

The Eastern Region Acquisition Division (ERAD) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Norfolk, VA is soliciting quotes, on behalf of the Ecosystem Survey Branch and the Cooperative Research Program of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for priority research projects relative to Northeast fisheries.

The research will emphasize industry based fishery independent trawl survey practices that will assist in filling data gaps relative to flatfish stock assessments. The vessels shall be involved in conducting a trawl net sweep comparison study and biological sampling of flatfish populations in the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, and Southern New England. The purpose of the sampling will be (1) to conduct experimental work to estimate net efficiency for each net used in the survey for a range of depths and habitat types and (2) to provide biological sampling and tagging opportunities. The project will evaluate flatfish catchability of a Bigelow 4-seam net with rock hopper and cookie sweeps across the range of suitable flatfish habitats. While winter flounder is a priority, the survey project will broadly address flatfish catchability, and will be directed by NEFSC staff. Winter, summer and yellowtail flounder catch rates and size composition will be compared across habitat types and with inshore and offshore surveys. Results will inform discussions on the need for a dedicated flatfish survey in the future. For solicitation documents, please click on the following links.

#### Twin Trawl Flatfish Survey – Southern New England

Solicitation Number: EA133F-09-RQ-0926

[https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&tab=core&id=92fb9f41b9349799cbe0ded85fa3378b&\\_cview=0](https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&tab=core&id=92fb9f41b9349799cbe0ded85fa3378b&_cview=0)

#### Paired Trawl Flatfish Survey – Georges Bank

Solicitation Number: EA133F-09-RQ-0938

[https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&tab=core&id=36d648458d3675d8216c2ed1e5af90ea&\\_cview=0](https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&tab=core&id=36d648458d3675d8216c2ed1e5af90ea&_cview=0)

#### Paired Trawl Flatfish Survey – Gulf of Maine

Solicitation Number: EA133F-09-RQ-0937

[https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&tab=core&id=d3b66119aa9614543dad1cb470bf2f7b&\\_cview=0](https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&tab=core&id=d3b66119aa9614543dad1cb470bf2f7b&_cview=0)

#### Paired Trawl Flatfish Survey – Southern New England

Solicitation Number: EA133F-09-RQ-0927

<https://www.fbo.gov/download/90c/90c9ff62e7ac271ecc6e27b33049256e/SOLICITATION.doc>