

Request for Information

Revised February 2024



State of Alaska
Department of Fish and Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation

Date Issued: 3.12.2024

SMALL CETACEAN AERIAL SURVEYS IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA

Introduction:

We are seeking a company with experience in conducting overwater aerial surveys of small marine mammals in Southeast Alaska. Surveys will be conducted from May 01 to June 30 in 2024 and 2025. The plane will change base locations (Juneau, Ketchikan, and Petersburg) throughout the survey period to provide thorough surveying coverage throughout Southeast Alaska each year.

Background Information:

This project has specific requirements for the aircraft, equipment, and supporting analysis. Details follow.

Requirements

Plane: The plane must be a fixed-wing twin engine aircraft (Partenavia P68; Observer series) capable of carrying at least two ADF&G researchers, one positioned on the right side and one on the left side of the aircraft. Surveys must be conducted at airspeeds of 70-100 knots with a minimum altitude of approximately 152-228 meters.

Personnel: Personnel must include a pilot with experience flying in Southeast Alaska and conducting inland water surveys on marine mammals. The pilot must be familiar with flying transects, within pre-defined flight parameter ranges (at airspeeds and altitudes defined above) and maintaining a steady heading while on transect line, consistent with performing a scientific study that is reproducible. The pilot must also have aircraft experience circling over groups of animals for pre-defined lengths of time (5-10 minutes) while maintaining flight parameters. An experienced wildlife biologist must also be included by the company for all flights. This biologist must have experience in aerial data collection of mammals and will be responsible for operating the aerial infrared imaging system and recording survey video.

Equipment: The plane must be equipped with remote sensing, infrared technology, such as a gyro-stabilized multispectral imaging system with a cooled mid-wave infrared sensor, and a low-light and continuous zoom electro-optical color camera.

Post Survey: The survey company must have experience analyzing images and video for small marine mammal detection. The company will analyze all videos and images collected during surveys for obtaining marine mammal (i.e., sea otter, harbor porpoise, Dall's porpoise) presence and counts. Species identification and numeration, as well as images and footage, will be provided within six months following completion of surveys each year.

Response Information:

If you are an Alaskan operator and meet the above requirements, please send an email to eric.verrelli@alaska.gov. In your email, please indicate if you meet all the requirements (Plane, Personnel, Equipment, and Post Survey), are available to fly in Southeast Alaska during the specified dates, and your current flying hours.

This RFI does not extend any rights to prospective vendors or obligate the state to conduct a solicitation or purchase any goods or services.

Procurement Officer contact information:

Interested parties must submit a written response by March 19, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. AKST. Responses must be sent by E-mail to the addresses listed below.

All questions must be directed to the person listed below writing via email.

Department of Fish and Game

Attention: Eric Verrelli

Phone: 907-465-6178

Email: eric.verrelli@alaska.gov

Notice to Vendors:

Pursuant to [Administrative Order 352](#), (a) any person or business determined to support or participate in a boycott of the State of Israel will be disqualified from any procurement related to this Request for Information; and (b) the support of or participation in a boycott of the State of Israel by a person or business contracting with the State of Alaska under AS 36.30 constitutes grounds for termination of the contract.

[Administrative Order 352](#) does not apply to a contract if the person or business has fewer than 10 employees; or the amount to be paid under the contract, excluding renewals and options available under the contract, is less than \$100,000.