



WESTERN
PACIFIC
REGIONAL
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

Request for Proposals
To Support the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's
Climate Change and Communities Program
To review, assess and address impacts of the changing climate on US Pacific Island Fisheries
through improved governance

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council) is soliciting services to support its Climate Change and Communities Program (CCCP). Contractors and services are required to carry out projects as supported through NOAA's Inflation Reduction Act funding. Contract services will support the Contractual Service Items below (See Scope of Work for additional details):

1. American Samoa CCCP coordinator to provide oversight and coordination of all Council CCCP projects and activities occurring in American Samoa in support of the four priority areas.
2. Mariana Islands CCCP coordinator to provide oversight and coordination of all Council CCCP projects and activities occurring in the Mariana Islands in support of the four priority areas.
3. Scenario Planning coordinator(s) and facilitator(s) for:
 - a. U.S. Pacific large vessel (Hawaii Longline and American Samoa Longline) fisheries;
 - b. American Samoa, Mariana Islands and Hawaii small-boat fisheries.
4. Contractor(s) to conduct regulatory reviews of the Council's Fishery Ecosystem Plans (FEPs) and management regimes for U.S. Pacific Island fishery resources – American Samoa Archipelago FEP; Mariana Archipelago FEP; Hawaii Archipelago FEP; Pelagic FEP and Pacific Pelagic Remote Island Areas FEP.
5. Contractor(s) to review and update protected species-related fishery management processes to ensure flexibility and adaptability to climate impacts and ecosystem drivers. Contract services are sought to:
 - a. Incorporate climate effects and population trends in predicting and managing protected species interactions in U.S. Pacific pelagic fisheries - Hawai'i longline (HILL) fishery case study;
 - b. Develop adaptive strategies and framework for managing climate change effects on protected species interactions in U.S. Pacific pelagic fisheries;
 - c. Develop plans for incorporating workshop outcomes into the management regime.
6. Community Engagement and Capacity-Building coordinator(s) to oversee efforts to engage Pacific Island communities to identify emerging impacts of climate change on fishing and underserved communities and to oversee capacity-building efforts as supported through the CCCP.
 - a. Coordinate and convene two rounds of public meetings per year throughout the Council's jurisdiction to understand impacts and issues communities face resulting from changing climates.
 - b. Develop, coordinate and host pilot training/vocational program for Pacific Island underserved fishing communities to provide for new opportunities and build capacity in U.S. Pacific Island fisheries.

Interested persons or entities should submit one (1) proposal clearly identifying to which of the Contractual Service Items above they are applying. Proposals may target any single service item or combination thereof on a time and materials basis. Applicants shall include a timeline for completion of each service item project included in the proposal, with a maximum of two years to provide all contract deliverables. Proposals must be emailed to info@wpcouncil.org before **5:00 p.m. on November 22, 2024 (HST)**. For additional information visit www.wpcouncil.org.

BACKGROUND

The Council, established through Congress under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA, later MSA) of 1976, is responsible for developing policies to manage U.S. fisheries in the Western Pacific Region (WPR). The Council prepares management plans and plan amendments for fisheries in the WPR U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone waters off of the territories of American Samoa and Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the State of Hawaii, and U.S. Pacific Remote Island Areas.

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) became law in December 2022 from which NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) made available funding to the Regional Fishery Management Councils to support climate-related fishery projects to be implemented by December 2026. Funds provided are to support staff and contractor(s) to carry out work and implement governance projects that meet the purpose and priorities of the IRA, including: *1) implementing fishery management measures that enhance climate resilience and readiness to address climate-related challenges; and 2) creating plans and actions for fishery management to support underserved Pacific Island communities.*

To date, the U.S. archipelagic-based Pacific Islands in the WPR have been affected by climate change differently than coastal states in the continental United States (US). The Council has received support through NOAA IRA funding to support planning efforts to develop climate-ready fisheries. The WPR includes four major archipelagic regions, dispersed over 50 degrees latitude and 65 degrees longitude. The unique geographic and oceanographic setting, combined with limited data and resources in the WPR, makes it challenging to forecast future conditions, creating significant uncertainty about the future impacts of climate change on our fishery resources and island communities. The WPR's fisheries are characterized by the larger Hawaii and American Samoa pelagic longline fisheries, and the diverse small-scale small-boat fisheries that are at the core of the underserved communities throughout the region in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the CNMI. Additionally, management and governance of these domestic fisheries in the WPR are linked to international organizations.

In light of this regional context, it is imperative that the Council engage in planning at all levels to prepare the region's fisheries for climate-related challenges. Scenario planning is needed to facilitate forward-thinking strategic considerations within the broader domestic and international policy context. A comprehensive review of the Council's five established FEPs is also needed to ensure alignment with state and territorial fishery coordinated management processes. A better understanding of how the changing environmental conditions may affect protected species interactions in the region's fisheries is needed to develop and implement management strategies that can respond to those changes. The Council must also build upon ongoing commitments to support underserved communities through enhanced engagement and capacity-building initiatives.

Program activities carried out in support of the IRA priorities will address the climate-ready fishery goals, that include *development and advancement of climate-related fisheries management planning and implementation efforts, and implementation of fishery management measures and processes necessary to improve fishery and community resiliency and responsiveness to changing climates.*

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

The Council is soliciting contractual services on a time and materials basis to carry out planning and coordination in support of its Climate Change and Communities Program (CCCP) and to meet the goals and objectives of NOAA's IRA priorities.

Specifically, contractor services are being requested for each of the following six (6) equally important Contractual Service Items:

1. American Samoa CCCP coordinator to provide oversight and coordination of all Council CCCP projects and activities occurring in American Samoa in support of the four priority areas.
2. Mariana Islands CCCP coordinator to provide oversight and coordination of all Council CCCP projects and activities occurring in the Mariana Islands in support of the four priority areas.
3. Scenario planning for WPR fisheries to ensure resiliency and responsiveness to changing climate and related impacts.
4. Regulatory review of Council FEPs in coordination with local jurisdictions to develop fishery management plans to improve alignment and increase management responsiveness to changing climates and to improve services to underserved communities.
5. Protected species review and update of fishery management processes to ensure flexibility and adaptability to climate impacts and ecosystem drivers.
6. Community Engagement and Capacity-Building coordinator(s) to oversee efforts to engage Pacific Island communities to identify emerging impacts of climate change on fishing and underserved communities and to oversee capacity-building efforts as supported through the CCCP.

CONTRACT PERIOD: The contract is expected to begin in January 2025 and end in December 2026.

SCOPE OF WORK: Contractor(s) will oversee, manage and complete the programs, projects and activities as required to meet the IRA goals and objectives of the Council's CCCP.

For Contractual Service Items 1. American Samoa CCCP Coordinator and 2. Mariana Islands CCCP Coordinator, the contractor(s) will be required to, within their respective island areas:

1. Coordinate closely with Honolulu and Island Coordinator Council staff on development of project plans, sub-contractor requirements, implementation schedules, monitoring and reporting of all CCCP project activities occurring in the respective island area.
2. Provide oversight and support project-specific subcontractors, including development and monitoring of their scope of work, schedules and work products.
3. Regularly provide written reports to the Executive Director and program staff summarizing project status, issues and needs.
4. Coordinate and participate in priority area steering committees and project coordination meetings as required, including assisting in preparation of meeting materials, documents, presentations and reports.
5. Participate in Council and Council family meetings as needed (e.g., Standing Committees, Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), Archipelagic and Pelagic Plan Team, Advisory Panel, Fishery Industry Advisory Committee and other Council body meetings as appropriate.
6. Other duties as assigned by the Executive Director.

The Scope of Work (SOW) for Contractual Service Items 3-6 are detailed in the attached Appendices. Additional information on specific project requirements, deliverables, timelines and qualifications are provided in the attached detailed SOW.

ELIGIBILITY: Overall, potential Contractor(s) must:

- Possess strong management and administrative skills coordinating complex programs with concurrent projects and oversight of professional personnel;
- Possess a detailed working knowledge of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) and other policies, regulations, and guidance documents relating to marine resource management and conservation in the Pacific Islands Region;
- Be familiar with the responsibilities of the Council as well as Pacific Island community cultures and natural resources;
- Be familiar with territorial fishery agencies, federal fishery agencies, and fishing and seafood communities in the WPR;
- Possess excellent verbal and written communication and leadership skills and ability to work independently to produce deliverables on schedule;
- Be able to travel to U.S. Pacific Islands to support project development, monitoring and execution;
- Work independently and be available to commence and carry out work in the contract period;
- For the American Samoa and Mariana Islands contract coordinators, residing in the respective island area(s) to which they are applying is highly desirable; and
- See additional requirements in the attached Appendices for specific details for Contract Service Items 3-6.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Interested persons or entities should submit one (1) proposal clearly identifying to which of the service items listed above they are applying.
- Proposal can target any single service item or combination thereof.
- Proposal shall include a timeline for completion of each service item project included in the proposal, with a maximum of two years to provide all contract deliverables.
- Contractor(s) will work independently and coordinate with the Council program staff and project steering committee to meet deliverables and timelines.
- Proposal will be evaluated on a competitive basis based on the eligibility criteria as stated above and in the attached Appendices for Contractual Service Items 3-6.
- Selected contractor(s) are projected to commence work in January 2025.

HOW TO APPLY: Proposal submissions should include the following items (maximum 10 pages; 8.5x11 inch paper; 12 point font; single space): (a) Project Principal Name, Co-principals, Affiliation and Contact information (email address, phone, mailing address); (b) Statement clearly identifying which Contractual Service Item(s) is/are being applied for; (c) Statement addressing the qualifications and requirements as stated above and in the attached Appendices for Contractual Service Items 3-6; (d) Compensation rate on a time and materials basis, inclusive of all taxes and fees, for principals, co-principals and subcontractors; (e) list of sub-contractors and services to be provided; (f) travel matrix including cost for airfare, lodging, ground transportation and per diem; (g) a curriculum vitae or resume for project principals, co-principals and sub-contractors; and (h) list of other participants as appropriate.

Interested persons or entities should submit one (1) proposal clearly identifying to which of the six (6) Contractual Service Items above they are applying. Proposals may target any single service item or combination thereof on a time and materials basis.

Proposals may be submitted by email (attach materials in PDF) to info@wpcouncil.org or via regular mail to: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Proposals will be accepted until **5:00 p.m., November 22, 2024 (HST)**, or until a contractor is engaged, whichever occurs first.

Appendix 1: Contract Service Item 3 SOW – Scenario Planning

Background:

The fisheries of the U.S. are facing unprecedented challenges due to changing ocean conditions and market forces. Rising temperatures shift weather patterns and ocean currents, affecting where the fish are and what they eat. Communities that rely on these fisheries will need to adapt in order to continue to survive. Changing climate and changes in global markets form new unpredictable contexts in which fishery scientists and managers must work. Large scale changes often defy prediction and thus are difficult to incorporate into management decisions. How do fishery managers fulfill their responsibility to conserve and manage our nation's fishery resources while maintaining opportunities for communities to use sustainable resources in this changing environment? One approach developed is the use of scenario planning as a method of identifying uncertainties and determining options to meet management goals across multiple possible sets of future conditions.

Scenario planning is used to plan for adaptation to climate change, and also used to address uncertainties in regulations, markets and the environment. Scenario planning brings together information from multiple forms of knowledge (biological, environmental, political) to create multidimensional futures (scenarios) to which management can be envisioned to meet a set of goals or objectives. The participatory process is collaborative and iterative requiring a broad range of stakeholders to produce tangible outcomes that can be used in management.

Project Objectives

The goal of this project is to develop adaptive climate-resistant fishery management regimes for longline and small boat fisheries in the WPR. Objectives of this project are to:

1. Utilize a structured process to explore and describe scenarios for Western Pacific fisheries under a changing climate to determine how fishery management and governance will be affected; and
2. Consider and develop tools and strategies for the Council to best adapt and address future conditions in order to continue promoting fisheries in the WPR.

Scenario planning includes the following 2 separate initiatives: Independent scenario planning efforts will look at (A) the large vessel fisheries, Hawaii and American Samoa longline fisheries, operating in the WPR; and (B) the small-boat fisheries operating in the US Pacific Islands of American Samoa, Guam, CNMI and Hawaii.

Project A for scenario planning on Hawaii and American Samoa longline fisheries

The Contractor(s) will:

- 1) Work with Council staff to establish, monitor and maintain a steering committee that will consist of representatives from Council staff, Council advisors, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) and Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) staff, local agency staff, and other key community members as determined. The Steering Committee shall provide guidance on all aspects of the project including developing the scope, schedule and protocols to support region-wide community engagement to support this effort.
- 2) As these meetings require significant research on topics beforehand, the Contractor(s) will conduct research, review and source information to inform planning efforts that further understand possible climate change futures in Hawaii and American Samoa that impact ecosystems, local infrastructure, and economies associated with longline fisheries in the respective fisheries. Information to support discussions and to better understand climate impacts on targeted pelagic resources, ecosystems and communities are needed to address:

- a) Expected climate change futures and their impacts on the distribution of targeted fisheries;
 - b) Development of new possible fisheries or displacement of new fisheries in the range of Hawaii and American Samoa longline operations;
 - c) Expected impacts on market structure and local economy under climate futures; and
 - d) Stakeholder concerns and priorities for addressing climate change over varying time horizons.
- 3) Provide overall coordination and facilitate scenario planning events with participants involved in the Hawaii longline fishery, seafood industry, and other relevant sectors, which may include, but not limited to:
- a. Hawaii Longline Association (HLA), Hawaii Seafood Council, Council Advisors, NMFS PIRO & PIFSC, State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), Seafood Processors/Distributors (United Fishing Agency, Fresh Island Fish, Hilo Fish, etc.), international partners (The Pacific Community (SPC) and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Secretariat), and other interested organizations/parties;
 - b. American Samoa longline fishery, which include Tautai O Samoa Fishing Association, Alia Fishing Association, Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, Council Advisors, USCG, seafood distributors/processors, the StarKist Samoa cannery, international partners, and other interested parties.
- 4) Work with the Council staff and steering committee to identify and secure appropriate venue facilities, equipment and materials to best support planning activities (such as need to accommodate plenary sessions, breakout groups and technology).
- 5) Work with Council staff and steering committee to prepare and produce documents, presentations, materials and other products as needed; record, document and generate reports for each meeting held; photo document participation; prepare and provide reports and presentations to the Council, Advisory Bodies and other groups as needed; and use outcomes from each round of meetings to inform agendas, schedules and timing/locations of subsequent rounds of meetings.
- 6) Identify and engage subcontractors, where appropriate.
- 7) Incorporate information as appropriate from Service Items 4, 5 and 6.

Project B for scenario planning on small-boat fisheries in American Samoa, Mariana Islands, and Hawaii

The Contractor(s) will:

- 1) Work with Council staff to establish, monitor and maintain a steering committee that will consist of representatives from Council staff, Council advisors, NMFS PIRO and PIFSC and local agency staff, and other key community members as determined. The Steering Committee shall provide guidance on all aspects of the project including developing the scope, schedule and protocols to support region-wide community engagement to support this effort.
- 2) As these meetings require significant research on topics beforehand, the Contractor(s) will conduct research, review and source information to inform planning efforts that further understanding of possible climate change futures in the WPR that impact ecosystems, local infrastructure, and economies associated with small boat fisheries in American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, and Hawaii. Information to support discussions and to better understand climate impacts on targeted pelagic resources, ecosystems and communities are needed to address:

- a) Expected climate change futures and their impact on the distribution of targeted fisheries;
 - b) Development of new possible fisheries or displacement of new fisheries in the range of WPR small boat fisheries;
 - c) Expected impacts on market structure and local economy under climate futures; and
 - d) Stakeholder concerns and priorities for addressing climate change over varying time horizons; and
 - e) Social and cultural responses to climate change.
- 3) Provide overall coordination and facilitate the planning events with scenario planning participants involved in small-boat fisheries in the U.S. Pacific Islands, which may include, but are not limited to: Fishermen that fish from small-boats (including non-motorized vessels) to target the Council’s management unit species (MUS) such as bottomfish, uku, precious corals, deepwater shrimp, Kona crab, and the Council’s Ecosystem Component Species (ECS). Other participants may include Council Advisors, NMFS PIRO and PIFSC, Office of Law Enforcement (OLE)), State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, Guam Department of Agriculture, US Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), Pacific Islands Fisheries Group (PIFG), Hawaii Seafood Council, Seafood Processors/Distributors (United Fishing Agency, Guam Fishermen’s Cooperative Association, Fresh Island Fish, Hilo Fish, etc.), international partners such as The Pacific Community (SPC), and other interested organizations/parties
- 4) Work with the Council staff and steering committee to identify appropriate venue facilities, equipment and materials to best support planning activities (such as need to accommodate plenary sessions, breakout groups and technology).
- 5) Work with Council staff and steering committee to prepare and produce documents, presentations, materials and other products as needed; record, document and generate reports for each meeting held; photo document participation; prepare and provide reports and presentations to the Council, Advisory Bodies and other groups as needed; and use outcomes from each round of meetings to inform agendas, schedules and timing/locations of subsequent rounds of meetings.
- 6) Identify and engage subcontractors, where appropriate
- 7) Incorporated information as appropriate from other Contractual Service Items 4, 5 and 6.

ELIGIBILITY: In addition to the eligibility criteria listed on page 4, Contractor(s) should have:

1. For Project A,
 - a. Familiarity and experience working with climate science, research, local and federal resource and science agencies working with changing climates and ecosystems, institutions and non-governmental organizations;
 - b. Familiarity and experience working with community organizations and businesses in the WPR such as the HLA, American Samoa Longline Association (Tautai O Samoa), Hawaii Seafood Council, StarKist Samoa, American Tunaboat Association and other such organizations in the WPR;
 - c. Familiarity and experience with international bodies involved in management of tuna and tuna-like resources;
 - d. Understanding of climate change futures under the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and possible impacts to Pacific Island nations, territories, and states;

- e. Familiarity and experience with markets and economies associated with fisheries in Hawaii and American Samoa; and
 - f. Familiarity and experience with the U.S. seafood sector and relevant government authorities.
2. For Project B,
- a. Familiarity and experience working with climate science, research, local and federal resource and science agencies working with changing climates and ecosystems, institutions and non-governmental organizations;
 - b. Familiarity and experience working with community organizations and businesses in the WPR such as Hawaii Seafood Council, Guam Fishermen Cooperative Association, Hawaii Fisheries Alliance for Culture and Tradition (HFACT), Pacific Islands Fisheries Group (PIFG), Saipan Fishermen’s Association, Tasi to Table, boat clubs, and organizations in American Samoa, Guam, CNMI and Hawaii, and local and federal fishery agencies;
 - c. Experience working with fishing tackle manufacturers and dealers in the islands, seafood processors and marketing industries in the islands, marine service providers that service small and large vessels in the U.S. Pacific islands;
 - d. Working relationship with local and federal fishery monitoring, research and management agencies, including enforcement.

Appendix 2: Contract Service Item 4 - SOW – Regulatory Review

Background

Fisheries are important to the economy and cultures of each of the jurisdictions in the WPR. While the Council's FEPs were established in 2010, issues and concerns regarding climate change and ecosystems have gained traction and the Council has continued to deal with outside impacts on its jurisdiction through non-MSA requirements (e.g. Endangered Species Act (ESA), Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), Antiquities Act, National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA), etc.). In addition, the Council work to improve its Annual Catch Limits procedures have necessitated changes to data collection and other processes that have been changed over time. Electronic technologies have been introduced to help fulfill these needs. There are also potential gaps in regulations, particularly between Council and local jurisdictions that could affect resiliency of the fisheries as well. Monitoring requirements to meet statutory requirements under the ESA and MMPA have also evolved over time along with these changes. The continuous changes and challenges warrants a comprehensive look at whether or not the FEPs are suited to meet existing and future needs.

A review is necessary to determine areas within existing plans that limit or prevent adaptability/flexibility in times of sudden changes in climate or impacts to fisheries (e.g. shifts in stocks, change in water temperatures, introduction of new species, increases in top level predators, etc.). Additionally, community input will determine how the existing plans and regulations coordinate with how the fishery is actually being conducted to determine if more or less management is needed. Outcomes from a review could identify gaps in management, inefficient regulations, and potential regulatory conflicts that would inhibit climate resiliency in the FEPs and its regulations. This project will ensure the Council continues to further its efforts toward ecosystem-based fishery management as climate change effects create greater uncertainty.

Project goals and objectives

The goal of this project is to have a coordinated regulatory approach to fisheries shared between state/territorial and federal jurisdictions under the Council's Fishery Ecosystem Plans (FEPs) that is responsive to a changing climate.

The objectives of this project are:

1. To determine potential misalignments in the fishery regulatory frameworks of the state/territory and Council in order to identify solutions that will be responsive to climate change and serve the needs of underserved communities in the WPR;
2. Develop a coordinated management plan for Council fisheries and management unit species that occur in both federal and state/territorial waters; and
3. Ensure the sustainability of the fishery resources in the WPR through a coordinated management approach.

To support this project, the Contractor will, for each island area (including American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, and Hawaii):

1. Conduct a review of the Council's current fishery regulations in order to identify gaps, out of date regulations, conflicts, etc. that may hinder the Council's ability to be climate responsive to fishery issues. The review may also look at discrepancies between local and federal regulations, other applicable laws (such as ESA and MMPA), and differing management authorities to provide the Council with an understanding of potential obstacles and opportunities for the FEPs to address forecasted climate change impacts to the fisheries;

2. Work with Council staff to convene a regulatory review steering committee with federal and local agencies, the fishing industry, and community members to review results and develop working meeting plans; The contractor will be responsible to coordinate project activities and support oversight of the steering committee.
3. Work with Council staff and coordinators to convene working meetings with the community to present results or review and identify fishery issues and concerns with respect to climate change, synthesize concerns, identify regulatory processes that cause the issue, and identify possible solutions;
4. Identify and develop coordinated plans to inform potential amendments to the Council's FEPs that address the issues and regulatory discrepancies;
5. Present draft plans to the community at public meetings for comments through the Council process;
6. Work with Council staff and steering committee to prepare and produce documents, presentations, materials and other products as needed; record, document and generate reports for each meeting held; photo document participation; prepare and provide reports and presentations to the Council, Advisory Bodies and other groups as needed; and use outcomes from each round of meetings to inform agendas, schedules and timing/locations of subsequent rounds of meetings.
7. Identify and engage subcontractors, where appropriate;
8. Finalize plans with Council staff, according to federal and local regulations; and
9. Incorporate information as appropriate from other Contractual Service Items 3, 5 and 6.

ELIGIBILITY: In addition to the eligibility criteria listed on page 4, Contractor(s) should have:

1. Familiarity and working knowledge of the Council's FEPs and associated federal regulations relating to fisheries in the WPR;
2. Familiarity and experience with conducting reviews and providing analyses of content and effect of rules and regulations;
3. Experience working with American Samoa, Guam, CNMI and Hawaii local fishery agencies and other local government agencies tied to natural resource management and island cultures, federal fishery agencies and fishing and seafood communities;
4. Understanding of how fisheries in the WPR operate in order to determine economic and other impacts of existing, and future, regulations on fishers/industry;
5. Be able to effectively communicate the results of this project to the Council and its affected communities.

Appendix 3: Contractual Service Item 5 – SOW – Protected Species

Background:

A significant component of managing the Hawai'i and American Samoa longline fisheries under the Council's Pacific Pelagic FEP is reducing impacts to protected species. These fisheries encounter a broad range of protected species during its operations, including seabirds, marine mammals, and elasmobranchs. Management measures implemented under the Pelagic FEP to address protected species interactions include gear restrictions, handling and release requirements, interaction limits, and observer coverage. Managing these impacts in the fishery requires balancing cross-taxa impacts, socioeconomic effects, linkages with ESA and MMPA, and the broader international fisheries context. This management setting is expected to increase in complexity with uncertainties associated with varying levels of climate change effects on protected species population trends and distribution, target fish stock distribution and availability, and associated fishing operation changes. In the face of shifting productivity and distribution as a result of climate change, it is necessary to better understand how the changing environmental conditions may affect the rate of protected species interactions in the region's fisheries, and to develop and implement management strategies that can respond to those changes.

Project objectives:

1. Improve understanding of how climate and ecosystem drivers may impact protected species interaction rates in our region's fisheries
2. Explore potential scenarios in which climate change impacts protected species interactions in fisheries, and identify potential strategies and frameworks for addressing those impacts
3. Adjust management measures to provide flexibility and adaptability to climate and ecosystem drivers

To accomplish these objectives under Contractual Service Item 5, the Council proposes to convene two workshops, followed by an initiative to develop a plan for incorporating workshop outcomes into the management scheme. The Council is soliciting contractual services on a time and material basis to carry out planning and coordination to support these objectives.

Contractual Service Item 5 includes the following 3 separate project initiatives:

Project A: Incorporate climate effects and population trends in predicting and managing protected species interactions in U.S. Pacific pelagic fisheries - HILL fishery case study

Under Project A, the Council will convene workshop of managers, scientists, fishery representatives with the aim to improve understanding of how ecosystem drivers may impact protected species population trends/distributions and interactions in the HILL fishery, and explore approaches for incorporating climate and ecosystem drivers in the predictions of future interaction rates and management of interactions. The workshop will focus on sea turtle interactions in the HILL fishery, building upon ongoing efforts by the Council and NMFS to improve the understanding of protected species interaction patterns and collaboration with industry representatives to improve strategies for interaction avoidance. Past collaboration between Council and NMFS resulted in the development of an ecosystem model to improve understanding of environmental factors driving interaction patterns, and further work is necessary to consider ecosystem and environmental effects on sea turtle population trends and distributions, and resulting overlap with fishing effort. Detailed focus of the workshop will be determined through a Steering Committee including NMFS, industry representatives and other relevant partners. The workshop will serve as a case study for incorporating climate effects and population trends in predicting and managing protected species interactions in U.S. Pacific pelagic fisheries.

To support Project A, the Contractor will:

- 1) Work with Council staff to establish and coordinate a Steering Committee that will consist of representatives from Council staff, Council advisors, NMFS PIRO and PIFSC, industry representatives and other relevant partners as determined. The Steering Committee shall provide guidance for all aspects of the project including refining the workshop focus and participants.
- 2) Work with Council staff and the Steering Committee to organize and convene a 3-day workshop in Honolulu. The contractor will be responsible for leading the development of meeting materials, coordinating presentations, and other products needed to support the workshop, as well as recording and documenting the workshop for the purpose of generating a report. Preparatory work may include travel to meet with collaborators and data holders if needed. Estimated 20 participants to include Council staff, SSC members, HILL industry representatives, PIRO/PIFSC staff, and researchers (including international collaborators data providers as appropriate ; oceanographers).
- 3) Develop workshop report and vet outcomes through presentations to the Council's Plan Team, Fishing Industry Advisory Committee (FIAC), Advisory Panel (AP), SSC and Council meetings, and provide inputs into Project C below.
- 4) Coordinate with contracts under other Projects 3, 4, and 6.

Project B: Developing adaptive strategies and framework for managing climate change effects on protected species interactions in U.S. Pacific pelagic fisheries

Under Project B, the Council will convene a workshop of managers, scientists, fishery representatives (HILL and American Samoa longline) to identify, evaluate and develop action plans for implementing adaptive strategies and frameworks for managing a broad range of protected species interactions in the U.S. Pacific pelagic fisheries (sea turtles, seabirds, marine mammals, and elasmobranchs). The workshop will explore potential scenarios in which climate change effects impact protected species interactions in fisheries, and identify potential strategies and frameworks for addressing those impacts through the Pelagic FEP, while taking into account cross-taxa impacts, socioeconomic effects, linkages with ESA and MMPA, and the broader international fisheries context.

To support Project B, the Contractor will:

- 1) Work with Council staff to establish and coordinate a Steering Committee that will consist of representatives from Council staff, Council advisors, NMFS PIRO and PIFSC, industry representatives and other relevant partners as determined. The Steering Committee shall provide guidance for all aspects of the project including refining the workshop focus and participants.
- 2) Work with Council staff and the Steering Committee to organize and convene a 3-day workshop in Honolulu. The contractor will be responsible for leading the development of meeting materials, coordinating presentations, and other products needed to support the workshop, as well as recording and documenting the workshop for the purpose of generating a report. Est. 30 participants to include Council staff, Council members and/or advisory group members, HILL and ASLL industry representatives, PIRO/PIFSC staff, researchers, and other experts as determined by the Steering Committee.

- 3) Develop workshop report and vet outcomes through presentations to the Council's Plan Team, FIAC, AP, SSC and Council meetings, and provide inputs into Project C below.
- 4) Coordinate with contracts under other Projects 3, 4, and 6.

Project C: Developing plan for incorporating workshop outcomes into the management scheme

Under Project C, the Council will develop a plan for incorporating workshop outcomes from Projects A-B into the management scheme through the development of an options paper or action plan.

To support Project C, the Contractor will:

- 1) Identify management options for incorporating ecosystem drivers of sea turtle interactions into the HILL fishery, and adaptive strategies and framework for managing climate change effects on protected species interactions in U.S. Pacific pelagic fisheries (develop options paper or action plan to incorporate into management scheme).
- 2) Work with Council staff, PIRO/PIFSC staff, industry reps, advisory groups to develop options paper or action plan
- 3) Vet product through the public including the Plan Team, FIAC, AP, SSC and Council meetings. Consult with Priority 4 Community Consultation Steering Committee to support public vetting efforts to meaningfully engage underserved Pacific Island communities.

ELIGIBILITY: In addition to the edibility criteria listed on page 4, Contractor(s) should have:

1. For Projects A&B,
 - a. Working knowledge of protected species interactions in the region's pelagic fisheries, especially in Hawaii and American Samoa longline fisheries;
 - b. Familiarity with ecosystem drivers and climate change impacts affecting protected species interactions in fisheries and population status;
 - c. Experience working with the Hawaii and American Samoa longline fishery industry representatives and NMFS;
 - d. Working knowledge of past and current management of the WPR's pelagic fisheries, especially in Hawaii and American Samoa longline fisheries under the MSA and Council's Pelagic FEP;
 - e. Working knowledge of ESA and MMPA as it relates to managing protected species interactions in the region's pelagic fisheries, especially for the Hawaii and American Samoa longline fisheries
 - f. Experience coordinating and organizing workshops or meetings
2. For Project C:
 - a. Working knowledge of protected species interactions in the region's pelagic fisheries, especially in Hawaii and American Samoa longline fisheries;
 - b. Experience developing natural resource management plans or action plans
 - c. Working knowledge of past and current management of the region's pelagic fisheries, especially in Hawaii and American Samoa longline fisheries under the MSA and Council's Pelagic FEP;
 - d. Working knowledge of ESA and MMPA as it relates to managing protected species interactions in the WPR's pelagic fisheries, especially for the Hawaii and American Samoa longline fisheries

Appendix 4: Contractual Service Item 6- SOW - Community Consultation and Capacity-Building

NOTE: Contractual services to support Contractual Service Item A should be provided with anticipated support of two years of funding. Funding for additional years may be available contingent upon the successful completion of activities to meet the goals and objectives of the IRA priorities. Contractual services to support Contractual Service Item B below should be provided with anticipated funding to support a one (1) year pilot fishery training/vocational project. Additional funding will be subject to the successful completion of the pilot project and approval by NMFS.

Background:

Work carried out under Contractual Service Item 6 will leverage the Council's advisory bodies and community consultation processes to listen, learn and understand the impacts and issues communities face as they adapt to evolving ecosystems and changing climate. This project aims to build on existing, and develop new networks and communication paths with indigenous, disadvantaged and underserved fishing communities throughout the WPR. This furthers Council efforts to empower communities and provide knowledge, tools and resources to participate in Pacific Island fisheries and engage in monitoring, research and federal management of those resources.

Project objectives:

1. Solicit, understand and record impacts of the changing ecosystem resulting from climate change;
2. Generate reports on community knowledge and information on the changing ecosystems and climate to inform monitoring and management processes and policy decision-making and improve FEPs;
3. Share opportunities with communities to participate in Council programs and projects to foster capacity-building, document traditional and cultural fishing practices/areas, monitor ecosystem and resources vital to sustainable fisheries and development of community-based management plans; and
4. Share outcomes from this project will also be used to inform projects and activities being undertaken in Contractual Service Items 3, 4 and 5.

The CCCP includes the following 2 separate project initiatives:

Project A) Use the Council's public consultation processes to listen, learn and understand the impacts and issues U.S. Pacific Island communities face as they are impacted by changing climates and how they are adapting to evolving ecosystems.

To support Project A, the Contractor(s) will:

- 1) Work with Council staff to establish, monitor and maintain a steering committee that will consist of representatives from Council staff, Council advisors, NMFS PIRO and PIFSC and local agency staff and other key community members as determined. The Steering Committee shall provide guidance on all aspects of the project including developing the scope, schedule and protocols to support region-wide community engagement to support this effort.

- 2) Identify the need and budget for subcontractors that will be engaged to support this effort, e.g., locally based facilitators and/or translators that understand the local culture and protocols and can speak the native language.
- 3) Plan, coordinate and convene a series of meetings in each island area throughout the Council's jurisdiction to solicit input to better understand climate impacts on local resources, ecosystems and communities. Funding to support one year of community meetings to be based on a general schedule as follows:
 - a) Two (2) rounds of community meetings in the State of Hawaii, Territories of American Samoa and Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).
 - b) For each round, plans and budgets should include 3 community meetings in American Samoa; 3 meetings in Guam; 3 meetings in CNMI; and 8 meetings in Hawaii. Meetings in each island area should be held in locations and at times to encourage and allow for maximum participation of targeted underserved communities. Example of one round of meetings:
 - i) American Samoa: Tutuila, Aunu'u, Manua (Ofu, Olosega and/or Ta'u)
 - ii) Guam: Malesso (Southern), Hagatna (Central), Dededo (Northern)
 - iii) CNMI: Saipan, Rota and Tinian
 - iv) Hawaii: Kauai, Oahu (2 meetings), Molokai, Lanai, Maui and Hawaii Island (2 meetings - Hilo and Kona)
 - c) Working with the steering committee, the contractor will:
 - i) Coordinate with staff and meeting participants to prepare and produce documents, presentations, materials and other products as needed.
 - ii) Record, document and generate reports for each meeting held.
 - iii) Photo document participation.
 - iv) Prepare and provide reports and presentations to the Council, advisory bodies and other groups as needed.
 - v) Use outcomes from each round of meetings to inform agendas, schedules and timing/locations of subsequent rounds of meetings.
 - d) Costs for travel to support these community meetings must be included in the proposed budget.
 - e) NOTE: One additional round of meetings may be held in a third year based on need and availability of funds. Costs for a third round of meetings should NOT be included in this proposal.

Project B) Work with impacted Pacific Island underserved fishing community members to participate in new fishery training and/or vocational programs to provide for new opportunities and build capacity in U.S. Pacific Island fisheries.

To support this Project B, the Contractor(s) will:

- 1) Work with Council staff to establish, monitor and maintain a steering committee that will consist of representatives from Council staff, Council advisors, NMFS PIRO and PIFSC and industry representatives and organizations (such as, HLA, Tautai O Samoa Longline Fishing Association, United Fishing Agency, Guam Fishermen's Cooperative, Hawaii Seafood Council, PIFG, HFACT) to develop the scope of the pilot fishery training program and guide its implementation.
- 2) In coordination with the steering committee, scope, plan and prepare for the pilot course:
 - a) Solicit for and engage subcontractors to help meet project goals and objectives;

- b) Develop course and curriculum utilizing industry standards, and available resources as appropriate. In-depth training to focus on commercial fishing operations, navigation, safety-at-sea, regulatory requirements and ensure full participation in at-sea training;
 - c) Develop a process and selection criteria to recruit small cohorts (less than 10 individuals) of motivated U.S. Pacific Island fishermen; and
 - d) Arrange for and secure venues, platforms, services, equipment and materials to host the pilot training program.
- 3) Execute the pilot training program to provide classroom training experiences and on-the-water practicum:
- a) Carry out the training/vocational program as developed by the Contractor and steering committee;
 - b) Work with steering committee to develop course evaluation form, and certification of completion;
 - c) Evaluate and assess the program for future implementation.
- 4) Produce reports and presentations to the Council and its advisory bodies as needed. Report should include recommendations for course improvements, evaluation on participation and success, and options to further explore industry partnerships ensure course longevity.

ELIGIBILITY: In addition to the eligibility criteria listed on page 4, Contractor(s) should have:

1. For Project A,
 - a. Working knowledge and experience with WPR community cultures and natural resources;
 - b. Experience working with AS, Guam, CNMI and HI local fishery agencies and other local government agencies tied to natural resource management and island cultures, federal fishery agencies and fishing and seafood communities;
 - c. Familiarity with local cultural protocols when working in AS, Guam, CNMI and HI.
2. For Project B,
 - a. Familiarity and experience working with fishing and community organizations such as the HLA, American Samoa Longline Association (Tautai O Samoa), Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association, Hawaii Seafood Council, PIFG, HFACT, Saipan Fishing Association, Tasi to Table, boat clubs and organizations in AS, GU, CNMI and HI, and local and federal fishery agencies.
 - b. Experience working with fishing tackle manufacturers and dealers in the islands, seafood processors and marketing industries in the islands, marine service providers that service small and large vessels in the U.S. Pacific islands.
 - c. Working relationship with local and federal fishery monitoring, research and management agencies, including enforcement.