

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Statement of Work

Position: Fisheries Management Contractor

Closing Date: June 13, 2014

Performance Period: mid-June to mid-September 2014 (*dates flexible*) **Compensation:** \$3,000

Background:

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coast states in 1942 in recognition that marine species do not adhere to political boundaries. The Commission serves as a deliberative body, coordinating the conservation and management of the states shared near shore fishery resources – marine, shellfish, and diadromous – for sustainable use. The Commission focuses on responsible stewardship of marine fisheries resources. It serves as a forum for the states to collectively address fisheries issues under the premise that as a group, using a cooperative approach, they achieve more than they could as individuals. The Commission does not promote a particular state or a particular stakeholder sector.

Objective:

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is currently seeking a graduate level student for temporary contract work focused on developing two comprehensive research documents to assist in the sustainable management of Atlantic coast fisheries.

Tasks:

Project #1 - Cancer Crab Research

The ASMFC is in the initial development phase of a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Cancer Crabs. The Contractor will develop a comprehensive background document, based on current literature, which includes the following topics: species life history, distribution, population status, description of the fishery (commercial, recreational, subsistence, and non-consumption), interactions with other species (predation, prey, endangered species), habitat requirements and condition, socio-economic considerations, threats, and other topics as necessary. This document will be further developed into a FMP by Commission staff and the American Lobster Technical Committee.

Project #2 – Sciaenid Research

The ASMFC is current developing a Habitat Source Document for ASMFC-Managed Sciaenids. The Contractor will assist in the development of a comprehensive resource on general and specific habitat needs and threats of Commission-managed sciaenid species as well as three kingfish species (Northern, Southern, and Gulf). The source document will ultimately provide recommendations to maintain adequate habitats and mitigate threats to sciaenid habitat resources. The Contractor will mainly be focused on the following topics: general and specific threats to sciaenid habitats; habitat needs for black drum, red drum, spot and weakfish; and other topics as necessary. This document will be further developed into a final publication by Commission staff and the Commission's Habitat Committee. This document will be part of an ongoing publication series focused on fisheries habitat. A previous example can be found here:

http://www.asmfc.org/files/Habitat/HMS9_Diadromous_Habitat_2009.pdf.

For both projects, the Contractor will compile and review the most current literature, scientific research, and information on the relevant species. The American Lobster Technical Committee and Habitat Committee, as well as Commission staff, will be responsible for responding to questions and providing edits on the relevant document to the Contractor. The Contractor will be responsible for making a final set of revisions based on the comments on the presented draft.

Qualifications:

The Contractor must be a recent or current graduate student with a focus on fisheries policy, management, biology, or related field. The Contractor must have a bachelor's degree in fisheries science, marine biology, marine policy, or a related field. The ideal candidate will have some background knowledge of one of both or the applicable projects. The ASMFC office is based in Arlington, VA but work may be completed off-site. Off-site candidates are expected to have reliable internet access and be able to participate in weekly conference calls.

Supervision:

The contractor will report directly to the Senior Fishery Plan Coordinator, Kate Taylor, and will be expected to communicate with the members of applicable ASMFC Committees throughout the development of either document.

Application Process:

The deadline for applications is June 13, 2014. Interested candidates should send a cover letter, resume, transcripts (unofficial is acceptable), and a writing sample (1-5 pages) to:

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