

Red Tide Biological Marine Life Collection and Disposal

OBJECTIVE

Establish a contract with qualified contractors for collection, removal, and disposal of red tide, and/or other harmful algae, generated marine life. The contract resulting from this request for proposal may be either fully or partially grant funded. Provide for public health and safety at public beaches and waterways within Pinellas County.

BACKGROUND

The Pinellas County Red Tide Plan includes considerations for collection, removal and disposing of deceased marine life generated by a red tide event which impacts Pinellas County and municipal stakeholders. The plan was developed to provide timely and coordinated operations using a combination of County and Contractor resources.

The primary collection and disposal of red tide generated marine life will be from the Gulf of Mexico, Tampa Bay waters, the Intercoastal Waterways (ICW) and associated canals to prevent onshore wash up. All deceased marine life which comes ashore will be collected and removed by mechanical beach rake, hand removal or by other means approved by Pinellas County Public Works (PCPW). This will include public waterways, public beaches and other public property in and around the geographic boundary of Pinellas County including all municipalities.

Pinellas County has 274 square miles of land and 588 miles of shoreline including 35 miles of coastal beaches.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Contractor must be duly licensed in accordance with federal and state statutory and regulatory requirements to perform the work.

SCOPE OF WORK

Pinellas County is a peninsula located on the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay. Contractors shall become familiar with the marine geography of such in order to effectively stage personnel and equipment.

There is no guarantee of minimum or maximum amounts per contract item.

Contractor must be able to ramp up or ramp down operations daily as red tide cleanup is very dynamic by nature.

No adjustments to contract prices will be considered due to the increase or decrease in quantities of marine life to be collected.

No adjustments to contract prices due to variable costs of good/services will be considered during the period of this contract (i.e., cost of fuel, etc.)

The prime contractor will have a minimum staff of a project manager onsite during operations if a subcontractor(s) is utilized.

PREPARATION AND MOBILIZATION

Contractor may be requested to provide technical guidance and consultation prior to, during and after the red tide event.

When red tide effects impact Pinellas County:

Pinellas County will issue a Notice to Proceed (NTP) to the Contractor.

The NTP establishes the lines of communication between the Contractor's representatives and Pinellas County and notifies Contractor that they should send a Project Manager (PM) to Pinellas County within 24 hours to begin planning and mobilization.

Pinellas County will then issue the first Task Order and Purchase Order authorizing the Contractor to begin mobilizing personnel and equipment necessary to perform the work.

The Task Order directs the Contractor to execute the required Performance and Payment Bonds. The Contractor should anticipate receiving the Task Order from Pinellas County within the first 24 hours following the red tide occurrence.

LOADING AND HAULING OPERATIONS

All personnel involved with fish disposal and hauling operations shall be licensed and/or certified to operate required equipment.

This operation is specific to the recovery and removal of all eligible marine life from offshore, near shore and onshore/beach to temporary offloading sites and then to a final disposal site.

Contractor will provide all equipment and vessels, including experienced personnel, standard equipment and accessories using the most cost-effective technology. In all operations, appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) shall be utilized.

Fish removal from waterways before it can impact beaches shall take precedent over land-based activities. The use of qualified local commercial fisherman for harvesting is encouraged. Deceased marine life shall be removed, handled, transported and disposed of in accordance with best practices, and all applicable federal, state and local laws and codes.

Shrimp boats and skimmers will be deployed to harvest offshore. Smaller vessels with dip nets will be used in and around docks and piers.

Traditional oil booms will be used behind boats in areas with large wrack lines of fish to facilitate central collection.

Barges should be staged close to boats to offload debris.

No staging of large equipment shall occur on the beaches.

Tow behind beach rakes specifically designed for removing biological debris shall be used.

A tractor will tow the specialized beach rake along the beaches.

Minimal intrusion and presence shall occur during beach cleanup using all safety protocols.

A front-end loader shall accompany the beach rake to move the debris from the beach rake hopper to the designated dumpster location.

Dumpsters will be placed as far from the public as possible to minimize citizen complaints.

Dumpsters will be emptied at a minimum of once daily or when filled to capacity.

Odor control may be necessary in areas near residential structures.

Contractors are responsible to report all sightings of stranded sea turtles, marine mammals, and distressed or dead birds to County staff who will report to the appropriate State or Federal agency.

All rules and laws pertaining to nesting sea turtles will be adhered to.

All protected species collected will be reported to County staff and disposed of properly following all applicable state and federal laws.

All collection operations shall occur during daylight hours.

Hand rakes and manual collection will be used in areas of light debris and/or environmentally sensitive lands.

Documented daily activities, work logs, receipts, invoices, pictures, and associated work documentation are required to accompany invoice submittals.