



Northeast Regional Ocean Council

Request for Proposals: Characterization of Spatial Patterns of Commercial Fishing Activity in New England

Questions and responses received by March 14, 2012 deadline.

1. *How would coordination with the Data Portal Team occur, and what would anticipated turn-around be in terms of addressing specific issues?*

Response: Coordination at the beginning, and throughout the project as appropriate, would occur through the NROC Ocean Planning Director and/or other NROC representatives working on the project. As the project proceeds, specific issues may be more efficiently addressed by direct conversations between the selected contractor(s) and the Data Portal Team. Particularly at the initial stages of this project, NROC expects that there will be a need for fast turnaround to ensure that the project schedule is met.

2. *What is the resolution of existing data sets, specifically VTR and VMS, which NROC is proposing to use?*

Response: Currently, data products from VTR data have been drafted at a 10-minute square resolution. VMS data processing is just beginning. NROC will be continuing discussions with the National Marine Fisheries Service and others regarding the potential for higher-resolution products.

3. *What is the anticipated use of the products resulting from this project?*

Response: NROC anticipates that, in general, products resulting from this project will be publically available and accessible through vehicles such as the on-line Northeast Ocean Data Portal. Products resulting from the project will be an important part of the ocean planning effort in the future. This means that issues related to the proprietary nature of these data will need to be appropriately addressed.

4. *Can you describe NROC's future intentions to fill gaps in data/ address issues that emerge through the engagement process?*

Response: NROC expects that there will be significant input on this issue, and thus will in part rely on that input and consideration of practical issues (such as available resources) and the specific identified gaps to identify specific next steps.

5. *Will there be meetings specifically between NROC, the selected contractor, and the Data Portal Team with respect to this specific project?*

Response: Yes

6. *What is the rationale for the anticipated schedule of this project?*

Response: NROC is beginning several specific ocean planning projects that involve engagement with various user groups and the public. NROC feels that it is important that these engagement efforts begin simultaneously. NROC also recognizes that engagement with the fishing community needs to maximize opportunity for their availability in terms of schedule.

7. *Does the VTR data which NROC is working with contain catch/value information?*

Response: Yes, although conversations with NMFS need to continue to ensure draft products are appropriately representing that data.

8. *Is there a target in terms of the number of fishermen that NROC wishes to engage?*

Response: As many as possible, and proposals should address their approach to maximizing engagement across the many active fisheries in New England. NROC recognizes that there are already existing forums, entities, and opportunities to engage. NROC also requests that Proposals address their approach to maximizing engagement.

9. *How far back in time is reasonable for the project team to reach in order to leveraging their existing work, funding, in kind services and expertise?*

Response: As far as the project team feels is appropriate, and can demonstrate, to meet the NROC objectives for this work.