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ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

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Director

NORTH CAROLINA BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM (BIG) FFY 2024 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Thank you for your interest in the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) serves as the lead agency for administering the program in North Carolina and acts as the liaison between the state's projects and the USFWS. Please read all the referenced materials closely. If your proposal does not meet all the Federal requirements, it cannot be considered for funding.

The following resources should be read in their entirety before making the decision to apply for funding:

- USFWS BIG Program Tier 1 – State, Notice of Funding Opportunity (herein referred to as Tier 1 NOFO); [Tier 1 NOFO](#)
- USFWS BIG Program Tier 2 – National, Notice of Funding Opportunity (herein referred to as Tier 2 NOFO); [Tier 2 NOFO](#)
- USFWS BIG Program Final Rule, 50 CFR Part 86, published in the Federal Register on May 6, 2015 (herein referred to as BIG Final Rule and 50 CFR 86); [50 CFR Part 86](#)
- NCDMF BIG Guide for Applicants. [FY 2024 NCDMF BIG Guide for Applicants](#)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

The BIG Program provides matching grants to U.S. States and Territories for the installation of tie-up facilities for transient, recreational vessels 26 feet or more in length. You may propose to construct new boating infrastructure and supporting facilities where none existed before or propose a major renovation to existing infrastructure. Applications for major renovation or projects that supplement previously funded BIG projects are eligible.

There are two levels of funding in BIG. *Tier 1 - State* provides each State and Territory up to \$300,000 per Federal fiscal year. This opportunity is competitive at the state level and requires a minimum 25% applicant match. The USFWS designed *Tier 2 - National* for applicants to be able to request up to \$1.5 million in Federal funds under this opportunity. This level is competitive at the national level and requires a minimum 25% applicant match.

Both publicly owned and privately-owned marina facilities that are open to the public and located in North Carolina are eligible to apply for funding; including private marinas, local municipalities, other State agencies or other non-governmental entities. Selected subrecipients must meet all Federal requirements as detailed in the Tier I NOFO or Tier II NOFO, and the BIG Final Rule 50 CFR 86.

FY 2024 NEW REQUIREMENT

Buy American Provision for Infrastructure: Required Use of American Iron, Steel, Manufactured Products, and Construction Materials.

As required by Section 70914 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58), on or after May 14, 2022, none of the funds under a federal award that are part of a Federal financial assistance program for infrastructure may be obligated for a project unless all the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States, unless subject to an approved waiver. Recipients conducting infrastructure projects under the award must include related requirements all subawards, including all contracts and purchase orders for infrastructure work or products under this program.

***See NOFO section F2

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Applicants must submit proposals in electronic format as one file using Microsoft Word. Proposals less than 20 MB should be emailed to Vicky.Pohoresky@deq.nc.gov. Applicants must take appropriate actions to reduce image and file sizes prior to emailing to ensure the entire proposal, including all sections, are submitted as one document. Each section in the proposal must be clearly labeled with pages numbered and submitted in the order requested in the NCDMF BIG Guide for Applicants. The DMF is unable to assemble proposals for applicants.

Proposals greater than 20 MB may be placed on a thumb drive and mailed or hand delivered to Vicky Pohoresky. Please note all proposals, regardless of delivery method, must be received by NCDMF by the submission deadline to be considered.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure their proposal follows the guidelines of the Tier 1 or Tier 2 NOFO as well as the BIG Final Rule 50 CFR 86.

The deadline for receipt of proposals by email, mail or hand delivered at the DMF Headquarters office in Morehead City is **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 17, 2023**.

AGENCY CONTACT

The Boating Infrastructure Grant Program is administered by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries. Questions about the program and this request for proposals can be directed to:

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Thank you again for your interest in working with us to provide better boating access in North Carolina waters.