



## **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

### **Inventory of Restoration-Quality Sediment Availability Across the U.S. Gulf of America RFP #122539**

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Deadline for proposal submission: **November 15, 2025, 5:00pm Central Time**

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#### **BACKGROUND**

The Gulf of America Alliance (GOAA) is a partnership of the five Gulf States, federal agencies, academic organizations, businesses, and other non-profits in the region. Our goal is to significantly increase regional collaboration to enhance the environmental and economic health of the Gulf of America. For more information about GOAA, visit <https://gulfofamericaalliance.org/>

GOAA's Habitat Resources Priority Issue Team (HRT) works to improve habitat conservation and restoration for priority Gulf habitats including seagrasses, oyster reefs, salt marshes, mangroves, and benthic habitats. Actions are focused on priority habitat assessment, living shorelines, and regional sediment management. Funding is available to the Habitat Resources Team to implement a project that will estimate the quantity of restoration-quality sediment available across the Gulf region within the next 50 years.

There is growing consensus that sediment resources must be carefully managed to accomplish coastal habitat restoration and resilience goals now and into the future. Current project-centric approaches are not always consistent with the system-wide, long-term planning needed to ensure finite sediment resources are available for current efforts and the increased volume of sediment that will be needed to offset future sea level rise and land loss scenarios. Khalil et al. (2018) emphasized the importance of sediment in restoration by stating "... building, maintenance, and dissolution of the coastal deltaic landscape is primarily a mass-balance between sediment input and accommodation space from various natural and anthropogenic causes." To maintain this balance, an equilibrium between sediment need and sediment availability is needed. We also understand that success of coastal restoration depends greatly on locating, managing, and utilizing sediments in a cost-effective manner.

Through this Request for Proposals (RFP), funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will be available to support a two-year project to develop an inventory of restoration-quality sediment available for projects across the five U.S. Gulf states. This effort is needed to more efficiently and effectively manage coastal habitat resources as well as enhance data sharing across the region. All terms and conditions of the resulting sub-contract will be subject to Federal regulations concerning the receipt and use of Federal funds.

## CONTINGENT FUNDING NOTICE

The ability and extent to which GOAA is able to make awards is contingent upon receipt of funds from Federal agencies and/or other funding partners. Final funding decisions will be made based on proposals received and the level and timing of funding received by GOAA.

### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

**Project Title:** Inventory of Restoration-Quality Sediment Available Across the U.S. Gulf of America

**Scope of Work:** GOAA seeks proposals for a two-year project that will develop first-order estimates of restoration-quality sediment (both sand and mixed sediment) that exist in nearshore, offshore, and fluvial sediment locations in state and federal jurisdictional waters across the five U.S. Gulf states (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas).

This project will develop a comprehensive sediment inventory that consolidates existing information on the location, type, and estimated volumes of available sediment resources. Building on established efforts such as the National Offshore Sand Inventory and Marine Minerals Information System developed by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Manager (BOEM), the Gulf Outer Continental Shelf Sediment Resource Map, and GOAA's Northern Gulf Sediment Availability and Allocation Program (NGSAAP), and Louisiana Sediment Management Plan (LASMP), the inventory shall integrate federal, state, and local sediment resource assessments. The resulting geospatial database and technical report will provide a unified, accessible platform to identify and characterize sediment sources, enabling more efficient matching of resources to future restoration, shoreline protection, and habitat creation projects, establishing a foundation for coordinated regional sediment management across the Gulf region.

The contractor is expected to coordinate closely with GOAA HRT's Regional Sediment Management Focal Area Working Group (RSMWG) throughout the duration of the project through quarterly status updates, task-related calls, and other meetings as required. In addition, the contractor should collaborate with partners and additional stakeholders to identify needs, available datasets, and data gaps/challenges.

**Travel to GOAA-relevant Meetings:** During Year One of the project, the project awardee will be required to attend, present at, and participate in the discussions of the RSMWG during the May 4-8, 2026 Gulf Conference in Mobile, AL.

During Year Two of the project, the project awardee will be required to attend, present at, and participate in the discussions of the RSMWG during the 2027 All Hands Meeting for the dates of June 21 -24, 2027 in New Orleans, LA. Proposals should include these activities and anticipated costs.

### **Deliverables:**

(1) A final report that includes:

- a. Literature review that includes past and current efforts, project reports, and studies;
- b. First-order estimates of restoration-quality sediment (sand and mixed sediment) available in each of the five Gulf states;
- c. Geographic delineation of the Gulf into appropriate regional compartments to summarize findings
- d. Detailed description of data used in the analyses, methodology, and results; and
- e. Appendix cataloging all datasets used in the assessment that includes source information, point of contact, and links to publicly available web-hosted data layers.

- (2) A geodatabase of spatially-explicit sediment resource data that is International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 19115-compliant for the database metadata.
- (3) One web seminar to present project results to Gulf stakeholders

Proposals should provide for the delivery of a draft final technical report to GOAA's Project Management Team, review and return of comments/edits by the project team, and revision by the contractor of the draft based on received comments before delivery of a final report to GOAA. Proposals should also provide for Project Management Team review of the draft geodatabase, and potential revisions to ensure that both project spatial data and metadata comply with ISO and GOAA needs.

All relevant project-derived material (data, metadata, reports, products, etc.) must be provided to GOAA at the completion of the project. Project leads are encouraged to consult with GOAA to determine appropriate data discovery, access, dissemination, data formatting, and archival measures. This will include connecting relevant geospatial data to GOAA's Gulf Online Mapping Open Data Platform, the Northern Gulf of Mexico Sediment Availability and Allocation Program Tool, and/or other relevant tools or applications. More information about these tools is available on GOAA's website: <https://gulfofamericaalliance.org/resources/tools/>.

**Proposal Specifications, Content and Format:**

- (1) Title Page (GOAA fillable PDF form, contact Lauren Pourciau at [lauren.pourciau@gulfalliance.org](mailto:lauren.pourciau@gulfalliance.org) to request form)
- (2) Proposal Description and Budget (GOAA fillable PDF form; 5 pages maximum, not including requested attachments)

GOAA's Proposal Form requires that the narrative / description and budget be no longer than 5 pages and should contain the following elements:

**Description:**

- Technical Qualifications (see technical qualifications below), goals and objectives, methods or approach to achieve goals and objectives
- Work to be performed, hours, timeline, and project team
- Any identified or potential collaborating organizations

**Budget:**

- Proposal Cost Details: Salary, Fringe, Travel, Supplies, Equipment, Contractual, Federally Negotiated Indirect Rate or Federally-acceptable Profit Margin
- Justification should be provided for each applicable cost category
- A draft contract line-by-line may be included with the proposal, though noting that GOAA staff will determine the final contract language in negotiation with the project awardee.

**Technical Qualifications:**

The Offeror, in its proposal, shall, as a minimum, include the following:

- Prior Experience with similar initiatives, provide examples
- Organization, Size and Structure
- Staff Qualification (only include resumes of staff to be assigned to the project team, position in the firm, years and types of experience, etc.)
- Understanding of Work to be Performed

- Certifications (if applicable)

### **PROPOSAL EVALUATION**

Proposals will be evaluated by members of GOAA Headquarters staff and representatives from any of the Priority Issue Teams as deemed necessary. Proposed start date should be planned for December 1, 2025. Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria (50 maximum points):

1. Qualifications and Experience (20 points) – Contractor team is well qualified to perform the proposed work and demonstrates an intent to be active on GOAA Team(s) throughout the term of the contract. Contract lead and other assigned staff are experienced, have proper expertise to perform the proposed work, and a demonstrated history of experience in sediment inventory development.
2. Proposal Merit and Specifications (20 points) – Proposed methods and products are technically-sound and justifiable. Proposal includes the technical approach and methodology. Proposal contains all information required by the RFP.
3. Project Management and Schedule (5 points) – Proposal describes the work to be performed, including procedures, estimated hours, timeline, and other pertinent information.
4. Budget (5) points – Budget costs are detailed, reasonable and justifiable.

GOAA contemplates award of the contract to the responsible offeror with the highest total points. Note: GOAA reserves the right to re-advertise this RFP if an adequate number of responses, or technically-sound or otherwise-insufficient proposals, are not received.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Contracting Entity:** Execution of any contract agreement will be with GOAA.

**Entities Eligible to Apply:** This RFP is open to all types of domestic applicants other than individuals.

**Agreement Type:** Procurement Contract for Services

**Budget:** Not to exceed \$180,000.00

**Performance Period:** The base period of the contract shall be twenty four (24) months, beginning on approximately December 1, 2025.

**Number of Contracts Anticipated from this RFP:** 1 (one)

**Proposals for Renewal of Existing Projects Accepted:** Yes

**Proposals for Supplementation of Existing Projects Accepted:** Yes

**Proposals for New Contracts Accepted:** Yes

**Pre-Award Cost Authorization Allowed:** No. All costs incurred in preparation of a proposal responding to this RFP will be the responsibility of the Offeror and will not be reimbursed by GOAA.

**Foreign Travel Allowed:** No

**Proposal Deadline:** November 15, 2025, 5pm U.S. Central Time  
**Proposals received after the proposal deadline will not be considered.**

**Question and Answer Period Regarding this RFP:** Questions about this RFP will be received until October 22, 2025, at 4pm U.S. Central Time. No questions regarding this RFP will be considered after this time period. Questions should be sent by email to Lauren Pourciau, GOAA Program Coordinator, at [lauren.pourciau@gulfalliance.org](mailto:lauren.pourciau@gulfalliance.org). No questions by telephone will be considered. On October 24, 2025, a copy of questions and answers will be posted to the GOAA website at: <https://gulfofamericaalliance.org/announcements/funding-opportunities/>.

#### **CANCELLATION OF SOLICITATION OR CONTRACT**

GOAA reserves the right to rescind award of a contract at any time, before execution of the contract by both parties, if rescission is deemed to be in GOAA's best interest. In no event shall GOAA have any liability for cancellation of this Solicitation or the rescission of award.

**Preferences:** When the opportunity exists, GOAA reserves the right under applicable laws and regulations to apply preferences for Women-Owned Small Businesses, Small Disadvantaged Businesses and 8(a) Small Businesses, Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZone) Small Businesses, and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB).

**Limits on Number of Applications:** An entity or Principal Investigator may only be associated with one proposal for this announcement. If more than one proposal is received for the same entity or Principal Investigator, only the first will be accepted. Any subsequent associated proposals will be discarded.

#### **Submission Instructions:**

Via Email: Proposals should be submitted in PDF format to:

Lauren Pourciau, Gulf of America Alliance Program Coordinator [lauren.pourciau@gulfalliance.org](mailto:lauren.pourciau@gulfalliance.org) with RFP-SEDIMENT AVAILABILITY INVENTORY in the subject line

Proposals must contain an original or digital signature.

**Notification of Award:** It is expected that a decision selecting the successful contractor will be made within four (4) weeks of the closing date for the receipt of proposals.

It is expected the contract shall be a fixed price contract.

#### **Eligibility Criteria at time of Application:**

1. Offeror entity must have a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number in SAM.GOV
2. Offeror entity and any Principal Investigator(s) must be not be debarred or suspended.
3. Offerors must have the institutional, managerial, and financial capability to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of the project.
4. Offerors must have established safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.

5. Offerors must have the capacity to initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame.

**Requirements of Successful Contractors**

**Laws and Policies:** If selected, Contractor must agree to follow provisions of the U.S. Constitution; Federal, state, local, and tribal laws and regulations; terms and conditions of the award agreement, including any required flow-down provisions; and National Policy requirements, including but not limited to, those protecting free speech, religious liberty, public welfare, the environment, and prohibiting discrimination.

**Reporting:** If selected, Contractor must agree to financial and programmatic reporting on a regular basis as required by terms and conditions of the contract.

**Failure to Meet Eligibility Criteria:** Failure to meet eligibility criteria at the time of execution of the contract may be grounds for eliminating an applicant and making an award to another contractor.