**Request For Proposals: Convene a consensus-driven process to revise the Chesapeake Bay oyster reef restoration success metrics**

RFP Date: 10/27/26

Proposal Due Date: 11/4/26 at midnight

**Project**

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation ("CBF") was awarded funding by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA") to convene a consensus-driven process to revise the Chesapeake Bay oyster reef restoration success metrics for use in implementing the 2025 Chesapeake Bay Agreement restoration targets. The ultimate deliverable will a final report that includes a set of success metrics that ensures consistency, scalability, and scientific rigor across all regional oyster reef restoration initiatives and accountability to the new Bay Agreement targets. The metrics will be presented to the Chesapeake Bay Program's Thriving Habitats, Fisheries, and Wildlife Goal Implementation Team. The project period is October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027.

**Process**

CBF will convene stakeholders with expertise in oyster biology, habitat restoration, and fisheries management in the Chesapeake Bay region and facilitate a series of four (4) stakeholder workshops to review and evaluate current oyster metrics, explore new metrics informed by existing Bay data, compile comparative literature reviews and group perspectives, and craft a consensus final report on new or revised metrics of restoration success. A steering committee will be formed from among invited participants to inform group process, report review, and results presentation. A CBF staff member with facilitation training and experience, yet limited knowledge of oyster science, will provide facilitation and logistical oversight.

**Contractor**

While CBF has extensive experience in oyster restoration, to assure our impartial participation and sufficient capacity for one CBF staff member to participate in the workshops, we are seeking an outside contractor to offer independent science synthesis and technical support prior to, during, and after workshops. Bidders with documented knowledge of Chesapeake Bay oyster restoration, policy, and/or management are preferred.

**Required Submittals**

To be considered for this opportunity, please send the following materials to Liz Ronston at eronston@cbf.org by midnight on Wednesday, November 4, 2026:

- Proposal not to exceed 4-pages, which includes tasks, deliverables, and timelines.
- Budget by task and/or deliverable.
- Contractor resume.

Additionally, all contractors must be able to obtain the following insurance coverage to be eligible for consideration:

- Commercial General Liability, minimum $1,000,000
- Business Auto, minimum $1,000,000
- Workers Comp coverage
- CBF named as additional insured
- Certificate Holder field must read:

    Chesapeake Bay Foundation
    6 Herndon Avenue
    Annapolis, MD, 21403

We expect to have a contractor hired and begin work by the end of November 2026.