Florida Gulf of Mexico Restoration Project Submittal Form

New Project

Project #: NFMF2014E

Project Name:

North Florida Marine Fisheries Hatchery Expansion

Contact Information:

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Project Location:

1599 Coastal Highway Panacea, Florida 32346 Parcel # 24-5S-02W-000-02997-000

See attached appendices A and B

Project Description:

North Florida Marine Fisheries is proposing to relocate and expand its current facility. The project will renovate an existing abandoned building located along the entry corridor to Panacea, Florida. The building of 15000 square feet with a detached outer building of 1200 square feet situated on over 2 acres of near bay front property will provide over 7500 square feet to expand the hatchery and leave over 9000 square feet for the installation of a fully automated shellfish processing plant. Renovations will completely update all electrical systems, install a new metal roof and landscaping. The building will meet the expectations of the Panacea 2020 development plan. With the expansion, the hatchery will add an additional 12 upweller tanks, 18 larvae tanks and a new brood stock containment room offering a newly designed spawning system for thermal shock spawning. The spawning will see the upgrade of new UV sterilization and filtration. Lastly, the entire facility will add filtration to further enhance its discharge water quality above the current 20 microns of filtration.

Estimated Project Costs:

The project is seeking funding in the amount of $801,553.50. North Florida Marine Fisheries has $75,000.00 to add to the funding. Thereby reducing the total funding needs to $726,553.50.

Once funded and expansion is complete, the hatchery will be fully self sustainable and carry the ability to fund other needed infrastructure.

See attached cost appendix sheet.

Other Funding:

Project has not been submitted for any additional funding but may seek additional funding from Wakulla County Restore Act funds.

Technical Feasibility:

The hatchery is currently producing diploid spat from Florida Gulf brood stock and triploid spat under contract with 4C's Breeding Technologies. The hatchery was designed to be "green" in its use of bay water. It currently utilizes filtration to 20 microns to reduce pollutants below regulation standards. It also conducts constant monitoring around intake and discharge systems to insure water quality remains unaffected and above standards. The hatchery is currently expanding into the production of other shellfish species.

Conflicts or Complements to Existing Efforts:

The hatchery was designed and built to support the implementation of the aquaculture industry in Wakulla County and the surrounding region. Tallahassee Community College Wakulla Environmental Institute began an aquaculture certification class on January 14, 2014. Under direction of Steve Cushman, CEO of North Florida Marine Fisheries and hatchery manager, the program has passed 10 students who will be placing 1 million oyster spat into the waters this month. The program is slated to provide instruction to an additional 50-60 students over the next 12 months. This will see the need for over 6 million spat alone and an additional 20 million for the current student and customer needs. The hatchery cannot meet this production currently and must do so to support the industry.

Additionally, Wakulla County has several proposals for oyster reef restoration projects. Aquaculture is the relief needed to allow the regeneration of the oyster reefs over the next 2 years. By providing jobs and income source to displaced fishermen, aquaculture will soon become the mainstream income source for Wakulla County. Many of these proposed projects will also need materials the hatchery can provide. However, expansion is necessary to meet the demand. One project is to place remote set spat onto existing reefs to increase population. Remote setting is one aspect of the hatchery which will fully support the restoration project.

Complies with Federal, State, Local, and Tribal/Laws Regulations:

There are no known conflicts with any regulations. The hatchery strives to remain above standard by design.

Readiness for Implementation:

The project has already begun the process of site purchase negotiations as well as permitting. The project will commence immediately upon funding. With completion with 120 days of commencement.

Environmental Benefits:

The hatchery has no negative environmental impacts. Its process of filtration only reduces pollutants within the bay and by nature its purpose is to provide support for positive environmental projects.

Wakulla County has been declared a disaster area in the seafood industry. It is slowly rebuilding the industry with little or no financial support from outside agencies due to errors in landing reports. It must find ways to restore its bays with environmental sensitivity being paramount. The hatchery staff have been working under FWC SAL permits for over 6 months to aid in the development of a master plan for restoration through research specifically targeted at Wakulla County oyster reefs.

Economic and Social Benefits:

The hatchery has the ability to employ up to 10 personnel at full capacity. Once the processing plant is online employment will reach up to 100 personnel between the two companies housed under the single roof of this site.

The hatchery supporting the aquaculture and restoration projects will see the rise of the commercial and recreational industries over the next two years. Oyster reefs are the basis for all marine aquatic species. Shellfish, fin fish and many species of birds use these reefs for habitat. Spawning for many aquatic species occurs in and around these reefs. Overtime, the increase of populations will provide enhanced opportunities for commercial and recreational activities. In turn this will see greater tourism on the eco front as well as increased sales in the retail market.

Community Resilience:

Panacea has a development plan Panacea 2020. Under this plan Panacea has the desire to rejuvenate the community. This project would be the first rehabilitation in the process. Once complete, the community would see a renewed interest in continuing the implementation of the Panacea 2020 plan.

The hatchery would add tax base to the potential incorporation of Panacea which is currently below the threshold of its needs.

Panacea is working towards a walkable town community with emphasis on educational, recreational and commercial opportunities within the seafood industry. This project would provide additional educational opportunities with a working shellfish lab for local school use in hands on training. Recreational and commercial opportunities will become abundant after the restoration and full implementation of aquaculture is undertaken. The hatchery is the base support structure for both.

Public Acceptance:

Public acceptance is high. With the communities desire to restore Panacea into a tourism based community, this project only compliments the desires. By providing tax base for the development of infrastructure to draw other business, the hatchery will become the largest revenue producer in the community. Through the many opportunities in employment, education as well as recreation and commercial activities, the hatchery will lead the way to a better Panacea.

Additional Information you wish to provide:

Wakulla County was once a thriving community of fishermen and marine workers. It has seen the displacement of many of these hard working families unable to find the solution to meet their needs. Just as the oyster reef is the foundation of the estuary, the hatchery is the backbone of the aquaculture industry. Without a local hatchery, Wakulla County cannot control its own market and will become susceptible to outside influence which led to the decline of Cedar Key as a major producer in the clam industry. Wakulla has begun the transformation into the seafood industry the world will become to know. World population has over ran our oceans ability to keep pace. It is our responsibility to manage our resources and aid in their survival when needed. For decades we have protected certain species and watched as they came back from near extinction. The time is now for use to began the process of restoration and protection through better management practices of our critical oyster reefs. The backbone of our ecosystems, we must save in order to carry on our seafood industry. The hatchery is the foundation of the restoration efforts.

Cost Appendix Sheet

Planning	
Contracts	0
Feasibility	1,000
Engineering, Design, Land Rights & Bid Prep	274,510
Restoration Plan	0
Site Visits & Cost of Site Selection	0
Administration, Overhead and Indirect	2,400
Other	0
Planning Subtotal	277,910

Construction	
Contracts	259,725
Administration & Mobilization/Demobilization	12,800
Other	178,250
Construction Subtotal	450,775

Project Cost	
Supervision	
Subtotal	728,685
Contingency (traditionally calculated at 10% of subtotal)	72,868.50
Total	801,553.50

Estimated Costs by Year	
Year 1	801,553.50
Year 2	0
Year 3	0
Year 4	0

Year 5	0