

Supplies and Materials

All fishing gear (lobster pots, fish pots, buoys, rope, etc.) needed to execute the survey will be provided by the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association except for plankton net and tagging supplies, which S Mast will provide. Funds are included for ware to this item and to purchase miscellaneous components related to the field sampling and data collection.

Fiscal Terms

Contracts will NOT have a maximum obligation amount (rate contract).

Evaluation Criteria

Contractors must submit responses that meet all the submission requirements of the RFR. Only responsive proposals that meet the submission requirements will be evaluated, scored and ranked by the evaluation team according to the evaluation criteria. Additional information may be requested for evaluation purposes.

Instructions for Submission of Responses

Responses must be sent via email to beth.casoni@lobstermen.com

Any submission which fails to meet the submission requirements of the RFR will be found non-responsive without further evaluation unless the evaluation team, at its discretion, determines that the non-compliance is insubstantial and can be corrected. In these cases, the evaluation team may allow the vendor to make minor corrections to the submission.

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Estimated Procurement Calendar

Procurement Activity	Date	Time
Bid Release Date	April 11, 2019	4:00 PM
Deadline for Quotes/Bid Responses	April 25, 2019	4:00 PM
Notification of Apparent Successful Bidder(s) (Estimated)	Early-May, 2019	
Estimated Contract Start Date	Early/Mid-May 2019	

Bid Opening Date/Time - Thursday, April 11, 2019 4:00 PM

Bid Amendment Deadline

The MLA reserves the right to make amendments to the Bid after initial publication. It is each Bidder's responsibility to check the MLA's website, www.lobstermen.com for any amendments, addenda or modifications to this Bid, and any Bid Q&A records related to this Bid. The MLA accept no responsibility and will provide no accommodation to Bidders who submit a Quote based on information received from a source other than www.lobstermen.com and all bid submissions must be sent via email to beth.casoni@lobstermen.com submitted no later than 4:00 PM April 25, 2019.

Estimated Contract Start Date

Early/Mid-May 2019 is the approximate start date. The actual start date will be the Contract Effective Date which is the date the Contract is executed by the parties.

Tasks and Deliverables

Each contractor will be expected to complete no less than 4 sea days per month, and no more than 24 sea-days during the project duration. The duration of the project is 6 months (May – October). The gear for each area will be hauled over 3 sea-days per month distributed in the following monthly haul cycle:

Haul Cycle

- ▶ Day 1 = haul, enable, and bait gear with researcher. Conduct plankton tows.
- ▶ Day 2 = Haul gear 3 days (weather-dependent) after the previous set with SMAST researcher on board. Re-set gear with disabling door open (DO NOT RE-BAIT). Haul black sea bass pots.

Contracted fishermen will be assigned (after consultation) a week of the month during which they will typically be required to do the work. (1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th). They will then always haul the gear during that same time frame each month, weather dependent.

All trawls must be reset in the same assigned location each time. The contractor is responsible for ensuring that all traps in each trawl are present and functioning correctly. Fishermen are not allowed to conduct their routine fishing activities during the same trip as hauling and servicing of the MLA survey traps. The contractor is not allowed to fish the MLA survey traps at any time other than their assigned haul cycle.

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Haul Cycle cont.

NO catch (including bycatch species) will be landed from the survey gear.

Contractors with Federal permits will be required to fish under a NMFS Experimental Fishing Permit or Letter of Authorization (LOA), and to complete the requisite reporting forms/call-ins. SMAST will handle the permit application process, and provide each contractor with the forms and instructions for completion.

TIME LINE

- May 2019 - Award contracts
- May 2019 - Contractors; configure, load and begin to set gear on station.
- May 2019 - Haul and sample survey gear
- June 2019 - Haul and sample survey gear
- July 2019 - Haul and sample survey gear
- August 2019 - Haul and Sample survey gear
- Sept. 2019 - Haul and Sample survey gear
- Oct. 2019 - Haul and sample survey gear, haul gear out of water

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

ALL RESPONSES MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL – BETH.CASONI@LOBSTERMEN.COM

Each Response must contain the following:

- Completed quote indicating sea day rate and land day rate.
- Completed Attachment A: Supplemental Information - Vessel Fact Sheet
- A description of the bidder's qualifications including fishing experience, any previous collaborative scientific work, or associated experience.
- A photo of the bidder's vessel (to be uploaded as an attachment with the quote, or inserted into the Attachment B document).

Bidding Considerations:

- All bidders must meet the minimum criteria specified in the RFP.
- Traps, and lines will be provided by MLA.
- Contractors are responsible for supplying the bait.

Questions

Prospective contractors may submit questions to Beth Casoni at beth.casoni@lobstermen.com up until April 19, 2019.

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Selection Criteria

Quotes will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Bid amount.
- The breadth and depth of qualifications of the contractor(s).
- The breadth and depth of experience of the contractor(s).
- Appropriateness of the contractor's vessel, including port and proximity to zone, size, speed, work space, and safety features.
- Past performance for any contractors who have worked previously under any other survey work.

The Selected Respondent may not be the lowest cost bidder as all of the above criteria will be considered in the evaluation of Responses. Also note that MLA reserves the option to interview some or all Respondents for the purpose of clarifying a Response prior to making a final award.

Project Terms

A final contract is subject to successful negotiation of a Final Scope of Services. It is anticipated that projects may commence within one week of decision.

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MLA - 2019 ATTACHMENT B: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Power Vessel Description and Captain's Experience

RFR# MLA 2019: MLA & SMAST ventless trap survey of Vineyard Wind Development area 2019

Vessel Name: _____ Captain's Name: _____

Vessel Owner, Address and Contact Phone Number:

Usual Port: _____ Other Ports: _____

Gear types vessel is rigged for: _____

Vessel Specifications

LOA: _____

Beam width: _____

Engine type & horsepower: _____

Effective Cruising Speed: _____

Is 120 VAC power available on your vessel (choose one)? No ___ Yes ___

Is covered space available to protect scientific equipment? No ___ Yes ___

Does your vessel have a current U.S. Coast Guard inspection? No ___ Yes ___

Does your vessel have a USCG Certified life raft with updated inspection?

No ___ Yes ___ Expiration Date: _____

What side of the vessel is your hauler on? _____ Port / Starboard (circle one).

Other vessel characteristics or information or comments:

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Have you, or any of your crew, been convicted of or assessed a fine for a fisheries violation? Yes or No If yes, explain.

What is the experience of the captain? Please provide specific information relative to your experience in the area for which you are bidding. (This is for the captain that will be operating the vessel during any contracted time resulting from this RFR)

Bid / Quote Section

Land Day Rate Bid: _____

Sea Day Rate Bid: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please retain a copy for your record.