RFP EM202610 – Ver 0

Request for Proposal (RFP) - Environmental Monitoring

CORALIS Offshore aquaculture platform – Vila Real de Santo António (VRSA), Portugal

1. General

CORALIS is a semisubmersible offshore aquaculture platform designed to produce up to 8,000 metric tons of Gilthead Seabream (*Sparus aurata*) and European Seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) annually over an operational concession of 30 years. The facility is located offshore approximately 7.5 nautical miles south off the coast of Vila Real de Santo António (VRSA), in the Algarve region of Portugal.

The offshore platform comprises containment structures supported by with designated technical workspaces, electrical power, and fresh water provisions. Operational logistics are supported by an onsite 80 ton service vessel and an 8 meter semi-rigid work boat, which may be coordinated for specific monitoring campaigns.
Please note that these facilities and assets will not be available during Phase 1. They are confirmed for Phase 3, with Phase 2 availability subject to final operational confirmation.

The project has completed its Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) review process and received formal approval via an Environmental Impact Statement (DIA – *Declaração de Impacte Ambiental*) issued by the Portuguese Environment Agency (APA), alongside the Title of Aquaculture Activity (TAA). The regulatory framework mandates multi-parameter environmental monitoring across three distinct phases:

1. Pre-installation (Baseline)
2. Installation (Anchoring, mooring and Deployment)
3. Operational Phase (ongoing 30 years lifecycle)

This initial RFP serves as an open pre-qualification and technical screening stage to identify capable environmental consulting firms, oceanographic institutes, and certified marine laboratories. The technical requirements outlined herein provide general boundary conditions. Comprehensive data packages, coordinates, and exact sampling booklets will be provided to shortlisted candidates.

2. Project Overview & Objective

MSP - Mariculture Systems Portugal is issuing this Request for Proposal (RFP) to select qualified, accredited service providers to execute the mandatory Environmental Monitoring Program for its offshore CORALIS platform at VRSA.

- **Regulatory Compliance:** Ensure all offshore field sampling, laboratory testing, species logging, and analysis adhere to conditions established in the project's EIA, DIA, TAA, Self-Control Program (*Programa de Auto-Controlo*), and relevant Portuguese and European environmental directives and regulations (notably the EU Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive).
- **Independent Environmental Verification:** Provide oceanographic, geochemical, acoustic, and ecological data to Portuguese supervisory authorities (APA, DGRM, and ICNF)
- **Execution Strategy:** MSP prefers a turnkey contractor capable of delivering the full monitoring scope and reporting across all disciplines. However, consortium bids or specialized single-package proposals (e.g., benthic analysis, acoustic/mammal observation, or water quality alone) are acceptable at this stage.

Shortlisted vendors will be invited to submit detailed commercial proposals and will receive the complete regulatory dossier (including station grid maps, threshold matrices, and reporting schedules).

3. Primary Source & Reference Documents (EIA VRSA Folder)

This RFP and its technical specifications are directly derived from the regulatory documentation which will be presented to the selected suppliers, and includes:

- Reporting schedule - Regulatory schedules, execution frequencies, and submission deadlines across all project phases.
- Detailed monitoring booklet - Comprehensive technical specifications, monitoring guidelines, monitoring points and areas, parameter thresholds, and operational

instructions.
- CORALIS - DIA elements procedures and tasks - Environmental Impact Statement (DIA) & Title of Aquaculture Activity (TAA) compliance procedures, safety plans, and emergency protocols.
- Technical annexes, MARPOL wastewater standards, maritime signaling coordinates, and regulatory discharge frameworks.
- General EIA reporting obligations, cell definitions, and environmental parameters.
- Detailed self-control programs for water quality, noise/vibration, light pollution, and benthic ecosystem tracking.

4. Scope of Work

The Contractor shall furnish all personnel, specialized equipment (multi-parameter probes, hydrophones, ROVs, sampling gear etc.), vessel support, and accredited laboratory services required to carry out the following work packages across all project phases:

4.1. Work Package 1: Pre-Installation Baseline Monitoring

Establish the environmental baseline across all regulatory modules prior to offshore construction:

- **Ocean Water Quality:** Baseline sampling and analyzing of water characteristics (COD, TN, Salinity, DO, Ph etc.)
- **Sediment:** Baseline sediment and granulometry profiling.
- **Acoustics & Ambient Light:** Baseline underwater soundscape characterization and ambient light background measurements.
- **Benthic Baseline analysis:** Benthic invertebrate sampling and marine organism baseline definition (one annual cycle).
- **Marine mammals:** baseline censuses with transects for species and behavior sampling (one annual cycle).
- **Migratory Fish & Diadromous**: baseline censuses (one annual cycle).
- **Archaeological Clearance:** Pre-installation of subsea cultural heritage verification, in specific points, areas, identified in the DIA.

4.2. Work Package 2: Installation Phase Monitoring

Provide monitoring, field observation, and compliance verification during offshore anchoring and platform deployment:

- Turbidity monitoring during subsea anchoring activities.
- Single post-installation survey verifying final anchors coordinates
- Acoustic sampling during potential high-noise subsea installation operations.
- Offshore Marine Mammal Observer (MMO)
- Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) during vessel operations and sediment plume impact logging and
- ROV video archiving of every anchor drop event.
- Standby oversight and immediate reporting protocol for subsea cultural heritage discoveries.

4.3. Work Package 3: Operational Phase Monitoring

Execute ongoing operational monitoring to track environmental interactions and biological health:

- **Ocean Water Quality:** Periodic sampling and analysing of water characteristics
- **Sediment:** Annual survey to assess seabed scour and structural interaction.
- **Acoustics & Light :** Biannual light pollution audit and annual noise survey during peak operational noise.
- **Sediment Geochemistry:** Biannual sediment sampling and geochemical analysis.
- **Benthic Health & AMBI/M-AMBI Analysis:** Annual microbenthic community sampling and calculating AMBI / M-AMBI benthic quality parameters during peak biomass.
- **Migratory Fishes & Diadromous:** Quarterly migratory fish and diadromous aggregation censuses
- **Marine mammals, sharks and marine reptiles**
- **Seabirds**
- **Megafauna Logging** daily tracking logs of marine megafauna / predator net interactions. (NOT in the scope of the RFP)

Mandatory Reporting Schedule & Regulatory Deliverables

All deliverables must follow the schedules and formats stipulated in the reporting schedule documents and Detailed monitoring booklet for submission to the Portuguese relevant Authorities (ICNF / DGRM,APA):
All the reports should be submitted to the authorities in Portuguese and to Mariculture systems also in English

5. Proposal Submission

Interested parties are requested to submit a Technical Pre-Qualification Package structured as follows:

I. Preliminary Technical Proposal

- **Technical Approach & Operational Model:** An executive overview detailing your approach to the monitoring plan, distinguishing clearly between in-house capabilities and any scope intended for external subcontracting or partner entities.
- **Execution Methodology:** A preliminary outline of methods and field procedures proposed to satisfy the environmental monitoring requirements and chronogram across the selected work package(s).
- **Equipment, Instrumentation & Software:** An inventory of specialized instrumentation, surveying equipment, autonomous platforms (e.g., ROV, hydrophones, multi-parameter probes), and data processing/modeling software planned for deployment.
- **Accredited Laboratories & Partners:** Identification of accredited marine testing facilities, academic/research institutions, or certified third-party laboratories that will perform analytical and taxonomic work (e.g., water quality, benthic AMBI/M-AMBI, sediment geochemistry).

II. Qualifications & Experience

- **Track Record in Environmental Monitoring:** Case studies or summaries of comparable marine or other environmental monitoring programs previously executed.
- **Domain Experience:** Evidence of hands-on experience in general and specifically in offshore environments, mariculture/aquaculture developments, or coastal marine infrastructure.
- **Key Personnel:** Professional profiles of key personnel

III. Submission Instructions & Deadlines

- **Format:** Submissions should be delivered electronically in PDF format.
- **Submission Address:** Proposals must be sent via email to: monitoring@mariculture-systems.com
- **Submission Deadline:** 30/11/2026
- **Inquiries:** Clarification requests regarding this RFP may be submitted in writing to Mr. Amir Mushkat at monitoring@mariculture-systems.com