

STATEMENT OF WORK
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES
National Ocean Service
Office of Response and Restoration

This Statement of Work (SOW) describes the requirements for Professional and Technical Support Services for The Department of Commerce (DOC), National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service (NOS), Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R). The requirement is for a range of scientific, technical and programmatic consulting support for critical functions to fully meet OR&R mission goals and statutory mandates. This requirement may be used for other NOS offices as well.

Objectives

The Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) is responsible for preventing and mitigating risks to coastal habitats and resources from oil and hazardous materials releases and provide the primary scientific support to the lead cleanup organization entity. OR&R provides training, prepares and tests contingency plans, and conducts research to improve the nation's capabilities to respond more effectively to spill events. OR&R has been delegated trustee responsibilities by the Secretary of Commerce under the Clean Water Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA/Superfund), the Oil Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990, and implementing Executive Orders and regulations. In support of these responsibilities, OR&R ensures that NOAA's resources are protected and restored following releases of oil or hazardous substances. OR&R collects data, conducts studies, and performs analyses needed to determine whether coastal resources have sustained injury from oil or hazardous substances releases, how to restore injured resources, and what are the appropriate damages to accomplish restoration. OR&R is comprised of three divisions: Emergency Response, Assessment and Restoration, and Marine Debris.

Collectively, OR&R provides comprehensive solutions to environmental hazards caused by oil, chemicals, and marine debris.

Scope of Work

This Statement of Work (SOW) and the activities listed below reflect internal support of the Office of Response and Restoration. These activities will be done alongside Federal staff and will include coordinating with other agencies. This requirement is a portion of everyday response activities and a large portion of emergency response activities. At least half of this requirement is field work. Site visits regularly require more hours than expected due to unforeseen conditions because work is based on environmental incidents and cases that are unpredictable. This is a response requirement with surge needs and capabilities. This requirement needs resources and includes value assessments and impacted area visits.

ACTIVITY 1: PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS

Reduce risks to coastal habitats and resources from oil spills, hazardous material releases, and other activities that could degrade environmental quality.

1. Coordinate scientific input and provide expertise to establish and maintain elements of contingency plans and drills that identify the most beneficial actions during emergency response

activities.

2. Assist at regional, state and local levels in identifying and characterizing risks to marine and coastal resources and improving prevention, preparedness, and response through public-private partnerships and a cross-NOAA regional approach.
3. Provide administrative support for OR&R non-emergency events that affect marine and coastal environmental quality (for example, coastal storms, energy-development activities, and port infrastructure development and maintenance activities).
4. Maintain capabilities and adapt the OR&R organization to accomplish its mission within the changing political environment.
5. Maintain the administrative operations of OR&R organization to accomplish its mission.

ACTIVITY 2: PROTECTION AND RESPONSE

Protect coastal habitats and other resources from oil spills, hazardous material releases, and other activities that affect coastal environmental quality.

1. Provide scientific support for operational decisions during oil spills, hazardous material releases, and other emergencies with a highly trained and experienced cadre of technical experts.
2. Identify, characterize and prioritize potential harm to marine habitats and coastal resources from releases from hazardous waste sites and other contaminant problems.
3. Establish and maintain collaborative actions that protect and enhance recovery of marine and coastal natural resources.
4. Work with partners (Coast Guard, State Trustees, and Environmental Groups) to promote actions to protect marine and coastal natural resources from releases of hazardous materials.
5. Assist in developing and promoting long-term monitoring strategies that evaluate the effectiveness of cleanup and mitigation actions in protecting marine habitats and coastal resources.

ACTIVITY 3: RESTORATION

Restore coastal habitats and resources harmed by releases of oil, hazardous materials, and other activities that affect coastal environmental quality.

1. Assist in the efforts to achieve cooperative settlements with responsible parties that protect and restore marine habitats and coastal resources.
2. Establish and maintain natural resource damage assessments so that those responsible for oil spills and hazardous material releases fund restoration of NOAA trust resources where cooperative settlements are not feasible.
3. Provide administrative support to assist with improving the effectiveness of restoration activities and expand the scale of restoration planning and implementation.
4. Establish and maintain regional restoration planning to maximize the benefits of restoration on a broader scale.
5. Assist in the improvement activities for restoration of marine and coastal resources as part of dredging and port development.
6. Assist in developing, implementing, and monitoring projects to restore degraded marine and coastal natural resources under CERCLA, CWA, and OPA authorities.

7. Establish and maintain links to emergency response, assessment, and restoration activities so that responses anticipate and support more effective, less costly, longer-term recovery.

ACTIVITY 4: RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Use research and development to improve response to oil spills, hazardous materials releases, and other activities that degrade coastal environmental quality.

1. Assist with research and monitoring projects to investigate the environmental consequences of mitigation techniques, spill countermeasures, and remedial activities at spills and waste sites.
2. Assist in developing and evaluating environmental investigation strategies and bio-assessment techniques to better characterize potential injuries to coastal resources and marine habitats.
3. Improve theoretical and field techniques to predict, obtain, and evaluate data on physical, biological, and chemical processes related to pollutant distribution and behavior.
4. Conduct monitoring and research to improve restoration projects, with special emphasis on defining recovery of salt marsh, mudflat, and sea grass habitat.

ACTIVITY 5: MARINE DEBRIS

Investigate and solve the problems that stem from marine debris through research, prevention, and reduction activities, in order to protect and conserve our nation's marine environment and ensure navigation safety.

1. Facilitate, support, and conduct research and assessment of marine debris.
2. Prevent and reduce the occurrence and impacts of marine debris.
3. Provide support for the Marine Debris Program.
4. Provide support for the education and outreach needs of the Marine Debris Program.

Deliverables

The contractor shall provide electronic monthly reports to the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) that clearly and concisely correlate the costs incurred and the level of effort expended during the reporting period, along with the specific activity the effort supported and accomplishments. The contractor will also provide the number of hours that are associated with each task and/or deliverable.

Performance measures shall include, but are not limited to, routine elements such as specific project deliverables and all objectives and desired outcomes above. As the complexity of activities may vary, the contractor shall provide the requested services within the COR established deadline.

Travel Requirements

The contractor may be required to travel to local or other domestic destinations and will only conduct travel with prior COR approval.

Training Requirements

There may be training requirements identified under this contract.

Other Requirements:

Internal support of data collection, response, assessment, and/or restoration activities **may** require work at hazardous materials sites, helicopter travel, trailering and operation of boats, and diving. The contractor shall be responsible for ensuring that relevant employees are available and also adequately covered by insurance to perform these tasks.

Place of Performance:

Work will be performed at multiple OR&R locations.

INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY