



# Request for Proposals

RFP #: 2024-02

Date of Issue: March 19th, 2024

## *Seaweed Tissue Analysis*

The Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF) is soliciting proposals from laboratories to conduct a seaweed tissue analysis on a variety of seaweeds in order to better understand the composition and potential uses of a variety of Alaska species. Through this competitive RFP process, AFDF will select a laboratory to conduct this analysis. Findings and data from this will be compiled and distributed to the public, ensuring benefits are available to all current or future industry participants, and the public in general.

### **Background**

The Seaweed Tissue Analysis project is a part of the Research and Development component of the Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC), a coalition funded by a U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC) grant (project number 07-79-07901). A Governance Body guides the work and equity metrics of the Alaska Mariculture Cluster. AFDF is a part of the coalition and one of the subaward recipients. As part of its subaward, AFDF oversees a portion of the Research and Development component, and in particular, the Seaweed Tissue Analysis Project. The Research and Development component is one of seven components, which have been purposely designed to be complementary in order to break down barriers to growth, and break out of the “chicken or egg” cycle of industry development. More information on the Alaska Mariculture Cluster is available at [alaskamariculturecluster.org](http://alaskamariculturecluster.org), including the [Overarching Narrative](#) which explains how the seven components work together to grow the mariculture industry in an equitable and environmentally responsible manner, and the [Research and Development Component](#).

### **About AFDF**

Since 1978, the AFDF has broadly represented the Alaska seafood industry (harvesters, processors and support service businesses) in the areas of research and development. AFDF has previous experience with projects similar to the Joint Innovation Projects related to Alaska’s seafood industry. Since 2014, AFDF has spearheaded the Alaska Mariculture Initiative, an effort to expedite the development of growing shellfish and seaweed in Alaska. As a result of those efforts, Governor Walker created the Mariculture Task Force (MTF) by Administrative Order

from 2016-2021, during which time the former AFDF Executive Director served as either Chair or Vice-Chair. The MTF was designed to sunset and in its place has been created the Alaska Mariculture Alliance (AMA); AFDF is a member of the Alaska Mariculture Alliance.

### **Eligible Entities**

Entities that are eligible to submit proposals to conduct the work outlined below must be scientific laboratories with ability to conduct chemical analysis pertinent to this project, and familiarity with the unique needs of seaweeds, or other organic matter for food-grade testing.

Applicants must have or acquire a UEI and be registered through SAM.gov prior to award finalization. Applicants, including any subcontractors, must not be debarred from receiving federal funds.

### **Deliverables**

The following deliverables are a requirement of the contractor selected for this opportunity:

- Sampling requirements and instructions provided to the entities collecting samples prior to samples being collected.
- Processing of samples as needed prior to analysis for homogenization of species individuals and any unique needs of individual tests.
- A full suite of analyses based on the analyte-species matrix linked [here](#). The sampling effort will take place at two locations, over three sampling efforts- therefore each analysis will be run 6 times total for each species. The quote should reflect both the individual cost for the analysis, and the multiplied cost for the total number of samples.

### **Timeline and Funding Available**

Funding is secured for the Seaweed Tissue Analysis through the EDA BBBRC and matching funds. The selected entity must complete the scope of work by December 2024. Start date must be by April 31st, 2024. Funds are available up to \$400,000. However, proposals will be scored 40% based on competitiveness of cost.

### **Proposal Content Requirements**

The proposal must consist of the following:

- A quote laying out the cost of conducting an analysis on all species and analytes included in the attached [matrix](#), with details on methodology of analysis.
- If the laboratory conducts tests in 'packages' of popular analysis, details on what is included in the package and how it is integrated in the cost structure.
- A brief description (250 words or less) of the company's experience with seaweed and/or credentials in this field.

#### *Species -Analysis Matrix key*

- In the [spreadsheet](#) titled "Species List & Analysis", Row 3 lists the species tested, and Column A lists analysis desired. Each "X" under the species name represents a desired analysis (listed in Column A). If no "X" is present, no analysis for that species is needed.
- The spreadsheet titled "Analysis List & Notes" lists analysis desired and

corresponding notes.

- There will be three sampling efforts at two locations, so **each analysis for each species will be run a total of six times.**

**Scoring Criteria**

The proposal will be selected based on the following:

- 40%: The competitiveness of the analysis cost relative to other proposals.
- 60%: The experience and credentials of the company.

**Right to Refusal:** AFDF reserves the right to reject any and all proposals received.

**Due Date:** Proposals must be submitted via email no later than **April 22nd, 2024** to Kelly Drummond at [kdrummond@afdf.org](mailto:kdrummond@afdf.org) as either Adobe PDF or Microsoft Word documents. For questions, please call or email Kelly Drummond at 907-276-7315, [kdrummond@afdf.org](mailto:kdrummond@afdf.org).