

## **CONTRACTOR NEEDED TO PREPARE COMPREHENSIVE AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII.**

The Nature Conservancy Hawaii Field Office (TNCHFO) is seeking a Contractor to prepare a Comprehensive Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan for the State of Hawaii. This contractor will be hired by TNCHFO under a partnership effort between the State Division of Aquatic Resources and TNCHFO.

### **Contract Details:**

1. Compensation will be \$ 55,000 total. The contract will be based on deliverables as described below; however, applicants should be aware that it is anticipated that the work will require approximately 35 hours per week over a 12 month period. Taxes, insurance, and other benefits will be covered by the contractor.
2. The position will be based in Honolulu, Hawaii at the TNC office and the contractor will be expected to report to this office regularly.
3. The contractor will be supervised by the Director of Marine Conservation for the TNCHFO.
4. Additional funding will be made available to the contractor for travel, workshops, and meetings as relevant and with advanced approval..

### **Requirements:**

#### **A successful applicant for this contract will have:**

1. An advanced degree in marine biology, policy, law or a similar field that has equipped them with the knowledge necessary to manage complex multi-stakeholder processes, prepare marine management plans, and make appropriate policy recommendations.
2. Demonstrated success in facilitating complex multi-stakeholder processes, preparing marine management plans, and making appropriate policy recommendations.
3. Familiarity with Aquatic Nuisance Species Issues, Policies, and Management Plans.
4. Familiarity with Hawaiian Marine Ecosystems and Marine Ecology in General
5. A demonstrated ability to work independently, meet deadlines, and facilitate large numbers of science, policy, and industry experts.

### **Start Date:**

Immediately.

### **Contact Details:**

Please carefully review the Program Description below to assess your qualifications relative to the requirements of this contract and the expected deliverables.

If you feel you have the qualifications necessary to undertake this work, please IMMEDIATELY contact, Scott Atkinson, Director of Marine Conservation, The Nature Conservancy Hawaii Field Office . [satkinson@tnc.org](mailto:satkinson@tnc.org). Send a brief email outlining your qualifications and attach a C.V.

**APPLICATION CLOSING DATE: SEPTEMBER 6, 2002**

## **Program Description.**

There is an immediate and critical need to address the introduction and spread of alien nuisance or nonindigenous species throughout the Hawaiian islands. Step one in this process is to develop a comprehensive management plan and to focus efforts and resources to better understand the problem and raise awareness to limit the spread of nuisance species. This program will supply the foundations to accomplish these tasks by creating a comprehensive management plan, and providing the needed elements for future implementation and mitigation measures.

## **Background:**

Aquatic nuisance species (ANS) are causing adverse ecological and economic effects throughout the country. To address these issues, Congress passed the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990, which among other actions, authorized and provided guidance for the development of State management plans. States are authorized and encouraged to submit comprehensive management plans for up to 75 percent of the cost incurred to implement such programs.

As is outlined in the national ANS guidelines, the management plan must identify technical, enforcement, or financial assistance for activities needed to eliminate or reduce the environment, public health and safety risks associated with ANS. The content of the plan will focus on the identification of feasible, cost effective management practices and measures that will be undertaken by agencies and their partners to prevent and control aquatic nuisance species infestations in an environmentally sound manner.

In partnership with the Division of Aquatic Resources, TNCHFO is seeking a qualified person who will work with staff, representatives from state and federal agencies, the University of Hawaii, Bishop Museum, and others to develop a comprehensive alien aquatic organism prevention and management program, beginning with the creation of a management plan.

## **Tasks for this Contractor will include:**

- 1. Formation of an Advisory Committee:** To ensure that this management plan is developed based on the best available science and policy, TNCHFO and our partners will create an aquatic alien species advisory group to assist in the drafting of the plan. This group will consist of relevant stakeholders from the Division of Aquatic Resources, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the University of Hawaii, the Bishop Museum, The Nature Conservancy, Relevant Industry Partners such as the shipping and aquaculture industries, and others.
- 2. Preparation of a Draft Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan for the State of Hawaii:** With the guidance of this group and the assistance of relevant experts in this field, a Draft Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan for the State of Hawaii will be drafted by the fourth quarter of this project. This plan will meet all requirements of the Aquatic Nuisance Task Force and will be sufficient in scope and detail to enable the immediate approval of federal funding for its implementation.
- 3. Initial Identification of Possible Vectors for Introductions and the Development of Preliminary Outreach and Education Materials to Address this Issue.** The project will also identify the possible vectors both for introduction and spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species. Depending on the vectors identified, recommendations may be needed regarding regulatory measures that should be implemented to mitigate introductions. Additional regulatory or agency constraints to effective management will also be identified and recommendations on how to reduce or eliminate these

constraints will be developed. In addition the development of a brochure or other outreach materials will be undertaken to raise awareness of possible vectors.

- 4. Identification of Additional Research Needs:** Limited studies have been funded by DAR, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the University of Hawaii, Hawaii Coral Reef Initiative Research Program, and others to identify the spread of alien marine organisms statewide, to understand how some of the species spread and the nutrients or other terrestrial influences that increase growth rates. Other funds have been allocated to look into the feasibility of mitigation efforts. Significant funding has been allocated to study the impacts of non-indigenous fresh water species on the native stream species. These studies have included looking at the effects of the species on the stream habitats, and have also looked at how alien species have become the vectors for the introductions of harmful parasites and diseases to native freshwater organisms. However, significant additional studies are needed. In year one DAR will work with researchers to begin to identify additional research and mitigation measures that are needed. This will lead to the hosting of a workshop for experts to collectively identify major gaps in research and the types of studies that are needed.
- 5. Identification of Additional Sources of Funding:** In order to implement the management plan and fund both additional research and mitigation studies, identification of additional sources of funding will be necessary. The final component of the first year of this program will be to identify additional possible sources of funding.

**Based on successful completion of Year One activities and the securing of additional funding, a second year contract may be offered to the contractor to:**

- 1. Obtain Approval for the Draft Management Plan:** The Non-indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act created a Task Force to address aquatic alien introductions and develop a national policy for the prevention and spread of these species. Under the requirements of the Act, the Task Force must review submitted plans submitted by the States and either approve them or return the plans with recommended modifications. The initial focus of year 2 will be to obtain approval of the management plan and to initiate the application process to apply for the federal funding that will implement the management plan.
- 2. Develop Outreach Materials to Raise Awareness of Nuisance Species Issues:** There is an active invasive species committee in each state(?) that is working to raise awareness, initiate mitigation measures and limit the spread of alien species. However the bulk of their focus to date has been on terrestrial species. Most of these committees have active list servers, web pages and are linked to several important subject sites. In year two a concentrated focus of the program will be to link to these other organizations and to develop outreach materials that raise the awareness among targeted sectors of the community. This outreach campaign will build on the work that has been undertaken by U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Hawaii Botany Department, Bishop Museum, and DAR. The Nature Conservancy Hawaii Field Office has played a key role in raising awareness of terrestrial non-indigenous species and as a key partner, will also be heavily involved in the development of the outreach plan.
- 3. Address Both Recommendations for Changes to Regulations and Agency Constraints That Were Identified in Year One:** During the second year of the project, efforts to create or change existing regulatory structures and address agency constraints will be undertaken. However, it is likely to take more than one year to achieve significant results on these issues. As a result, these issues will continue to be addressed during the implementation of the Management Plan.

**Deliverables for Year One of the Project:**

- An Established Advisory Committee.
- A Framework for the Plan Outlining All Sections to Be Addressed.
- A Workshop and Printing of the Proceedings Including Expert Opinion on Management Plan Elements and Recommendations for Further Studies.
- Report of Possible Vectors for Introductions of Aquatic Nuisance Species to be Included in the Management Plan.
- Preliminary Outreach and Education Materials to Address the Issue of Aquatic Nuisance Species.
- A Final Report Including the Draft Plan that will be Submitted to the Aquatic Nuisance Task Force for Approval.

**If a Second Year Contract is Offered and Accepted by the Contractor, Deliverables Will Include:**

- Printing of the Management Plan and Adoption of the Plan by The National Aquatic Nuisance Task Force.
- A Full Outreach Campaign Plan Including Links to Local and National Invasive Species Web Sites.
- Introduction Of Appropriate Legislation Or Adoption Of New/Revised Regulations To Address Regulatory and Agency Constraints to Implementing Effective Management.
- Approval of Grant Application For Access To Federal Funds To Implement Management Plan.