



U.S. Navy Living Marine Resources Program FY24 Need Topics

The U.S. Navy Living Marine Resources (LMR) program issued a call for pre-proposals pertaining to the FY24 need topics.

SOLICITATION OPEN PERIOD: 5 December 2023 – 18 January 2024.

SOLICITATION ADVERTISEMENT:

- BAA Solicitation N39430-24-S-2001 posted under Contract Opportunities on SAM.gov <https://sam.gov> on 4 December 2023.
- Announcement posted on LMR Program website at <https://exwc.navfac.navy.mil/lmr/> on 5 December 2023.
- Announcement posted to MARMAM, CTURTLE, and bioacoustics-I listservs on 5 December 2023.

NEED TOPIC 0291-24: Pinniped Behavioral Response Study

Pinniped species inhabit the at-sea and nearshore/inshore areas where Navy sonar training and testing activities occur in both the Pacific (primarily SOCAL through Alaska) and northeast Atlantic. Modeling of training and testing activities in recent environmental compliance analysis resulted in a number of behavioral takes of California sea lions, harbor seals, and northern elephant seals annually across the at-sea study areas. Given the overlap between multiple pinniped species and Navy training and testing activities, there is a need to develop an improved understanding of the impact of sonar exposure on the behavior of pinniped species.

LMR is seeking pre-proposals to study pinniped behavioral response to sonar from Navy training and testing activities. The proposed study design should focus on the behavioral response of free ranging pinnipeds, no captive animal studies at this time. Location of the study should consider relevance to Navy training and testing areas listed in Appendix D. However, species availability, experience with the animals, and support resources availability are important factors to consider in site selection and proposed study species. Proposed studies should employ current approaches and technology to study the offeror's selected species. The Navy has developed a scaled sound source that can simulate sonar and can be operated from a small vessel. The use of this scaled source can be provided as government furnished equipment. However, the proposal should include all other costs associated with shipping and operating the source, including costs associated with securing and operating a vessel to handle the source.

NEED TOPIC 0292-24: Improvement of Sea Turtle Density Estimates

Accurate density estimates are critical to the exposure modelling process that forms the basis for assessments of impacts from Navy training and testing activities. Sophisticated spatial density models have become the standard for estimating density of marine mammals and sea turtles, however, these models are data intensive and can be significantly biased if not properly developed and parameterized. There is a need to improve existing spatial density models for sea turtles, within Navy training and testing areas, by addressing current biases through development and application of new data and modelling frameworks. Please note proposals that focus on the collection of additional visual line transect survey data will not be considered.