REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:
Short-term Blueline Tilefish Sampling

Proposal Submission Deadline: 2/25/2016

Available Funds:  Up to $10,000
Term of Contract: ~1 month
RFP Closing Date: 2/25/2015, 11:59 p.m. EST
Point of Contact: Dr. Christopher Moore, Executive Director
Email: cmoore@mafmc.org
Phone: (302) 526-5255

Purpose
The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) is accepting proposals to help obtain blueline tilefish samples off the Mid-Atlantic. The Council, as part of its recent blueline tilefish management efforts, has sponsored genetics research on blueline tilefish to help determine blueline tilefish stock structure. While some samples have been obtained through other efforts, additional samples are desired.

Scope of Work
The Council seeks interested vessels who could take an observer (observer would be contracted with separately) for 6-9 days (dock to dock) to catch blueline tilefish. Due to time constraints, there would not be an associated experimental fishing permit, so vessels would be limited to retaining the current 275 pound (gutted head-on weight) blueline tilefish trip limit and any other species that are legal for that vessel to retain. It is expected that vessels would fish approximately 2/3 of their time for blueline tilefish and could fish the remaining time for other species to help defray costs. Vessels would be expected to take 1-3 trips to complete the sampling. The sampling would need to take place in the vicinity of Hudson Canyon or to the northeast of Hudson Canyon. The goal would be to catch approximately 140 blueline tilefish for sampling (sampling does not destroy edible portions).

Contractor Qualifications
1. Experience with catching blueline tilefish.
2. Possess an observer safety decal.
3. Experience and/or willingness to work with observers.

Proposal Format/Qualifications
Respondents should provide a brief paragraph stating their interest, qualifications, two references, comments on the project and their approach, and proposed fee structure (cost per day and number of days at sea [dock to dock]).
Proposal Submission
Interested parties must submit a proposal by COB February 25, 2016. The proposal may be mailed or emailed to the Council’s point of contact identified below.

RFP Timeline
The Council anticipates that the selection of a successful respondent and execution of contract will proceed according to the following approximate schedule:

2/19/2016 .......................................................... Issuance of RFP
2/25/2016 .......................................................... Deadline for proposal submission
2/27/2016 .......................................................... Contract notification
3/19/2016 .......................................................... Completion of work

Evaluation Criteria
Proposals will be evaluated based on prior experience, references and qualifications, understanding of work, and price. The Council may, at its discretion, request additional information from any respondents as deemed necessary to clarify or negotiate modifications to the proposal.

Requests for Further Information
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Disclaimer
1. Proposals and their accompanying documentation will not be returned.
2. Respondents must disclose any relevant conflicts of interest and/or pending civil/criminal legal actions.
3. The Council reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received, negotiate with all qualified applicants, cancel or modify the RFP in part or in its entirety, or change the application guidelines, when it is in its best interests.