



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission

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Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission Request For Proposal Research

The Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission (ODCC) is soliciting responses to a request for a proposal (RFP) to conduct research as part of the commission's mission. Upon selection of qualified candidates, it is ODCC's intent to consider awarding a Personal Services Contract/Financial Agreement or Interagency Agreement which may be during the current fiscal year (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015) or after.

I. ODCC Background

The ODCC is a Commodity Commission created under ORS 576, representing the 423 Oregon Dungeness Crab 'limited entry' permit holders in the state of Oregon. The Commission serves Oregon's Dungeness crab fishing industry by developing and conducting 'generic' marketing and promotional initiatives, fishery research, and consumer/public education. Program goals include creating an 'Oregon' identity for Dungeness crab in the marketplace; increasing consumption of Oregon Dungeness crab; increasing awareness of the sustainability of the crab fishery which has achieved and maintained a 5 year Marine Stewardship Council Certification (MSC); and supporting fishery research projects that contribute to the health and understanding of the resource and may benefit the crab industry. ODCC Commissioners authorize programs that are implemented and supported by the Commission's staff and must review, adopt and approve all research projects.

As an Oregon Commodity Commission, the ODCC is industry-funded and collects an assessment from Oregon Dungeness crab producers. Commodity Commissions have oversight conducted by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and are required to follow Oregon's public meeting and record laws. All contracts are reviewed by the ODA and, depending on the amount of the contract, the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ). Commodity Commissions are audited and budgets are established each year in a public hearing process.

The ODCC Board of Commissioners is composed of eight members: five Oregon Dungeness crab producers, two Oregon Dungeness crab processors, and one public member. Commissioners are appointed by the Director of the ODA.

Mission Statement: The Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission works to enhance the image of the crab industry and to increase opportunities for profitability through promotion, education and research, and will conduct its business in accordance with guidelines set forth by the State of Oregon under ORS 576.051 – ORS 576.595.

II. Nature of Services Required

The Commission is entertaining proposals that address *information gaps in* the Oregon Dungeness Crab fishery. The ODCC is seeking parties to conduct research that will aid Dungeness crab fishery management to continue to maximize sustainable fishery practices. Periodic reports on the progress of the research will be required throughout the year. Research results will be shared with state agencies including the Oregon Department of Fish Wildlife (ODFW) and the public.

III. Proposed Statement of Work

Please include in your proposal how your research would meet one or more of the following objectives:

A. Bio-economic model

Objectives – Assess the biological and economic trade-offs of conducting the status quo commercial Dungeness crab fishery versus alternative management approaches by evaluating the ‘cost’ of bycatch during different phases of the fishery (i.e., first two months’ fishing down period (usually occurs after the second pull of crab pots), late winter/spring period when fishing effort is still pretty high but catch is low, female molt period, male molt period, etc.) Quantify how the interactions between changing discard mortality rates, bycatch rates, and fishing effort across a season impacts the economics of the Dungeness crab fishery. Work in collaboration with ODCC and ODFW to determine which, if any, alternative management measures will be used.

Include the following considerations in your proposal:

- Bycatch rates, bycatch handling mortality, rate of cannibalism within pots, natural mortality – synthesize data from various studies and agencies (published and unpublished) and incorporate uncertainty by running model over range of plausible values.
- Changes in price per pound through the season.
- Changes in average weight (per crab) throughout season.
- Assessment of differential impacts by coastal community, vessel size, fishing strategies or portfolios, market types or other relevant factors.
- Ability of the model to incorporate various harvest/effort levels – for example: reduced, historical, to 10% cap, others?
- Ability of the model to incorporate alternative values for key parameters (e.g., bycatch rates) as better information becomes available in future.

B. Bycatch survey

Objectives - Generate long-term geographically representative discard rates of Dungeness crab throughout the duration of the Oregon commercial Dungeness crab fishery and monitor the timing of Dungeness crab molting in Oregon waters over time. Apply bycatch rates to estimate total crabs handled and total crab discard mortality throughout crab seasons to evaluate bycatch mortality impacts to the fishery. Utilize findings to inform bycatch mortality bio-economic model.

C. Cannibalism in crab pots

Objectives – Develop rates of cannibalism of adult hard and soft shelled Dungeness crab in crab pots as soak time increases. Apply cannibalism rates to fishery effort and soak time data to estimate total crab

mortality due to cannibalism throughout a crab season to evaluate total bycatch mortality impacts to the fishery. Utilize findings to inform bycatch mortality bio-economic model.

IV. Proposal Format and Submission Requirements

The ODCC reserves the right to reject any proposal received that does not follow the prescribed format and submission requirements. Proposals must be complete in answering all the proposal requirements. Incomplete proposals will not be considered and cannot be supplemented by submissions delivered after the closing time and date of the Request for Proposal. Special care should be taken by the vendor in responding to this RFP, as the successful submitted proposal(s) will be incorporated into the final contract between the ODCC and the awarded contractor(s).

Interested vendors must submit:

- 5 (five) hard copies of a written proposal for each subject area. One electronic copy in PDF format on a thumb drive or other storage device.
- Each copy of the proposal must include a cover letter with an original signature.

For all proposed strategies and concepts, include responses to the following:

1. Title
2. Principal Investigator(s) and contact information
3. Cooperator(s), if any
4. Outline of research methods
5. How your work would meet the objectives stated above
6. Timeline for project with anticipated duration of study/Anticipated Project Completion Date
7. Estimated Cost (Itemized by project and indicating the amounts for materials and services, and for travel. Each proposer may need to make arrangements to go to sea if the research requires it.)
8. Include at least three professional references with contact information for someone who can speak to your successes, working relationships and methods of work.

Note: All Materials & Services (M&S) expense estimates (including travel, lodging, printing services, freight and postage, photography, advertising, etc.) should be provided separately for each component of proposed program. M&S expenses will be billed as incurred, to the ODCC, either as reimbursement to the contractor or as direct payment to M&S vendors.

Proposals must be received at the ODCC's office by the date and time noted below. Postmarks on that day will not be considered. No oral, telephone, email, or facsimile proposals will be accepted. Late proposals and/or modifications received after the stated deadline will not be considered.

Mail or deliver proposals to:

Hugh Link
Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission
P.O. Box 1160
Coos Bay, OR 97420
Office Phone: 541.267.5810

V. RFP Timeline

Estimated completion dates

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| A. RFP released..... | May 18, 2015 |
| B. Proposals are due by 5 pm..... | June 18, 2015 |
| C. Review of proposals..... | June 22, 2015 |

VI. Evaluation of Proposals

Proposals will be evaluated by selected ODCC commission members, ODCC research sub-committee members and the ODA Commodity Commission Oversight Program manager (Selection Committee). The following process will be used:

- A. Proposals will be reviewed by the ODCC's staff for compliance with format and submission requirements, as established in this RFP. Incomplete proposals will be rejected.
- B. Proposals considered complete will be evaluated by using a percentage scale based on the evaluation criteria listed below
- 30% Demonstrated success in executing effective research goals to meet objectives
 - 20% Background, experience and knowledge of Oregon's commercial fishing industry or other Oregon agricultural commodities.
 - 25% Proven skills and experience in successful research projects
 - 15% Cost/proposed budget
 - 10% References

The ODCC is discussing a budget for the entire scope of work, with the intention that the entire scope of work may not be completed during one fiscal year. After evaluating proposals, the ODCC will determine whether to move forward with research. If no proposals meet ODCC's needs, the ODCC will not make any financial awards. If the proposals meet ODCC needs, the ODCC will determine a timeline for the projects.

VII. Terms and Conditions for RFP for Personal Service Contract/Financial Assistance Agreement/Interagency Agreement

The ODCC reserves the right at its sole discretion: (1) to amend this RFP for possibilities such as to revise the scope of work or to extend the resulting contract; (2) to extend the deadline for proposal submission; (3) to determine whether a proposal does or does not substantially comply with the requirements of this RFP; (4) to waive any minor irregularity, informality, or nonconformance with this RFP; (5) to request references from other public agencies regarding the vendor's previous performance; and (6) at any time prior to contract/agreement execution (including after announcement of the tentative award): (a) to reject any proposal that fails to substantially comply with all prescribed RFP procedures and requirements; and (b) to reject all proposals received and cancel this RFP upon a finding by ODCC that there is good cause, and that such cancellation would be in the public interest to do so.

All who submit a response to this RFP understand and agree that the ODCC is not obligated to award a contract/agreement to any and further, has absolutely no financial obligation to any who submitted a proposal. In addition, each proposer understands and agrees that the ODCC shall, under no

circumstances, be responsible for any costs and expenses incurred in submitting a response to this RFP; each proposer who responds to this RFP does so solely at the proposer's cost and expense. Submitted proposals are subject to the Oregon Public Records Law.

The ODCC reserves the right to investigate references and past performance of any proposer with respect to the proposer's: successful performance of similar projects; compliance with specifications and contractual obligations; completion or delivery of a project on schedule, and; lawful payment of suppliers, subcontractors, and workers. The ODCC may postpone the award or execution of the contract/agreement after the announcement of the apparent successful proposer in order to complete its investigation. The ODCC reserves its right to reject any or all proposals at any time prior to execution of a contract/agreement.