



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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*Saving a National Treasure*

## **Request for Proposals:**

### **Patent Tong Survey for Restoration Groundtruthing and Planning**

**ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION:**

Name: **Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Inc.**  
Address: **6 Herndon Ave., Annapolis, MD 21403**  
Contact: **Allison Colden**

**ISSUE DATE:**

May 24, 2021

**BACKGROUND:**

The Chesapeake Bay oyster population has suffered from overharvest, disease, pollution, and habitat loss, leading to the reduction of the population to a small fraction of its historic size. This decline in oyster population size has been accompanied by a reduction in the delivery of oyster reef ecosystem services, including water filtration, habitat provisioning, and nutrient reduction. To restore the oyster population and its attendant ecosystem services, numerous federal, state, local and non-profit partners have engaged in oyster restoration throughout the Chesapeake Bay, most recently guided by the goal listed in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, which seeks to protect and restore oyster populations in 10 tributaries (5 in Maryland) by 2025.

To usher in the next phase of oyster restoration in Chesapeake Bay, CBF seeks to demonstrate the value of ‘sanctuary-scale’ oyster restoration through the development and execution of a restoration plan for the South River and Herring Bay oyster sanctuaries. Both areas once contained productive oyster bars but have received little to no restoration inputs since their designation as sanctuaries in 2010. Applying the lessons learned in Maryland’s targeted tributaries, CBF seeks to identify areas suitable for oyster restoration and execute restoration projects in each of these oyster sanctuaries at an ecologically meaningful scale. An ancillary objective of this project is to engage local community organizations and build their capacity to implement oyster restoration projects in their local waterways, catalyzing the further implementation of oyster restoration throughout Maryland.

**SUMMARY OF NEED:**

CBF seeks an experienced firm to conduct groundtruthing and oyster population surveys of oyster density and habitat quality to help bring a restoration blueprint for the South River and Herring Bay oyster sanctuaries from planning to implementation. CBF has completed initial desktop analyses consistent with approaches used to develop restoration blueprints for Maryland’s targeted tributaries. These analyses have identified approximately 90 acres of currently restorable oyster habitat in the South River. CBF is now seeking the support of a skilled contractor to conduct groundtruthing field work and to develop restoration treatment recommendations that CBF staff will execute starting Spring 2022.

**SCOPE OF WORK:**

The contractor will design and conduct a patent tong survey to determine bottom type, oyster habitat (cultch volume and quality) and oyster density on polygons identified by CBF staff in the South River and Herring Bay oyster

sanctuaries. Contractors will be responsible for the design of a statistically robust survey with sufficient power to produce reliable estimates of oyster density and cultch volume. This survey should match, as closely as possible, the methodology of pre-construction groundtruthing surveys conducting in other targeted tributaries. An example can be found [here](#). The contractor will coordinate with CBF staff to identify survey areas of interest based on existing data sources.

**DELIVERABLES:**

Using the approaches employed by restoration partners to develop restoration plans in Maryland's targeted restoration tributaries, the contractor will develop a final report that includes survey methodology, survey results, and restoration recommendations for each survey polygon delineating areas suitable for 'seed-only' restoration or 'substrate and seed' restoration (see similar example [here](#)). This final report should be accompanied by GIS shapefiles that include, at a minimum, sample locations, sample date, observed oyster densities, and polygons indicating recommended restoration treatment.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:**

Contractors must be familiar with oyster restoration methods and approaches in Chesapeake Bay, with preference toward experience in oyster restoration in Maryland. Contractors should be familiar with the approaches of state and federal restoration partners to produce restoration "blueprints" for large-scale oyster restoration in accordance with the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. Contractors should have extensive experience conducting oyster population surveys and experience with the use of hydraulic patent tongs as a sampling device. Contractors will utilize their own vessels, equipment, and staff or those of subcontractors to conduct the study. Contractors must be able to produce proof of general liability and worker's compensation insurance, along with any other requested coverages, prior to the execution of the contract.

**PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

CBF will grant priority consideration to firms that currently hold all necessary scientific collection permits from the State of Maryland to conduct these studies. Additional consideration will also be given to proposals that include cooperative research opportunities for local watermen through subcontracts or other involvement. Please include information on these two criteria in your proposal to be fully considered.

**THE SCHEDULE:**

We request that your proposal be delivered electronically to Allison Colden no later than 5:00pm ET on June 14, 2021.

It is the intent of CBF to make a selection no later than July 2, 2021. We will notify you once a decision for award of bid is made.

The schedule requires that the selected entity complete the project by February 28, 2022.

**MINORITY PARTICIPATION:**

CBF actively encourages proposals from Small, Women and Minority Owned (SWAM) Businesses. Please note if you are a Small, Women or Minority Owned Business and if you are certified by the State/Commonwealth/DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS:**

Allison Colden  
[acolden@cbf.org](mailto:acolden@cbf.org)  
443.482.2160

## **BID RESPONSE FORM**

**Please complete the following information for your response:**

1. The name and full contact information of your company and, if applicable, any other entity comprising your team: [Attach resumes of individuals involved.]

2. List and describe three projects completed within the previous five years that are relevant to this project. If the relevance is not immediately obvious, please describe briefly the relationship as you see it. [Please submit examples of photos/videos from each of the 3 past projects described here. Photos will remain the property of the photographer.]

3. List three client references and their contact information for whom you or your team members have completed work similar to that described in this RFP:

4. Include basic information and history about the business entity, financial information, technical capability, and any other information you feel is important for us to know.

5. Fee Proposal, detailed to the greatest extent possible – cost for service: hourly rates (if applicable), typical direct out-of pocket costs such as travel reimbursement, copies, mailings etc., and any other anticipated expenses that you foresee:

6. Additional information, such as you/your team member's particular experiences, training, and/or academic background(s) that may make you uniquely qualified for this project. Please detail your specific experience with conducting oyster population surveys or implementing oyster restoration projects, along with the types of methods and approaches you have utilized in the past. [Attach additional materials as appropriate.]

7. Please comment on the preferred qualification criteria – 1) Do you/your firm currently hold a scientific collection permit for the State of Maryland that would cover this survey work? 2) Do you intend to include

opportunities for cooperative research as part of your survey design? Please explain how you envision including opportunities for watermen participation in your proposal.

**A successful applicant will need to provide proof of insurance based on the services or product provided.**

The undersigned certifies that the information submitted above is true and accurate.

The undersigned certifies that the person, firm, association, co-partnership or corporation herein named, has not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement, participated in any collusion, or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competitive bidding in the preparation and submission of a proposal to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for consideration in the award of a contract.

The undersigned further certifies that the firm, association, or corporation or any person in a controlling capacity associated therewith or any position involving the administration of federal funds; is not currently under suspension, debarment, voluntary exclusion, or determination of ineligibility by any federal agency; has not been suspended, debarred voluntarily excluded, or determined ineligible by any federal agency within the past three years; does not have a proposed debarment pending; and has not been indicted, convicted, or had a civil judgment rendered against said person, firm, association, or corporation by a court of competent jurisdiction on any manner involving fraud or official misconduct within the last three years.

I further acknowledge that by signing this page of the proposal, I am deemed to have agreed to the provisions of the affidavit.

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(Name of Firm)

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(Authorized Signature)

(Title)

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(Please print Name)

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(Date)