



**THE MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL COUNCIL ON THE OCEAN (MARCO)
MID-ATLANTIC COASTAL AND OCEAN ECONOMY RESILIENCE STUDY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
MAY 23, 2017**

I. Project Description

Established by the Governors of the five coastal Mid-Atlantic states in 2009, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) is a partnership of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Virginia to enhance the vitality of the region's ocean ecosystem and economy.

MARCO is soliciting proposals to undertake a quantitative study characterizing the potential vulnerability and resilience of the Mid-Atlantic coastal and ocean economy. The study should consider the ecosystem services that support that coastal and ocean economy, as well as potential impacts to those services from changing ocean conditions. These conditions and drivers may include inundation and sea level rise, ocean temperature, ocean chemistry and acidification, among others. For this project, the Mid-Atlantic region scope spans county level data for each of the five MARCO states of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and New York. Issues to be considered include the following:

- A narrative and quantitative summary description of the current regional coastal and ocean economy and projected trends at the regional, state, and coastal county scales (where feasible);
- A summary description of what is known about current relevant non-market values and ecosystem services and projected trends;
- An assessment of what economic sectors are most potentially vulnerable to changing ocean conditions and how key assets and the value of those assets will be impacted. Analysis should be based on clearly identified climate scenarios, including variable time scales. Proposals are encouraged to be as consistent as possible with scenarios currently being used across Mid-Atlantic states;
- Economic analyses, including projections or forecasts, among other analyses, to illustrate how changing ocean conditions may impact coastal communities and economies (e.g. fishing, recreation and tourism, real estate, offshore energy, ports and navigation, as well as the habitat value of canyons and corals, among others);
- Identification of factors that may change - increase or decrease - the risks and potential vulnerabilities of the coastal and ocean economies in the coming decades, and of resources that are likely to be available or needed to enhance resilience or support adaptation;
- In coordination with MARCO and the Ocean Data Portal Team, identify how relevant coastal and ocean economic resilience data may be made spatially available on the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal (<http://portal.midatlanticocean.org>) to inform regional ocean planning and management; and
- Recommendations for next steps and a framework to improve the understanding of regional economic resilience and linkages between changing ocean conditions and economic outputs to better inform future decision making in the coastal and ocean environment.

Specific details on the above will be negotiated in collaboration with the Project Steering Committee and the selected contractor.

Potential sources of data and information for this project could include, but are not limited to: the National Ocean Economics Program (NOEP); the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Economics: National Ocean Watch (E-NOW) database; the NOAA 2017 Report on U.S. Ocean and Great Lakes Economy; NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center, *Ecosystem Status Report for the Northeast*

Large Marine Ecosystem; TNC’s Northwest Atlantic Marine Eco-Regional Assessment; and the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal. In addition, forthcoming summary reports from workshops will also serve as resources including: the Changing Ocean Conditions Related to Fisheries Workshop (April 2017) and the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Acidification Network Workshop (MACAN) (May 2017).

II. Funding and Project Management

This project is supported by a grant to the Coastal States Stewardship Foundation from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), *Mid-Atlantic Regional Resilience: Linking Coastal and Ocean Information to Enhance Economic, Social and Ecological Resilience*. Funding for this project is available up to a maximum of \$152,000.

The project will be coordinated by Kate K. Morrison, the MARCO Executive Director. The selected contractor will work closely with the project coordinator to negotiate the final project Scope of Work, Schedule and Milestones, and Budget.

III. Proposal Guidelines

Proposals should include the following:

Cover Sheet including: Project Title; Name/s and Title of Principal Investigator/s; Organization/Affiliation; Address; Telephone and Email, and; Total Project Budget.

Project Description including a maximum of five (5) single-spaced, single-sided pages, standard margins, 11point font or larger, including:

- Objectives
- Rationale
- Methodology
- Outcomes/ Outputs
- Project Schedule and Milestones (in consideration of Section IV below)

Project Budget: Detailed Budget, including an itemized breakdown of total cost and hourly rate of individual project members per task.

Qualifications: Names, title and contact information for Principal Investigator/s, qualifications, including economic expertise, and brief description of relevant work, including examples of regional economic analyses, as well as links to any relevant published papers or reports on this subject.

Additional material: Please include a list of any currently active or recent (past five years) contracts with any of the following states: Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and New York.

IV. Proposed Draft Timetable

June 16, 2017 (5pm Eastern)	Proposals due
July 20- Aug. 24, 2017	Contracting
Aug. 25, 2017; time TBD	Contract signed and one hour Project Kickoff call (Project Steering Committee and contractor)

Sept. 2017; time TBD	One hour Project Update check-in call (Project Steering Committee and contractor)
Oct. 2017 TBD	One hour Project Update check-in call (Project Steering Committee and contractor)
Nov. 17, 2017	Draft Report due
Dec. 13, 2017	Draft Report comments shared with contractor
Jan. 2, 2018	Final Report due
Jan. 24, 2018	Final revised report due from contractor (incorporating any last final changes, if needed)
Jan. 24, 2018	Two-hour webinar presentation and Q&A/discussion of Final Report for Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body and interested stakeholders identified by the MARCO Climate Change Action Team
Jan. 24, 2018	Contract ends

V. Submission Deadline and Process

Proposals must be submitted *no later than 5 PM (ET) on Friday, June 16, 2017* to the attention of Judy Tucker, MARCO Administrative and Finance Assistant, *via* email to jtucker@midatlanticocean.org. Electronic files must be a single Microsoft Word format file.

VI. Evaluation Criteria

MARCO will convene a Proposal Review Committee including representatives from NOAA, the MARCO states and the MARCO Ocean Data Portal Team to review and rank the proposals based on the following criteria:

- Responsiveness to this RFP;
- Overall clarity of objectives, approach, and methodology;
- Budget; and
- Qualifications of the investigators/organization.

VII. Requests for Clarification

Questions and requests for clarifications regarding this solicitation should be sent to Kate Morrison at kmorrison@midatlanticocean.org. *No phone calls, please.*