



FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
1875 ORANGE AVENUE EAST,  
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301  
(850) 488-6551 TELEPHONE

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI): FWC 19/20-57  
TITLE: HURRICANE IRMA TRAP DEBRIS REMOVAL AND CLEANUP

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SCHEDULE	DUE DATE	METHOD
RFI Advertised	November 19, 2019	Posted on the Vendor Bid System: <a href="http://vbs.dms.state.fl.us/vbs/mainmenu">http://vbs.dms.state.fl.us/vbs/mainmenu</a>
Deadline for Written Questions	Must be received <b>PRIOR</b> to: December 4, 2019 <b>@ 5:00 PM ET</b>	See Deadline for Written Questions Clause
Answers to Written Questions	December 11, 2019	The Commission's response to an inquiry will be sent directly to the vendor via email.
Written Response to RFI	Must be received <b>PRIOR</b> to: December 18, 2019 <b>@ 5:00 PM ET</b>	See Written Response to RFI Clause

### STATEMENT OF NEED

This is a Request for Information (RFI) as defined in Section 287.012(22), Florida Statutes (F.S.), for informational and planning purposes only. This RFI is issued by the State of Florida, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ("Commission" or "FWC"), to solicit information regarding the services described herein.

**An RFI is not a method of procurement.** Responses to an RFI are not offers and shall not be accepted by the Commission to form a binding Contract. This RFI and responses to it shall not result in the execution of a Contract with the Commission. By submitting a response to this RFI, a vendor is not prohibited from responding to any related subsequent solicitation. This RFI may be used for purposes of determining whether or not to competitively procure a commodity or contractual service, determining what solicitation process to use, or researching general, special, and/or technical specifications for a project or solicitation. The Commission reserves the right to utilize the information gathered through the RFI process to develop a scope of services, which may be incorporated into a Contract using a statutorily approved method of procurement.

FWC is seeking information on marine debris cleanup, with a focus on lost or damaged lobster and crab traps that require underwater methods of removal. The Commission is requesting this information in order to determine best price and practice(s) for the removal of fishing gear, especially rope that has been entangled on sensitive corals.

All interested partners are invited to participate in the RFI by submitting a written response as indicated in this RFI document. The information provided as a result of this RFI is intended to be used to develop a future solicitation that utilize the technologies described herein.

The Commission reserves the right to use or reject any information supplied in response to this RFI.

## **PROJECT BACKGROUND**

On September 10, 2017, Hurricane Irma struck Florida's fisheries, destroying traps and distributing their remnants along our coastlines, protected wetlands and reefs. In June 2018, NOAA Fisheries allocated funds to respond to the 2017 Hurricane Irma Disaster for Florida to provide relief for businesses that rely on Florida's commercial and recreational fishing industry. Some funding from this grant has been allocated for trap debris cleanup.

Due to winds and tidal surges from Hurricane Irma, man-made debris has been scattered across the marine environment. Some of this debris threatens important habitats and protected species and the cleanup of marine debris is important to both tourism and fishing.

The focus of this project will be in the Florida Keys, with the project's main focus being the removal of fishing gear, especially rope that has been entangled on sensitive corals, utilizing underwater methods of recovery. Underwater debris removal from protected environments and in a coral reef environment is complex and challenging, and the amount of debris Hurricane Irma has created is enormous. Currently, it is difficult to determine the actual cost-structure for this effort, as it will be influenced by the nature of the debris removed, the location of that debris and the modes of operation to remove that debris. For this reason, FWC is seeking input on how best to ensure the cleanup is completed, while protecting against damage or harm to our marine fisheries, reefs and other protected habitat(s).

## **RFI RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS**

Responses to this RFI shall include the following:

1. The vendor's complete name, address, telephone number, email address, FEID number and the vendor's point of contact for this RFI.
2. The vendor's history and experience in:
  - a. Underwater debris cleanup at depths ranging from 20 to 130 feet, including:
    - i. Type of air source (e.g. open or close circuit SCUBA, surface-supplied, etc.)
    - ii. Method of bringing debris to surface
  - b. Debris cleanup projects (underwater and/or from the surface) occurring in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Please state the year(s), general location(s), and debris type(s) removed.
3. Provide answers to the following questions:
  - a. FWC is currently considering different methods to determine the per unit breakdown for the following items. Based on prior jobs, what would be the best unit of measurement for calculating the unit cost for each of the below items?

- i. Whole derelict traps / pieces of derelict traps
  - ii. Rope
  - iii. Funnel
  - iv. Submerged buoy
  - v. Additional, miscellaneous debris (e.g. boat parts, fishing rods, etc.)
- b. Do you have the capability and equipment to take underwater photographs, documenting the state of the underwater area before and after the debris is removed?
  - c. Using the Florida Keys map attached at the back of this document for reference, what zone(s) could your company perform marine debris cleanup activities?
  - d. Using the Florida Keys map attached at the back of this document, please mark approximate locations of areas of marine debris (primarily fishing gear) that are not accessible from the surface.

### **INFORMATION EFFECTS**

The Commission will use the information gained from this RFI to determine whether to competitively procure a commodity or contractual service, determine what solicitation process(es) to use, and/or research general, special, and/or technical specifications for a project or solicitation. The Commission reserves the right to utilize the information gathered through the RFI process to develop a scope of services, which may be incorporated into a Contract using a statutorily approved method of procurement.

### **PROCUREMENT MANAGER**

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Tallahassee Purchasing Office  
Attn: Devin Resko, Procurement Manager  
1875 Orange Ave. East  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301  
Devin.Resko@MyFWC.com

### **DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

Written questions that require an answer concerning this RFI shall be submitted in writing to the Procurement Manager identified in the previous section. Questions must be received no later than the date and time specified in the **Calendar of Events (Page 1)**. Questions may be sent via email with the RFI number in the subject line. It is the responsibility of the vendor to confirm receipt of questions if needed.

### **WRITTEN RESPONSE TO RFI**

Written responses to this RFI must be submitted to the Procurement Manager via email no later than the date and time specified in the **Calendar of Events**. Responses should include the RFI number in the subject line.

The Commission reserves the right to use any information supplied in any manner. After the Commission has received all responses to this RFI, the Commission, in its sole discretion, shall determine if a meeting

with respondents is necessary to clarify the information received. In the event that the Commission decides to hold a meeting, the Respondent(s) will be notified via email.

### **PROPRIETARY INFORMATION**

Any portion of the submitted response which is asserted to be exempt from disclosure under Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, shall be clearly marked “exempt”, “confidential”, or “trade secret” (as applicable) and shall also contain the statutory basis for such claim on every page containing such exempt information. Pages containing trade secrets shall be marked “trade secret as defined in Section 812.081, Florida Statutes”. Failure to segregate and identify such portions shall constitute a waiver of any claimed exemption and the Commission will provide such records in response to public records requests without notifying the respondent. Designating material simply as “proprietary” will not necessarily protect it from disclosure under Chapter 119, Florida Statutes. An entire response should not be considered “trade secret”.

PLEASE NOTE: Any submitted material that is not clearly marked as stated in Section 8, Proprietary Information, is subject to Florida Statute 119, Public Records.

### **VENDOR COSTS**

Vendors are responsible for all costs associated with preparing a response to this RFI. The State of Florida and the Commission will not be responsible for any vendor costs associated with preparing a response to this RFI.

The Commission appreciates your time and interest in responding to this Request for Information.

**THIS IS NOT A COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH 287.057(1), F.S. PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO SUBMIT A BID, PROPOSAL OR OTHER PRESENTATION.**

