

Request for Proposals: Consultant to MARCO to support and facilitate outreach to Mid-Atlantic Native American Tribes regarding ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic region

August 2014

Introduction

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean¹ (MARCO) is seeking to engage a consultant to provide facilitation services with tribal entities in the Mid-Atlantic region. The consultant will design and implement ocean planning outreach activities as described below. Through this outreach process, it is MARCO's goal to expand and enhance Tribal engagement in the regional ocean planning process.

Scope of Work

The consultant will conduct outreach to Federally-recognized Tribes, State-recognized Tribes, and State Tribal leadership boards and/or commissions through a series of tribal-focused listening sessions. These listening sessions, coordinated and organized by the consultant, will be geared toward informing tribes in the region about current regional ocean planning activities and creating opportunities for tribal engagement in the process.

MARCO also desires to create opportunities to work with the Federal and State Tribes in the Mid-Atlantic to identify and collect existing tribal data for inclusion in the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal. These data information and collection efforts would be informed by the Tribal Engagement listening sessions described above. Through these listening sessions, MARCO hopes to explore potential tribal-specific data needs and traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) considerations in the ocean planning process (e.g., cultural, archaeological, historical, and natural resources) and identify a process to collect that information.

The deliverables for these efforts include:

1. Planning, developing, and supporting six listening sessions with Federal and State Recognized Tribes to provide information to the Tribes regarding the ocean planning process and identify opportunities for engagement.
2. Identifying data gaps in existing data sets that require data development and may be suitable to the participatory GIS (pGIS) process. If data needs are identified, the consultant will plan, develop, and support up to three Tribal pGIS workshops in collaboration with the MARCO Ocean Data Portal Team.
3. Developing reports from each listening session, an overall summary, and a stand-alone presentation of the listening sessions and identified data gaps, for presentation to MARCO.

¹ Established in 2009 by the Governors of the five coastal Mid-Atlantic states (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Virginia), the [Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean \(MARCO\)](#) is a regional ocean partnership focused on shared actions that benefit from interstate collaboration and coordinated problem solving, based on four regional priorities to improve ocean health and contribute to the quality of life and economic vitality of the region.

The ideal facilitator will have Tribal engagement experience, credibility, and legitimacy. The consultant, in coordination with MARCO Staff and the Tribal Co-lead to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body² (MidA RPB), will:

- coordinate and organize the logistics for Tribal ocean planning workshops and meetings;
- develop the agendas and participants lists;
- facilitate the meetings, which will be held in-person, by phone, and by webinar; and
- provide meeting summary documents and reports.

Submission Guidelines

Proposals should not exceed seven pages in length and should include the following information:

- Qualifications summary, including relevant experience, and legal and contracting status
- Description of your approach to the development and execution of the scope of work, including personnel resources to be dedicated to this effort (including estimates for amount of time, title, and hourly billing rate)
- An estimated budget for the project
- References and support letters from previous work with tribal partners

The estimated start date of contact is September 15, 2014. MARCO may request an in-person meeting before making a final selection.

Submit your proposal by August 29, 2014 to Kris Ohleth, MARCO Executive Director at: KOhleth@MidAtlanticOcean.org

² The [Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body \(MidA RPB\)](#), was created in 2013 pursuant to the Presidential Executive Order establishing a National Ocean Policy (NOP) to guide the protection, maintenance, and restoration of America's oceans and coasts using identified regional priorities as a benchmark for ocean planning efforts. The MidA RPB's membership consists of state, federal, Tribal, and Fishery Management Council representatives