



Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Fisheries Restoration Program 2025 Request for Proposals

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) is requesting proposals for contractor support to assist in the development of a data warehouse to collect, maintain and disseminate data collected through the various state recreational effort and landings survey programs. This project is a component of the Inflation Reduction Act red snapper

funding that is focused on improving infrastructure at GSMFC and the states to make data available more efficiently.

State recreational data collection programs have originated from various priorities. Texas has the longest running recreational data collection program in the region dating back to 1974. In 2014 Louisiana developed the LA Creel survey to better meet the fishery management needs in Louisiana. In recent years with the implementation of state management for red snapper, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida all developed state surveys to have more timely estimates for quota monitoring and to improve the precision of landings estimates for reef fish species. To make utilizing these data more efficient we recognize the need for developing a centralized data warehouse where recreational data can be easily accessed from within a standardized database. These data are critical in both the federal and state fisheries management process and this project hopes to greatly improve the accessibility and utility of these data. Participating agencies include the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC), Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR), and Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR), Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and NOAA Fisheries (NOAA).

Statement of Work (SOW)

The goal of this project is to develop a data warehouse that will allow GSMFC and state partners to efficiently import, manage, store, and transfer state-collected fishery-dependent recreational data. The database must be able to produce high-level analytics and summary reports from the available data. The database must also be able to reuse existing technology already in use by the GSMFC and state partners, and must include the use of Oracle Apex on the front end and Oracle Cloud database on the backend. GSMFC will create the initial schema for the contractor to work inside but are open to other suggestions that could improve work efficiency.

Activities

The contractor will work directly with members of the project team (GSMFC, NOAA, FWC, ADCNR, FWC, MDMR, LDWF, TPWD) to coordinate development of the database.

1. Task 1: Coordinate with project team

- a. Within 10 days after contract is awarded, meet with GSMFC project team to initiate Task 1.
- b. Kickoff meeting to discuss parameters and metrics for the database.
- c. Bi-weekly database development coordination meetings with appropriate partners.

2. Task 2: Database development

- a. Develop import process
 - i. Create a private portal that gives partners the ability to upload primary datasets into a database. Datasets include effort estimates, landings estimates, raw survey data, and site sampling datasets. The import process will be developed around ascii delimited text files. GSMFC or state partners will provide examples of current partners' datasets. GSMFC already receive LDWF and TPWD data. Time will need to be spent with FWC, ADCNR, and MDMR to understand file formats and capabilities. ADCNR and MDMR file structures will closely mimic LDWF file structures as all three states are using the same methodology. The import process would need validation checks to reduce errors in the final database. Specifics on these will need to be developed in partnership with each agency.
- b. Develop export process
 - i. Data must be able to be efficiently exported and disseminated to state and federal partners for use in science and management.
 1. NOAA Fisheries is developing a system to warehouse data that would come from GSMFC. We will work closely with them on the development of an API to allow for efficient access to clean data.
 2. Need to develop a process for public download of estimate datasets as well that allows for multiple formats such as .csv, JSON, and excel.
- c. Develop repository for survey documentation
 - i. Each state will develop documentation that explains all aspects of survey design. These documents need to be easily accessible to both the scientific and public users that are interested in learning more about how these surveys are designed and implemented.
- d. Develop reporting dashboard
 - i. Develop reporting tools that allow analysis of total estimated landings, total estimated fishing trips, and performance metrics such as number of sample days, number of anglers interviewed, and numbers of fish weighed or measured. Reporting dashboard should include the ability to filter reporting results by state, year, month, fishing mode and area fished.

3. Task 3: Test database

- a. Test the import, export, and reporting dashboard with project partners prior to full implementation to ensure accurate data uploading, warehousing, and dissemination.

4. Task 4: API Development

- a. Develop an API to allow state and federal partners to download datasets from the recreational survey database using customized search queries.

Deliverables

1. An import process that accommodates and validates the multi-partner state recreational survey datasets.
2. An export process that allows GSMFC staff to disseminate state recreational data to state and federal partners following required data standards.
3. Develop a reporting dashboard capable of producing summary-level results that can be filtered by year, month, state, fishing mode, and area fished and should include but not be limited to:
 - a. Total estimated landings by species
 - b. Total estimated fishing effort
 - c. Survey performance metrics
 - i. number of sample days
 - ii. number of anglers interviewed
 - iii. numbers of fish weighed or measured

Timeline

Proposals (required) must be received by electronic mail to Gregg Bray (gbray@gsmfc.org) by 5:00 pm Central Standard Time on May 30, 2025. The period for this work will be approximately June 15, 2025 – December 31, 2025.

1. Work may begin as soon as a contract is in place.
2. During the coordination, development, and testing phases of this project, the contractor will meet regularly with the project team.
3. Since there are multiple partners and end users for this database, a phased approach for each partner may be most appropriate.

Proposal required information

All proposals must be submitted to the GSMFC GulfFIN Program Manager using the following format:

- Applicant name: Identify the name of the applicant.
- Project title: A brief statement to identify the project.
- Requested award amount: Provide the total requested amount of proposal.
- Requested award period: Provide the total time period of the proposed project.
- Approach: List all procedures necessary to accomplish the desired tasks.
- Budget table and narrative: Provide a detailed table of all costs to be incurred in this project, including, but not limited to: personnel, equipment, travel. The budget table should be accompanied by a written breakdown of costs to be incurred. Funds for salaries and fringe benefits may be requested only for those personnel who are directly involved in implementing the proposed project and whose salaries and fringe benefits are directly related to specific products or outcomes of the proposed project. Hourly rates and projected hours worked on the project and/or percentage of time and yearly salary should be included for all

salary requests. Applicants are strongly encouraged to request reasonable amounts of funding for salaries and fringe benefits to ensure the proposal is competitive.

- Principal Investigator (PI): List the PIs work experience similar or related to the development of databases specifically for fisheries data.
- Experience and activities: Describe any previous relevant experience(s) working with fisheries data and/or database development that are similar or related to the desired tasks described in this RFP.

Proposal review and selection procedures

Proposals must be received via e-mail (to gbray@gsmfc.org) by 5:00 pm Central Standard Time on May 30, 2025. By June 9th, 2025, GSMFC should inform applicants, based upon their proposal, whether they have been selected or to request additional information. All those who submit complete and timely proposals and meet all requirements are eligible to be considered. Failure to follow the requirements described in this RFP will result in proposals being returned without review. The following criteria will be used to evaluate proposals:

- Adherence to required information
- Qualifications of personnel assigned to project
- Range of similar experience and activities performed by applicant
- Description of approaches
- Cost of proposal

Applicants should be willing to work closely with GSMFC and state partners. GSMFC staff will make final decisions on project approvals and grant awards in consultation with NOAA. The review and evaluation of all written proposals will take into consideration the description of eligible projects, funding availability and ability to complete the project in the established timeframe. The entities that receive project funding must abide by the established reporting requirements. If accepted for funding, this project must comply with all federal government audit principles/procedures and the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions.

The deadline to submit proposals is **COB Friday, May 30, 2025**. Please submit proposals by email to Gregg Bray (gbray@gsmfc.org). If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

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