



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Saving a National Treasure

**Request for Proposals:
Underwater Photography of artificial oyster reefs in Chesapeake Bay,
Maryland**

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION: Name: **Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Inc.**
Address: **6 Herndon Ave., Annapolis, MD 21403**
Contact: **Doug Myers**

ISSUE DATE: **November 8, 2021**

SUMMARY OF NEED: Electronic image files

THE PROJECT: Chesapeake Bay Foundation seeks an experienced underwater photography firm to ground verify oyster reef progress in two locations. This work will take place using CBF's custom underwater photography platform known as the Clearwater Box. Electronic image files will be returned to CBF on SD cards with verified location data for inclusion in CBF's Oyster Restoration geodatabase.

SCOPE OF WORK: Chesapeake Bay Foundation seeks to systematically verify, document and geo-reference the locations and current conditions of past and potential future oyster restoration efforts in Maryland conducted by our restoration teams using underwater photography and videography. This effort will deliver a crucial "ground-truthing" assessment of past restoration work and target selection information for new restoration plans as we continue an ambitious campaign with state, federal and other Non-governmental organization partners to add 10 Billion oysters to the bay by 2025.

Fort Carroll, located near the Francis Scott Key bridge in Baltimore County, MD is the sole out-planting site for a robust oyster gardening program throughout Baltimore harbor as well as having received substrate and seed restoration on a one-acre reef site. Both these reefs are scheduled to receive additional plantings from oyster gardening and a new Solar Oyster production platform operating in the harbor. Clearwater Box images will be used

as baseline for the new plantings to assess associated organisms on the reef and any evidence of recent spat-fall indicating localized reproduction.

Winchester Lump is an artificial reef in the Severn river, MD near Annapolis made entirely of 300 concrete reef balls. This reef was constructed in 2018 for the purpose of increasing localized water turbulence in an area of persistently low dissolved oxygen. Oceanographic sampling indicates that the addition of reef balls indeed interact with daily tidal currents to mix stratified layers of water improving dissolved oxygen along the bottom. The reef balls were initially set with oyster larvae, but preliminary surveys suggest high mortality based on the conditions at the time. A more complete survey of the reef ball field may reveal either surviving oysters from that original set or spatfall that may have occurred in subsequent years from nearby reefs in the Severn River.

Below is a more detailed scope of the work CBF needs accomplished.

Target Reefs will be photographed with the Clearwater Box obtaining a full transect video and high resolution still images every ten meters along each transect. CBF will provide the contractor with center points and polygons within which the transects must be located. Direction of the transects within the reef polygon will be at the discretion of the contractor to account for safe deployment and retrieval given tidal current and surface vessel movements.

Upon confirmation of executed contract and insurance documentation, CBF's Clearwater Box will be delivered in person to contractor for inspection and replacement of needed components such as batteries, seals and O-rings, if needed. To bring the Clearwater Box up to working order, up to 3 "pool dives" are expected.

Images and footage will be delivered via the Clearwater Box camera's data storage card with accompanying spatial data on the actual transect start and end points.

THE SCHEDULE:

We request that your proposal be delivered electronically to CBF staff member Doug Myers no later than 5:00pm on November 30, 2021.

It is the intent of CBF to make a selection no later than December 6, 2021. We will notify you once a decision for award of bid is made.

The schedule requires that the selected entity complete the project (or provide services or provide supplies no later than June 30, 2022.

**MINIMUM
REQUIREMENTS:**

At a minimum, you must be able to provide the following: (or have the following qualifications – list minimum requirements)

- Certified professional qualifications for obtaining quality underwater images and videography in cold, turbid water conditions typical of Chesapeake Bay in Winter and Spring seasons.
- Competence in receiving, transporting, preparing, maintaining, using, and storage of the Clearwater Box, including all lighting batteries, camera, electronics, necessary spare parts and storage containers throughout the contract term including adequate insurance to cover the replacement cost in the event of catastrophic loss up to \$50,000.
- Knowledge of CBF oyster restoration and monitoring activities and partnerships.

INTERVIEWS:

There will be no need for interviews

**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:**

Doug Myers, Maryland Senior Scientist
dmyers@cbf.org
206-697-6266 cell