



FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

FWC 17/18-40

TAGS FOR SALTWATER SPINY LOBSTER, BLUE CRAB & STONE CRAB

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1. STATEMENT OF NEED:

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

A RFI is not a method of procurement. Responses to a 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.

The COMMISSION is seeking information on from vendors that offer tags that are Saltwater resistant and UV protected for fastening to spiny lobster, blue crab and stone crab traps. The Commission is requesting this information in order to analyze and determine sourcing options in accordance with Section 60A-1.042, F.A.C. The information gathered from this RFI may be used to develop a future competitive solicitation.

All interested partners are invited to participate in the RFI by submitting a written response as indicated in this RFI document. The information provided in response to 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.

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The current contract for the 16/17 fiscal year ordered 1.7 million tags (approximately 253,000 blue crab tags, 480,000 spiny lobster tags, and 1 million stone crab tags). Orders were sent to vendor weekly in varying quantities and delivery locations.

Tags that loosely wrap around lobster and stone crab trap slats and are not flat against slats have been tested and were found to have significant damage by species interference (chewing). Please review the detailed response requirements below for additional information, as well as pictures of example traps.

Vendors are invited to participate in this RFI by submitting a written response as indicated in this RFI document.

This RFI is for informational purposes ONLY. The Commission will NOT use this information to award a contract. The Commission reserves the right to use or reject any information supplied in response to this RFI.

3. RFI RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS:

Responses to this RFI shall include the following:

- A. The vendor's complete name, address, telephone number, fax number email address, FEID number and the vendor's contact person for this RFI
- B. Provide a detailed product description/specification and sample for tags that meet and exceed the following requirements no later than **December 8, 2017**. Detailed information on where to send descriptions/specifications and samples is below:
 - Tags shall be made of durable material that can be attached to any lobster or crab trap.
 - Tags must attach flat to the outside of the traps for lobster and stone crab. Lobster traps are wooden traps and stone crab traps are plastic (see pictures below). Lobster and stone crab trap tags that enter the traps will be chewed and separated from the trap. Traps are also stacked on top of each other by the hundreds and must withstand stacking.
 - Blue crab tags are ***the only tags that may*** loop inside the trap. Blue crab traps are metal wire traps (see picture below).
 - Tags shall be able to remain intact in harsh conditions such as: saltwater, sun, and Florida weather for a minimum of 18 months without peeling, breaking or significantly fading to make printed information illegible.
 - Tags shall be easy to attach to traps even while wearing gloves, aboard a rocking boat.
 - Lobster and stone crab tags must have two holes in them to securely nail, staple, or screw them to the trap. Tags shall not split or layers of the tag peel apart when subjected to marine environment (saltwater, sun, wind, harsh current, high temperatures, direct sunlight, etc.) for a minimum of 18 months. Blue crab tags must attach securely to the wire traps. In past years these have been attached through a looping mechanism (see picture below).
 - Tags shall not interfere in any way with the operation of the traps.
 - Tags shall have information printed on them to include:
 - FWCC
 - Tag title; EX: stone crab, blue crab, spiny lobster
 - Fiscal year (Florida fiscal years start July 1st and end June 30th of following year) EX: 17/18
 - Customer Information
 - Each tag will have printed the unique customer endorsement number which shall begin with the endorsement type followed by a dash, "--", and up to 6 alpha/numeric characters. EX: VHI-123456
 - Tag # followed by consecutive tag #'s ordered
 - Imprinted tags shall be 'punched' or 'nicked' but shall remain intact for easy removal later by the customer.

- No duplication of the tags with the same specified language will be manufactured without express written authorization by the Commission.
 - Production of auditable tags shall be conducted under conditions of absolute security for complete accountability of tags produced.
 - Tags must be dark in color (no pastels) and have minimal UV fading. At no point can the printed material on the tag become illegible due to sun, weather or water conditions. The printing shall survive, and be readable, in a marine environment for a minimum of 18 months.
 - The tags shall be able to be produced in multiple colors. No two tag types shall be of the same color within a given year, and each tag type shall be of a different color from the preceding year.
 - Optional but preferred- An optional barcode to the tag. The tag must still meet all physical aspects listed above for size and must still have all information previously mentioned printed on the tag. Incorporation of a barcode is optional but optimal for the Commission. The barcode should be able to be scanned in a rocking boat in all weather conditions. The information read by the barcode should include all information printed on the tag. This information should be exportable to Microsoft Excel. The barcode shall also survive and be readable in a marine environment for a minimum of 18 months.
- C. Provide a picture and physical sample of each tag type with “FWCC Test Tag” printed on each sample. Samples shall be mailed with tracking to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Attn. Rachel Best, 2590 Executive Center Circle East, Berkeley Building, Suite 200, Tallahassee, Florida 32301. Samples must be received no later than December 1, 2017. Upon mailing of samples, tracking information must be emailed to Rachel Best, Rachel.Best@myfwc.com. This email shall also include pictures of the samples sent. All samples will be placed on a trap and put into the saltwater for testing. Pictures and samples will be used to demonstrate materials used to make the tag and to show the Commission the durability available in the industry. Provide as many samples as determined to be necessary to show materials, colors, functionality and durability of tags.
- D. Provide any supporting documentation or substantiated claims on tags water proofing and durability. For example: a notarized document from an ASTM testing company or government customer of their choosing that has tested or utilized the product, which certifies the tag(s).
- E. Estimated pricing information per tag, including traditional discounts for large lot purchases.

4. INFORMATION EFFECTS

The Commission will use the information gained from this RFI to determine the best way to proceed, estimate the level of funding required, and develop the appropriate procurement process to address desired project within the level of resources available.

THIS IS NOT A COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION. PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO SUBMIT A BID, PROPOSAL OR OTHER PRESENTATION.

5. QUESTIONS

Written questions are invited and may be submitted in writing via fax, e-mail or mail **until 5:00 P.M. EST, December 1, 2017**. Questions must be received by Procurement Manager via email on or before this date and time to ensure they are answered. Written responses to questions will be posted on the Vendor Bid System within five business days.

PLEASE NOTE: Any submitted material is subject to the provisions of Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, regarding Public Records.

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.

6. 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”.

7. 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.

Pictures of current traps and tags

Three (3) trap types- stone crab (plastic), blue crab (wire), lobster (wooden)

1. Stone crab trap (plastic trap). These tags must NOT enter the trap.



2. Blue crab trap (wire trap) only trap option where tags can loop inside trap:



3. Spiny lobster trap (wooden trap). These tags must NOT enter the trap.



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

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

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