

Request for Proposals:
Recreational Angler Partnership Improvement Directive (RAPID)
Project Management and Meeting Facilitation Services for a Shared State-Federal
Recreational Data Partnership

Project Title: RAPID Project Management and Facilitation services for Marine Recreational Fisheries Data Partnership

1. DESCRIPTION OF WORK

The Contractor shall perform all professional services outlined herein to support planning, facilitation, and execution of workshops on RAPID, which will be organized by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA Fisheries). The Contractor will develop a summary of workshop outcomes/findings, priorities, recommendations, and potential solutions as a product of the workshops.

2. BACKGROUND

NOAA Fisheries' Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) has historically operated as a state-regional-federal program to develop and implement recreational fishing surveys. While this federal data collection program tracks long-term trends at the annual and regional level, partners and anglers have raised concerns regarding data uncertainty particularly when used to inform management at the state and local level and at the monthly, weekly, and daily level. To address these challenges and modernize data collection, NOAA Fisheries is transforming its recreational data enterprise through the **Recreational Angler Partnership Improvement Directive (RAPID)**.

This initiative will lead the transition from MRIP to a new, shared-governance data system co-designed with anglers, state agencies, interstate commissions, and management councils. The goal is to establish a state-federal data collection and delivery system that is regionally flexible, nationally consistent, and enhances scientific credibility and stakeholder confidence in recreational fishing statistics used for management.

3. OBJECTIVES

The Contractor shall provide professional, independent facilitation services to support the design of this new state-federal partnership. The core objectives of the facilitation are:

- **Active Co-Design:** Develop partner led vision of a shared-governance model for data collection and an actionable transition plan.
- **Role Definition:** Clearly articulate the specific roles, responsibilities, and lines of communication for NOAA, states, councils, and commissions in the new enterprise.
- **Action Planning:** Refine regional priorities and develop tangible action plans to address data challenges.
- **Build Trust:** Strengthen institutional trust and stakeholder collaboration through an inclusive, transparent process.

4. SCOPE OF WORK AND DELIVERABLES

The Contractor, in collaboration with the RAPID Steering Committee, will act as the independent facilitator(s) for a series of workshops to help states, commissions, councils and NOAA design and help build the new partnership.

Contractor Tasks

Task 1: Pre-Workshop Planning and Coordination

- Plan up to 10 regional workshops and at least 1 national angler workshop. In the proposal, the Contractor shall describe in detail how they would break the coastal areas into regions and how workshop locations would support a regional approach to recreational data collection.
- Develop workshop agendas and preparation materials
- Coordinate with technical staff, including state, council, commission and NOAA staff, to create local organizing committees and prepare meeting materials. The Contractor would ensure progress is tracked and deadlines are met.

Task 2: Facilitate Up to ten (10) Regional Workshops

- Actively facilitate up to 10 in person regional workshops (approx. 2-3 days in length each) to include 2-3 representatives from each partner agency
- In the proposal, the Contractor shall describe in detail how they would break the coastal areas into regions and how workshop locations would support a regional approach to recreational data collection.
- Utilize structured facilitation techniques to ensure all voices are heard and to moderate candid discussions on contentious topics

Task 3: Facilitate One (1) National Recreational Community Workshop

- Organize and facilitate a hybrid (virtual/in person) workshop specifically engaging recreational fishing community and stakeholders to ensure their perspectives, operational realities, and data needs are actively integrated into the co-design of the new framework

Task 4: Facilitate Final Co-Design Partnership Framework Workshop

- Plan and moderate a final, national-level workshop to review the synthesized regional findings and collaboratively draft the new state-federal partnership framework and action plan

Task 5: Post-Workshop Reporting and Action Plan Development

- Prepare a detailed report for each region documenting partner consensus and specific action plans
- Develop 1-2 page "key takeaways" for participants and the public
- Synthesize the findings from all workshops to assist with drafting the final vision, shared-governance structure, and action plan for the renewed partnership
- Gather feedback and finalize the framework document after a participant review period

Steering Committee

The RAPID Steering Committee aids in developing the themes and structure (e.g., panel discussion and breakout groups) and provides guidance on the execution of the RAPID workshops.

- Steering Committee Chair will facilitate the Steering Committee meetings, including work plans and follow-through, as well as assisting the Contractor with the planning of logistical support from agency staff via regional planning committees
- Steering Committee will work with Contractor and regional planning committees to guide development on structure of workshops, discussion agendas, participants (speakers/panelists), and desired outcomes.
- Review and provide feedback for deliverables.

Timeline and Period of Performance

The expected effort will span 12 months, from **July 2026 through July 2027**. The regional workshops are targeted for the Summer/Fall of 2026. The final framework draft should be completed within 90 days of the final workshop.

5. STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

- **Impartiality & Objectivity:** The facilitator must maintain strict neutrality to all interests and ensure discussions remain constructive and professional
- **Group Management:** Must have demonstrated experience facilitating large (30-50 people), diverse, and potentially non-consensus groups, as well as managing breakout sessions. The facilitator must be adept at diffusing conflict and redirecting superfluous discussions
- **Subject Matter Expertise:** Desired working knowledge of marine fisheries science and management
- **Technical Capability:** Proven track record in facilitating natural resource management stakeholder meetings and in-person/virtual hybrid meetings

6. EVALUATION FACTORS

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- **Technical Capability:** Demonstrated expertise in engaging large groups, diffusing conflicts, and understanding fisheries data and management
- **Past Performance:** Quality of prior work (e.g., summary reports) and customer references from similar natural resource/fisheries facilitation projects
- **Price:** Rate structure for facilitation services, including preparation time and contractor travel costs provided in application budget proposal.

Application Process

Please send proposals via email to Alex DiJohnson, ACCSP Deputy Director of Recreational Data (alex.dijohnson@accsp.org). Proposals will be accepted until the closing date of June 10, 2026. If selected, you will be notified by June 24, 2026.

Proposals must contain the following items:

- Point of Contact Information
- Name/Description of Organization
- Quality of Work Samples
- Capability Statement
- Resume(s)
- Prior customer references and/or previous facilitation projects
- Proposed budget