

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
COMPETITIVE SEALED  
INVITATION FOR BIDS**

**Amendment No. 1  
Invitation for Bids (IFB) for Invasive Species Survey and Management Services**

**Response to Inquiries No. 1**

This Amendment No. 1 (Amendment) hereby amends or modifies the IFB released on February 12, 2021, by making the following changes (changes that include additions are denoted by being bolded and underlined, and deletions are denoted by being bolded and stricken through):

**Response to Inquiries No. 1 is attached to this Amendment No. 1 as Exhibit A, and is hereby incorporated in the IFB through this Amendment No. 1.**

In accordance with Section 1.7 of the IFB, offeror must acknowledge receipt of any Amendment issued in relation to this IFB by signing and returning the Amendment with its bid. Such acknowledgement must be received by MDEQ by the time and at the place specified for receipt of offers.

By signing this Amendment No. 1, offeror acknowledges receipt of this Amendment No. 1, and that the provisions of said Amendment No. 1 have been noted and that its bid is being offered in compliance therewith.

Offeror's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

By (Print Name): \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EXHIBIT A**

### **MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMPETITIVE SEALED INVITATION FOR BIDS**

#### **Response to Inquiries No. 1 Invitation for Bids (IFB) for Invasive Species Survey and Management Services**

This document serves as the Question and Answer document, and the Register of all questions received by February 22, 2021 and corresponding answers in accordance with Sections 3-202.07 of the Public Procurement Review Board's Office of Personal Contract Review Rules and Regulations ("Regulations"). Although this Attachment is included as part of Amendment No. 1, and is treated as an amendment in accordance with Sections 2-202.08.1 of the Regulations, it is intended to provide clarifications to the requirements of the IFB only, and in no way amends the IFB's requirements. In the event of any conflict between the IFB and this Response to Inquiries, the IFB, as amended by any applicable amendments, shall govern. All defined terms in this Response to Inquiries not herein defined shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the IFB.

Q1: Are federal funds involved?

A1: No.

Q2: Why the short bid time?

A2: Due to the type of services requested in this IFB, and the apple snails' reproductive season, the State of Mississippi, through MDEQ, has determined that it is in the best interest of the State to procure these services as soon as possible, in accordance with the Public Procurement Review Board's regulations in order to have contractor perform work this year, and as soon as possible.

Q3: How much is the project funded now?

A3: This information is not being made available at this time.

Q4: Why aren't veteran owned start-up businesses given preference?

A4: Any applicable preferences are provided in accordance with applicable state law requirements.

Q5: Why the experience requirement when the work is unskilled?

A5: In accordance with Section 3-102.09.2 of the Regulations, expertise, or the ability to obtain such, is required to be considered in determining responsibility.

Q6: Are there performance standards for collection and eradication of snails?

A6: Live and dead snails will need to be stored on the vessels and delivered to MDMR staff. Details regarding the delivery of snails to MDMR will be discussed during a coordination meeting prior to project implementation.

Q7: Will the contractor have incentive to trap snails, sterilize males, mark them, and return them?  
See <https://academic.oup.com/mollus/article/73/3/275/1113783>.

A8: Sterilization of male apple snails is not a component of this project.

Q8: Have you tried offering a bounty on Apple snails and eggs to fishermen?

A8: No. In order to obtain contractual professional or personal services such as the services requested in this IFB, MDEQ, as a state agency has to follow applicable procurement law requirements.

Q9: Could I get clarification on one point in the IFB package for the Apple Snail Survey and Management? My question is in regard to the number of boats and crews, and it is in the first paragraph of "Section 2.2 1", which is the only place that I can find survey crew composition being referenced. "Surveys are anticipated to take place by two boats each containing a two-person crew in the 200-acre management units (Figure 2)." It seems that the expectation is that the surveys are to be made using 2 boats and 4 people, not a single boat with a two-person crew spending more time.

A9: The scope of work anticipates that two boats containing a two-person crew will be needed to cover more area during the reproductive season of the apple snails. The hourly rate is for one boat with a two-person crew to allow for alterations, if needed.

Q10: Are there any exceptions to the stated insurance requirements for any particular type of entity which chooses to bid on this project?

A10: No.

Q11: Is there any requirement that the successful contractor must obtain Maritime Employer's Liability insurance?

A11: It is the successful contractor's responsibility to obtain all insurance, including any additional insurance not specified in the IFB, that may be required to perform the services in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.