



Southern Mississippi Planning & Development District

BUILDING A STRONGER MISSISSIPPI

RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES

Coastal Waterways Inventory Project Request for Qualifications

Solicitation Issued: August 7, 2026; Addendum No 1 Issued August 21, 2028
Responses Due: September 17, 2026 at 11:00AM CST

1. Can the geographic boundaries of the study area be provided? The RFP states that the study area will include non-federal navigation channels in tidally influenced waters, but this could include a substantial upstream area in the main river systems. **ANSWER – At this point, the northern limits of the project are anticipated to include priority waterways that have a dredging need, which is not expected to extend further than 3.5 miles north of I-10. The final geographic boundary will be established during the early analysis and coordination stage of the project.**
2. Will the non-federal channels include all excavated private channels as well as non-federal public channels? **ANSWER – The project is anticipated to consider both traditional tidelands waterways as well as man-made non-federal channels.**
3. Is new hydrographic survey work expected for all waterways, selected waterways, or selected based on review of existing datasets? **ANSWER – The need for new hydrographic work will be determined after review of existing datasets.**
4. Regarding the county-wide maintenance dredging permits, will permits cover all inventoried waterways or only priority maintenance corridors identified through the study? **ANSWER – It is anticipated that permits will cover priority waterways as determined through the assessment and inventory phases of the project.**

5. What is the anticipated date for consultant selection, contract execution, and notice to proceed? **ANSWER - Consultant selection is anticipated before October 31, 2026 with contract execution and notice to proceed to follow.**
6. The RFQ states, the team should include a minimum of four (4) firms (including the prime and subcontractors).
 - a. Are joint ventures or formal partnerships between firms acceptable in meeting this requirement? **ANSWER – Yes, as long as the JV or formal partnership includes at least 4 firms that will all perform a substantial role in the project.**
 - b. Is there a required minimum or maximum percentage of work that each firm must perform? **ANSWER – No specific requirements have been established, but the multiple firms are expected to each perform a substantial portion of the workload.**
 - c. Can a single firm serve multiple roles on the team, or must each firm serve a distinct, non-overlapping role? **ANSWER – Overlapping roles are allowed**
7. Firm understands that this scope of work will include Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties. The RFQ requests respondents to provide a project schedule. Could you please provide a list of previous waterways included in this project so that we can accurately develop our schedule? **ANSWER – A large-scale, coordinated, maintenance dredging project of this type has not been completed before for Coastal Mississippi, therefore there is no list of “previous waterways” that can be provided.**
8. Additionally, the RFQ states that the statement of qualifications is limited to 25 pages. Should we include engineering and other relevant certifications within this page limit? **ANSWER – Relevant Certifications can be referenced within the 25-page limit, but copies of the certificates do not need to be included in the submission.**
9. Can consultants submit responses as the prime and subconsultant on this RFQ? **ANSWER – SMPDD does not have a preference in how firms choose to partner with others.**
10. Can the project schedule be submitted on an 11x17 page, and if so, will it count as two pages? **ANSWER – Yes, one (1) 11x17 page is allowed for the project schedule. SMPDD will consider it 1 page in the 25-page count limit. No other oversized pages should be included in the submittal.**
11. What information is currently available (e.g. current inventory) for this assessment? **ANSWER – There is no current inventory available.**
12. What work has been done previously? By whom (company or university) **ANSWER – Various projects have been completed through the coastal area over the years. The intention of the project is to identify the previous efforts and aggregate the information into a dataset.**
13. What stakeholder engagement (e.g., local community, federal, etc.), or meetings, should we plan for? **ANSWER – Consultant should plan for stakeholder engagement necessary to complete the project**

14. Are we to provide rates and best estimate for field work? It will be difficult to assess number of site visits and need for surveys currently? **ANSWER – Please see Addendum No 1 issued 8/21/2026**
15. Is it possible to get a two-week extension? **ANSWER – No extension will be granted**
16. Do you have an estimate of number of waterway miles to be surveyed in the 3 coastal counties? **ANSWER - No**