

Description of the planned negotiated procedure for a middle value contract for biodiversity monitoring study

In the context of the Horizon Europe Mission ‘Restore Our Ocean, seas and waters by 2030’ (‘Mission Ocean & Water’) and effective implementation of the Marine Framework Strategy Directive (‘MSFD’) there is a need to better understand the current state of marine biodiversity monitoring in the European Union, in terms of its coverage (taxa, territory, habitats) and research needs.

The objective of this contract is to provide an up-to-date overview and assessment of the current state of Marine Biodiversity Monitoring in the European Union and adjacent marine waters, in order to provide a basis for future steps towards consolidated and comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Monitoring in the European Union that will be supporting the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive as well as other relevant EU legislation on marine biodiversity and actions under Mission Ocean & water.

The contractor will perform a study to determine and assess the current state of Marine Biodiversity Monitoring in the European Union. As a part of this study, the contractor will:

1. Produce an overview of approaches to marine biodiversity monitoring, including how biodiversity and its monitoring are defined in the different applicable instruments and identify and compare the requirements for marine biodiversity monitoring laid down in international, EU, national and regional instruments and policies (e.g. sea-basin strategies or marine region/sub-region conventions) applicable in the European Union and describe their current state of implementation, including its organisational and technical set-up at regional, national and EU level;
2. Analyse the spatial, taxa and temporal coverage of existing marine biodiversity monitoring systems and instruments in the EU, for each of them detailing in particular their territorial coverage scope and the territorial level of granularity.;
3. Compile an overview of marine biodiversity monitoring methodologies for each species group (such as marine mammals, copepods, fish, etc., covering all species groups). The overview will cover the type of sensing (remote observation, in-situ, sampling etc.), the type of in situ technologies (fixed stations, mobile systems, biologing and tags, ship of opportunity systems, etc.), processing needs (laboratory techniques, algorithms/software, expert identification (taxonomy), etc.), metrics and quantitative units used; participatory approaches, where used (such as scientific volunteers, citizens’ involvement, etc.); maturity and implementation of the methodologies; where available, estimates of actual costs of the marine biodiversity monitoring (e.g. in monetary terms, in the form of time investment/units) employed in the EU, sorted for each species group and by different methodological approaches.;
4. Identify, list and describe marine biodiversity data collection frameworks, portals and their organisational set-up at European Union, national, regional, sub-regional and

depending on available information, at the global level and analyse the state of their development (scope, coverage, data formats, contract, if available etc.) and implementation including interaction with other systems and interoperability;

5. Identify relevant past, ongoing and planned research projects on Marine Biodiversity monitoring at EU, national, regional or local level.
6. Carry out an analysis of gaps and key hindrances/obstacles (e.g. financial, governance, technology, communication-related, etc.) in Marine Biodiversity Monitoring coverage and performance in the European Union, in particular to identify any spatial, temporal, taxa and/or methodological gaps and the most important obstacles in its implementation; The result of this analysis will serve the Contracting Authority to prepare clear and succinct recommendations in order to achieve a comprehensive and coherent Marine Biodiversity Monitoring system in the European Union.
7. Analyse and identify research gaps in marine biodiversity monitoring in the European Union.

The contractor shall also deliver a final report comprising at least the following items:

- overview of definitions of marine biodiversity monitoring, description of the current state of implementation of marine monitoring in the EU and of its organisational and technical set up, mapping of actors involved in marine biodiversity monitoring;
- analysis of the spatial, species and temporal coverage of the existing marine biodiversity monitoring systems and instruments in the EU;
- overview of Marine Biodiversity monitoring methodologies currently employed/emerging in the European Union;
- description of marine biodiversity data collection frameworks in the European Union and beyond;
- overview of research projects on marine biodiversity monitoring with recommendations on integration if the projects and their outcomes, for a future comprehensive EU wide marine biodiversity monitoring system;
- analysis of gaps and obstacles in the current Marine Biodiversity Monitoring with the view to achieve a comprehensive and coherent EU wide marine biodiversity monitoring system;
- analysis and identification of research gaps in marine biodiversity monitoring in the European Union;

The candidate must have the necessary technical, professional, economic and financial capacity to execute the contract and must prove at least 3 years of experience in the field of environmental and/or biodiversity research and environmental advisory and analytical services. Proficiency in English is required.

The team carrying out the tasks should comprise a person with a university degree, with at least three years of relevant professional experience in analysis of international, European and national legal and regulatory instruments, preferably in the area of EU environmental law and policy. The other persons who will carry out the tasks and services must have a university degree and at least five years of relevant professional experience in similar tasks in the field of environmental research with a focus on marine

biodiversity research, marine biodiversity monitoring and/or methodologies for marine biodiversity monitoring. All persons carrying the tasks must be proficient in English.

Maximum budget for the contract is 130 000 EUR.

The estimated date of launch of the procedure is Mid-October 2021 and estimated duration of the contract is 6 months. If you are interested in providing the services required, contact the email address RTD-OCEANS-TENDER@ec.europa.eu at the latest on the 11th October 2021 at 16:00 Brussels time, **confirming you fulfil the required selection criteria.** The requests received in the European Commission Servers after this delay will not be accepted.

