



**Save the Sound**<sup>®</sup>

Action for our region's environment.

## **Request for Qualifications**

### **Short Documentary Film on Stream Barrier Removal**

#### **Request for Qualifications:**

Save the Sound requests statements of qualifications from professional videographers and filmmakers with proven expertise in the conceptualization, production, and editing of nature documentaries to:

1. Work with Save the Sound and the other members of the Long Island Sound River Restoration Network (RRN) to conceptualize a 10-15-minute documentary-style video that highlights past, present, and future stream barrier (i.e. dams and culverts) removal projects.
2. Lead and manage pre-production, including planning filming days in the field and scheduling interviews with key individuals.
3. Lead and manage all aspects of production, including the capture of all necessary audio and video required, including a large percentage of footage captured at various field locations adjacent to or in rivers and streams.
4. In consultation with Save the Sound and other RRN member groups, lead and manage all aspects of post-production, including cutting, editing, sound and visual effects, and any necessary voiceover work to complete the documentary-style film.

Applicants should demonstrate proven experience with outdoor film production techniques and documentary-style filmmaking. Familiarity with dam removal or other ecological restoration projects is a plus. The selected filmmaker will be required to observe safety guidelines provided by Save the Sound and partners for filming around dams or during active construction.

**Project Objective:** Produce a short film that highlights the benefits of dam removal and culvert right-sizing or replacement through high quality footage and storytelling targeted to non-expert audiences. The film should convey the process, considerations, and potential co-benefits for community and ecosystem resilience that accompany these ecological restoration practices. The film should be able to be disseminated and screened in a broad array of formats and is intended to be utilized as an evergreen tool for the education and engagement of dam and culvert owners, residents, and municipal staff in stream barrier removal projects.

#### **Shooting Locations:**

1. Pond Lily Preserve, New Haven, CT
2. Hyde Pond, Mystic, CT
3. Hockanum Brook Culverts – multiple, Beacon Falls, CT
4. Merwin Meadows Park, Wilton, CT
5. Kinneytown Dam, Seymour, CT
6. Rye High/Middle School, Rye, NY

The above shooting locations are expected to be included in the project. Additional filming locations for B roll footage and/or to demonstrate a diversity of stream barrier removals will be coordinated by Save the Sound staff and other RRN members as needed.



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## **Project Background:**

Save the Sound is one of several nonprofits working hard to free our rivers as part of the regional Long Island Sound River Restoration Network (RRN), which includes the Housatonic Valley Association, Farmington River Watershed Association, Trout Unlimited, Connecticut River Conservancy, American Rivers, and The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut. The RRN, launched last year, aims to remove dams and replace misaligned or undersized culverts with stream-simulation culverts across the state.

Connecticut has the most barriers per river mile in the nation with approximately 5,000 dams and 26,000 road-stream crossings. This density is similar in the New York portion of Long Island Sound. In addition to impeding migratory fish who make their way upstream from Long Island Sound, these structures present hazards as dam and culvert failures can damage critical infrastructure or pose a flood risk to homes and businesses. Restoring connectivity across the tributaries of Long Island Sound would provide access to essential habitat for wildlife, build a more resilient watershed, and create a symbiosis between our built environments and our natural ones.

One way the RRN aims to communicate the importance of dam removals is through a mini documentary-style film that highlights past, present, and future stream barrier removal projects led by its member organizations or other partners. The short film should highlight the benefits of dam removal and culvert right-sizing or replacement through high quality footage and storytelling targeted to non-expert audiences. While sites and specific shots are outlined below in the list of film specifications, we encourage the contracted filmmaker to use their own creative freedom to produce an evergreen product that raises awareness of stream barrier removal benefits and current projects, and that invites dam owners and municipal staff to reach out to the RRN for professional guidance on river restoration projects.

## **Scope of Services Requested:**

Save the Sound is looking for an individual or company with the experience and qualifications to work with the RRN to complete the following tasks. Save the Sound will coordinate necessary site access and interviews, and will coordinate review of any deliverables by the full RRN to provide one final set of comments to the contractor.

### **Task 1: Conceptualization and Pre-Production**



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Development of project outline and production schedule, in consultation with Save the Sound. Review and selection of shooting locations, with initial site visits to assess environmental factors and plan for specific shots and interviews. Review Save the Sound's proposed list of interviews for each site.

Deliverables:

- a) Production Plan including: production schedule with proposed dates for interviews and back-up dates for weather; list of shooting locations and interviews for each selected site; and a list and description of desired shots.

Expected Timing: May - June, 2023

## **Task 2: Production**

Lead and manage all aspects of production, including the organization and coordination of filming days and shooting locations (Save the Sound will lead coordination of site access and interviewees), and the capture of all necessary audio and video required, including a large percentage of footage captured at various field locations adjacent to or in rivers and streams. Provide all necessary equipment for filming. Footage should include aerial drone footage, on-site and off-site interviews in varying conditions, B roll shots, and historical content provided by Save the Sound and/or other project stakeholders for each site.

Deliverables:

- a) Execution of Production Plan, including all required filming days (anticipated to be 5-10 shooting locations across CT and Westchester, NY).
- b) Ensure sufficient content capture and key interviews are in-hand for 10-15-minute film, subject to review and approval by Save the Sound based on Production Plan and video purpose described in this RFQ and refined in conversation with the RRN after contract award.

Expected Timing: June - September, 2023 (includes filming of active construction at Merwin Meadows Park in Wilton, CT)

## **Task 3: Post-Production and Finishing**

Lead and manage all aspects of post-production, including cutting, editing, sound and visual effects, and any necessary voiceover work to complete the documentary-style film. Produce a rough cut for review by the RRN (Save the Sound will coordinate full group review and provide one final set of comments). Produce final 10-15-minute documentary film.

Deliverables:

- a) Rough cut of 10-15-minute documentary film for review by Save the Sound and RRN member groups.
- b) Transfer of final versions of the film and all raw and edited files and assets produced as part of the project to Save the Sound.

Expected Timing: July – October, 2023

## **Task 4: Project Management and Coordination**

Regular communication and coordination with Save the Sound to explore potential directions, discuss progress against Production Plan, and review first cuts and proposed edits.

Deliverables:



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- a) Attend project kickoff meeting with Save the Sound.
- b) Regular project correspondence via email with Save the Sound to share ideas and updates or clarify project direction;
- c) Management and coordination of all required contributors and conditions for production.

Expected Timing: May – November, 2023

At least two relevant work product samples and statements of qualifications shall be submitted electronically to Save the Sound on or before May 19, 2023 by 5PM via email attachment or shared folder. Submittals received after this deadline will be rejected. Please notify Melissa Pappas and Anthony Allen at Save the Sound in advance if you are planning to submit and forward any questions regarding the submittal to:

Melissa Pappas  
[mpappas@savethesound.org](mailto:mpappas@savethesound.org)

Anthony Allen  
[aallen@savethesound.org](mailto:aallen@savethesound.org)

## **Submittal Contents:**

Complete submittals will include:

1. A brief (1-2 page) statement of qualifications that demonstrates an understanding of the project and describes similar projects or relevant experience of the individual or company. Please also include a description of any unique skill sets, perspectives, or experience;
2. Bios and resumes for key staff who will be working on the project;
3. At least two work product samples that demonstrate capabilities necessary for successful completion of this project and any unique skill or creativity of the submitting individual or company;

## **Submittal Evaluation:**

Proposals will be reviewed by Save the Sound, with input from RRN member groups, and the most qualified individual or company will be selected to proceed to negotiations for project cost. If no agreement is reached, the next most qualified individual or company will be contacted, and so on until a contract is signed. The following criteria will be used to evaluate the proposals submitted:

1. Quality and relevance of work samples provided; and
2. Qualifications—including skill sets, capabilities, and experiences not specifically required by this RFQ—of the contractor firm and key contractor personnel.

## **Disclaimers:**

This RFQ does not commit Save the Sound to award a contract or to pay any costs incurred during the preparation of the proposals. Save the Sound reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or to revoke the RFQ and re-issue at a later date for any reason. Save the Sound also reserves the right to selectively contract or self-perform specific tasks within the scope of work if such modification is an asset to the project timeline or budget.