

Request for Proposals – September 23, 2013

Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe
Sustainable Shellfish Program
Consultant Services: Geoduck Subtidal Enhancement Study

1. Background

The Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe (Tribe) has been harvesting shellfish and other resources from the shores of Hood Canal for at least a thousand years. But today the health of these species and habitats are under threat by the effects of stormwater runoff, pollution, shoreline modification, destruction of habitats and other impacts. In addition, existing commercial shellfish hatcheries can no longer produce sufficient quantities of commercially valuable species, particularly oysters and geoduck, to meet the demands for sustainable management. A new and more creative approach is needed.

The Tribe’s new Sustainable Shellfish Program (SSP) will work to ensure that healthy marine resources will be available locally into the future. By managing resources with a sustainable approach, the program will benefit tribal and non-tribal harvesters for many years to come. The SSP is consistent with Governor Gregoire’s vision for a “swimmable, diggable, fishable” Puget Sound by 2020.

The SSP mission is to be a sustainable enterprise that enhances priority shellfish resources important to tribes and communities. As part of the SSP program, the Geoduck Subtidal Enhancement Study will help to improve enhancement methods for wild populations in Hood Canal subtidal areas.

2. Scope of Work

Current levels of subtidal harvest of wild geoduck populations may exceed the low natural recruitment rates of natural stocks, but enhancement methods currently employed are cost-prohibitive for wild populations. Seed costs are high, as is the mortality of smaller seed once planted. The use of divers to plant and remove predator avoidance structures also drive up costs. There is a need to identify and test more economical wild geoduck enhancement practices.

This Request for Proposal covers Phase One of a two-phase Pilot Study for the SSP Project: Subtidal Geoduck Surveys and Pilot Study. Phase One will result in an analysis including a literature review, an economic analysis of existing subtidal geoduck enhancement methods, and development of pilot study goals. These items are discussed in greater detail in the Description of Tasks section below. The Contract awarded will be a firm fixed-price contract.

Based on the results from the Phase One Analysis, consultants/ contractors may be solicited through an RFP process to conduct Phase 2, the design and implementation of the Pilot Study. Tribal staff and resources will also be involved as appropriate. The deliverables from the future Phase Two of the project (which is not part of this RFP) will be a final report and a publication into a peer-reviewed journal to demonstrate long-term geoduck production processes, technologies, and economics for the benefit of all resource users.

3. Description of Tasks

The Consultant will be tasked with answering the following questions relative to subtidal geoduck enhancement, with a focus on wild populations:

- *What are the barriers and limiting factors for successful and sustainable subtidal geoduck enhancement?*
- *What is the range of activities that could address these barriers and limiting factors?*
- *What are the costs, benefits, and risks associated with each activity?*
- *Based on the above, what is the recommended course of action?*

The Consultant will perform a literature review of existing data on subtidal enhancement techniques and tests, with a focus on wild stock. Experts from the Pacific Northwest and any other location with relevant research and practical experience will be contacted. This report will synthesize previous literature reviews (1,2,3) with more recent articles and industry expert opinions.

An economic analysis of subtidal geoduck enhancement using established methods will be included in the report. Potential enhancement methods that may be analyzed include growing cost effective geoduck seed, enhancing wild geoduck tracts by taking actions to encourage greater natural recruitment, using geoduck planting machines, and other viable alternatives. The Consultant will complete a Cost-Benefit Analysis and Return on Investment Prediction for potential wild geoduck stock enhancement methods. The analysis will determine the most likely enhancement methods for wild geoduck populations that will be financially viable. A discussion of the limiting economic factors will help eliminate cost-prohibitive enhancement techniques from potential inclusion in the Pilot Study. The report will also include a summary of the required permits to implement enhancement, which may also affect the methods to be included in the Pilot Study.

The Consultant will develop pilot study goals for Phase Two. The Consultant will connect with interested parties including other tribes, industry representatives, non-profits, and government agencies, as needed, to develop the goals and specific technologies for the Pilot Study. Topics of importance may include genetic considerations for planting hatchery-raised geoduck seed on wild tracks and determining any larvae cues or habitat requirements that would allow pediveliger

or small juvenile geoducks to locate and initiate digging for complete submersion to increase predator protection and survival.

Based on the Phase One analysis, and in consultation with Tribal staff, the Consultant will prepare a draft and final report that will recommend technologies for inclusion in a Phase Two Pilot Study. The final report will include incorporation of reviewer input of the draft report (to be provided by the Tribe).

3.1 Regulatory Compliance, Work Plans and Permits

3.1.1 Work Plans

- No field work is anticipated for this Scope of Work
- No permits are anticipated for this Scope of Work

All consultant work shall comply with applicable provisions of federal law, including but not limited to those found in 32 C.F.R. Part 33.

3.2 No Geoduck Survey work is included in this RFP

3.3 Geoduck Sub-Tidal Enhancement Study Analysis Phase One

The Analysis will include the following information:

- Executive Summary
- Geoduck literature review summary
- Synthesis of current research and expert opinions
- Economic analysis of established enhancement methods
- Determination of limiting economic factors to successful enhancement techniques
- Determination of potential pilot study technologies to implement
- Pilot Study goals, metrics and criteria for success
- Review of safety, permissions and environmental controls necessary for study implementation
- Permit requirements for implementation of Pilot Study
- Permit requirements for enhancement activities

4. Schedule of Events

Tasks	Responsible Party	Due Date
1. Start Contract	Tribe/Consultant	December 1, 2013
2. Prepare draft Analysis	Consultant	February 1, 2014
3. Prepare Final Analysis	Consultant	March 1, 2014

Quarterly progress reports are due at the end of each fiscal quarter.

5. Proposal Elements

The proposals should include but not necessarily be limited to the following:

- Proposed fee structure
- Previous experience managing similar research and projects
- Previous experience working for Indian tribes
- Project approach including an affirmation of project schedule
- Proposed project team including your anticipated project manager

6. Selection Process

The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe reviews competitive and responsive bids. The Tribe will consider the information provided in the proposal and select a qualified bidder according to Tribal Purchasing Policy. Native-owned companies are given a 5% preference, all factors being relatively equal.

Terms and Conditions:

The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive irregularities and informalities in the submittal and evaluation process. This solicitation for contractor services does not obligate the Tribe to pay any costs incurred by respondents in the preparation and submission of a Proposal. This solicitation does not obligate the Tribe to accept or contract for any expressed or implied services.

The deadline for proposals is noon on Friday, November 1, 2013. Your proposal must be delivered by U.S. mail, courier, or email to: Roma Call, Environmental Coordinator, Natural Resources Dept., 31900 Little Boston Road NE, Kingston, WA 98346 or romac@pgst.nsn.us. It must be received and time stamped by noon on Friday, **November 1, 2013.** General questions regarding this request for proposal should be directed to Roma Call at romac@pgst.nsn.us Technical

questions regarding this request should be directed to Tamara Gage at tgage@pgst.nsn.us or Blair Paul at blairp@pgst.nsn.us

This Bidding Document can be obtained from the Tribal website <http://www.pgst.nsn.us/>. Scroll down to the “News” tab and to the “Publications” tab. The name of the project is **Geoduck Study Analysis**.

References

1. **Feldman, K., B. Vadopalas, D. Armstrong, C. Friedman, R. Hilborn, K. Naish, J. Orensanz, and J. Valero, J. Ruesink, A. Suhrbier, A. Christy, D. Cheney, and J. P. Davis. 2004.** Comprehensive Literature Review and Synopsis of Issues Relating to Geoduck (*Panopea Abrupta*) Ecology and Aquaculture Production. Washington Dept. of Natural Resources report.
2. **Pacific Shellfish Institute. 2004.** Geoduck Clam Research and Management: Pacific Shellfish Institute Component. Deliverable 3: Report on Potential Siting and Environmental Considerations in Geoduck Farming and Summary of Subtidal Methodology Advancements. 2004. Pacific Shellfish Institute. Olympia, WA
3. **Straus, K M. L. Crosson, and B. Vadopalas. 2008.** Effects of Geoduck Aquaculture on the Environment: A Synthesis of Current Knowledge. Washington Sea Grant Technical Report WSG-TR 08-01.