



Request for Proposals

Longfin Squid Biological Sampling

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) seeks a contractor to process biological samples from longfin squid collected on commercial fishing vessels. The work will be conducted at the NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) Narragansett, RI Lab.

Proposal Submission Deadline: May 26, 2023

Term of Contract: 1 year: approximately June 1, 2023 to June 1, 2024 with a possible extension for a 2nd year subject to overall performance. Work will occur year-round.

Background

A Research Track Stock Assessment for longfin squid is scheduled to be peer reviewed in March 2026. The data collected via this project would be analyzed in this upcoming assessment to address the following recommendations developed after the last assessment:

- expand age and growth studies to better estimate average growth patterns and to discern seasonal productivity/catchability patterns
- expand cohort analysis to understand dynamics of Longfin Squid to support stock assessments and the incorporation of seasonal indices
- address seasonal trends in egg production and maturation
- age squid within intra-annual cohorts

https://www.mafmc.org/s/Tab11_SSC-Report_2020-08.pdf

Scope of Work

Training on sampling protocols and data collection procedures will be provided to the contractor at the beginning of the project. Depending on location, samples will be shipped, or the contractor may pick up samples from regional fishing ports (time and mileage would be compensated for travel). Samples will have a Biological Sampling Request form attached with sample data to include the identity of the vessel, date/time when samples were collected, latitude/longitude, and depth. The final sampling design will consider both the temporal/spatial pattern of the fishery and magnitude of overall landings.

If possible, whole squid will be processed fresh. If sampling cannot occur immediately, squid will be frozen in the Narragansett Lab freezer. If samples are frozen when obtained, they will be kept frozen until processing. It is anticipated that at least 300 squid will be processed per week.

Tablets, electronic measuring boards, and other electronic data collection tools will be provided/used to minimize data entry errors. The numbers of squid processed per sample will likely vary in response to the range of sizes present and the needs of the overall survey design. The contractor will be an active participant in monitoring the progress of the survey design and optimizing the number of measurements per sample.

The biological parameters that will be collected (via dissection and/or microscopy) will include: Organism weight, Mantle width/length, Sex/maturity, and reproductive organ/egg measurement. A portion of processed squids will have their statoliths extracted. Statoliths will be stored in 95% ethanol for 24 hours, removed from ethanol, and then stored in barcoded envelopes.

Contractor Qualifications

Applicants should have demonstrated experience with biological sampling and precision data recording, preferably in a fisheries setting.

How to Apply

Applicants should submit a proposal to Dr. Chris Moore, Executive Director, by email (cmoore@mamfc.org) by 11:59 pm May 26, 2023. Proposals should include the following:

- A curriculum vitae detailing the experience and qualifications of the applicant.
- A detailed budget, including the basis for the proposed charges (e.g., hourly rates, fixed fees).

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on prior experience and qualifications of the contractor, and budget. The Council may request additional information or negotiate modifications to proposals.

Requests for Further Information

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
800 North State Street, Suite 201
Dover, DE 19901
tel: 302-526-5255
email: cmoore@mafmc.org

Disclaimers

1. All costs associated with the preparation and presentation of the proposal will be borne by applicants.
2. Proposals and their accompanying documentation will not be returned but will be retained as confidential material.
3. Respondents must disclose any relevant conflicts of interest and/or pending civil/criminal legal actions.

4. The Council reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received, negotiate with all qualified applicants, cancel or modify this request for proposals in part or in its entirety, or change the application guidelines.
5. References may be required after the Council has reviewed any submitted proposals.