

**2008/2009 SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS  
COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATION**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**



**National Park Service  
Dry Tortugas National Park  
Attention: Chief Ranger's Office/Everglades National Park  
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Homestead, FL 33034  
305/242-7730  
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## **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS**

### **I. MULTI-LEVEL NPS QUALIFICATION AND AWARD PROCESS**

Commercial Use Authorizations (CUAs) for commercial services will be awarded only to those applicants the Superintendent determines to be “qualified.” Only the number of CUAs shown in Table 1 of Section II, below, will be awarded for each type of commercial service being authorized. If more than the allowable number of applications is received for a given commercial service, the National Park Service (NPS) will process the CUA Application Packages in two stages in order to more fully address Park safety, resource protection and quality of visitor experience.

The first stage of the evaluation process represents an initial qualification using the information provided in the Application Package to ensure that specific requirements (for each authorized commercial service being applied for) are addressed and all of the required information has been provided. If an Applicant fails to timely submit a **complete** Application Package by close of business (4:30) (“COB”) on November 30, 2007, the NPS may reject the Application Package without further consideration. A checklist for submitting a complete Application Package is provided in Section VIII of the CUA “Instruction Guide.” The NPS will determine an Applicant’s qualifications during the first stage of evaluation on a “pass/fail” basis.

An Applicant will be deemed qualified at this initial stage if the Applicant (a) provides all of the information and documentation required in the Application Package, i.e.: (i) a signed, completed Application Form; (ii) complete responses to the appropriate set of Supplemental Questions for the desired commercial service; and (iii) all appropriate documents listed in Section VIII of the CUA “Instruction Guide” (including a non-refundable check for \$250); and (b) the completed Application Package is received before COB on November 30, 2007.

If there are equal or fewer numbers of qualified applicants than the number of CUAs available for a given service, a CUA may be issued to each applicant the Superintendent determines is qualified during the initial stage of evaluation. If the number of qualified applicants resulting from the initial stage of evaluation exceeds the number of CUAs available for a given service, the NPS will perform a second qualification round. During this stage the Superintendent will rank the qualified applicants based on their responses to the Supplemental Questions. Each set of Supplemental Questions addresses the following equally weighted factors or criteria for determining an applicant’s capability to provide safe, quality commercial services for park visitors with minimal impact on park resources: (1) visitor safety, (2) resource protection, (3) the applicant’s relevant experience, and (4) the planned visitor experience.

## II. GENERAL INFORMATION

In accordance with the General Management Plan Amendment for Dry Tortugas National Park (DRTO) available online at [www.nps.gov/DRTO](http://www.nps.gov/DRTO), the NPS is awarding thirty (30) CUAs at Dry Tortugas National Park. Each CUA will be valid for only one specific commercial service. In addition, each CUA will apply to only one vessel. An Applicant may apply for a CUA for each of the four specific commercial services. An Applicant may apply for more than one CUA per service. CUAs will be issued for two (2) calendar years: 2008 and 2009. The allowable numbers for each commercial visitor service are shown in the following table.

**Table 1**

<b>COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATIONS (CUAs)</b>	
<b><i>VISITOR SERVICE</i></b>	<b><i>NUMBER ALLOWED</i></b>
<b>Guide Fishing Trips</b>	<b>Eleven (11)</b>
<b>Diving/Snorkeling Trips</b>	<b>Nine (9)</b>
<b>Wildlife Viewing Trips</b>	<b>Eight (8)</b>
<b>Sailing Trips</b>	<b>Two (2)</b>

**III. REQUIRED NARRATIVE RESPONSES FOR GUIDED FISHING TRIPS**

**(1) Visitor Safety** – The Park is committed to providing a safe experience for its visitors.

- (a) For the period beginning five (5) years prior to the submission of your Application Package, describe all marine violations, accidents, casualties, and incidents that have occurred in the Applicant's operations (including any notices or violations from the U.S. Coast Guard, the State of Florida, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the NPS), including, but not limited to, grounding, loss of primary propulsion, passengers required to transfer from one vessel to another vessel during a trip, collision, flooding, capsizing, fire, explosion, loss of life or reportable injury incurred or received. Failure to report marine violations, accidents, casualties, and incidents may result in your Application Package being rejected or disqualified.

For each incident, please provide the following information:

- Description of incident
- Date of occurrence
- Vessel involved
- Organization involved
- Resolved (Yes or No)
- How resolved (if applicable)
- Steps taken to reduce the probability of similar incidents in the future

If you have *not* experienced any such incidents, expressly state in your response to this Supplemental Question that neither the Applicant nor any of its affiliate, parent, or predecessor companies/business entities has experienced any such marine violations, accidents, casualties, or incidents during the past 5 years.

- (b) Describe the safety training completed by you and your staff and any certifications held, including Emergency First Aid, Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automatic External Defibrillator (AED).
- (c) Describe your accident prevention program, including safety precautions/procedures that apply to the activity you wish to offer.

**(2) Resource Protection** – The Park may only issue CUAs that will have minimal impact on Park

resources and values. One objective of the Park in evaluating your response is to assure the protection of marine and terrestrial resources.

- (a) Describe any experience and/or training you have in implementing responsible environmental practices.
- (b) Using no more than one page, outline the information you will provide your customers regarding the Park's fragile and protected marine and terrestrial resources.
- (c) Describe any resource violations received in the last five (5) years for incidents that have occurred in the Applicant's operations, including violations or notices from the U.S. Coast Guard, the State of Florida, NOAA, and the NPS. Resource violations include, but are not limited to, fishing violations, reef or coral damage, and closure violations. Failure to report resource violations, accidents, and incidents may result in the rejection of your Application Package.
- (d) Describe any resource protection measures you would implement to avoid negative impacts to the Park's resources.

**(3) Applicant's Relevant Experience:** The Park is looking for commercial service providers with experience and competence in providing guided fishing tours.

State the total number of years your company or you have provided guided fishing services commercially. In your response provide specific examples, if any, relating to your experience and knowledge of DRTO. Describe commercial fishing guide services you offer or have offered in other relevant areas outside DRTO, if applicable. What types of severe sea and weather conditions have you encountered? What are your weather and sea condition cancellation policies?

#### **(4) Proposed Visitor Experience**

- (a) Fully describe the vessel you plan on utilizing for your operation including length and width, manufacturer, year manufactured, type of engine (four stroke gasoline engines are preferred when applicable), number of heads and the marine sanitation devices (MSD) utilized on board your vessel, sleeping facilities (for operators planning overnight trips to DRTO, vessels with sleeping facilities are preferred to those without since camping space on Garden Key is limited). Please include interior and exterior photos of the vessel.
- (b) What type of fishing experience would you provide in the Park? Please specify in your response, for example, the extent to which you would use: (i) 'catch and release'; (ii) circle hooks, and (iii) artificial lures.

- (c) If awarded a CUA, how many trips to DRTO would you provide each year? Would your fishing trips be available year round or seasonally? If seasonally, please specify the months of operation.

**IV. REQUIRED NARRATIVE RESPONSES FOR DIVING/SNORKELING TRIPS**

**(1) Visitor Safety** – The Park is committed to providing a safe experience for its visitors.

- (a) For the period beginning five (5) years prior to the submission of your Application Package, describe all marine violations, accidents, casualties, and incidents that have occurred in the Applicant's operations (including any notices or violations from the U.S. Coast Guard, the State of Florida, NOAA, and the NPS), including, but not limited to, grounding, loss of primary propulsion, passengers required to transfer from one vessel to another vessel during a trip, collision, flooding, capsizing, fire, explosion, loss of life or reportable injury incurred or received. Failure to report marine violations, accidents, casualties, and incidents may result in your Application Package being rejected or disqualified.

For each incident, please provide the following information:

- Description of incident
- Date of occurrence
- Vessel involved
- Organization involved
- Resolved (Yes or No)
- How resolved (if applicable)
- Steps taken to reduce the probability of similar incidents in the future

If you have *not* experienced any such incidents, expressly state in your response to this Supplemental Question that neither the Applicant nor any of its affiliate, parent, or predecessor companies/business entities has experienced any such marine violations, accidents, casualties, or incidents during the past 5 years.

- (b) Describe the safety training completed by you and your staff and any certifications held, including Emergency First Aid, First Aid for Hazardous Marine Life, CPR, AED and Oxygen Administration.
- (c) Describe your accident prevention program, including safety precautions/procedures that apply to the activity you wish to offer.

**(2) Resource Protection** – The Park may only issue CUAs that will have minimal impact on Park resources and values. One objective of the Park in evaluating your response is to assure the protection of marine and terrestrial resources.

- (a) Describe any experience and/or training you have in implementing responsible environmental practices.
- (b) Using no more than one page, outline the information you will provide your customers regarding the Park's fragile and protected marine and terrestrial resources.
- (c) Describe any resource violations received in the last five (5) years that have occurred in the Applicant's operations, including the U.S. Coast Guard, the State of Florida, NOAA, and the NPS. Resource violations include, but are not limited to, fishing violations, reef or coral damage, and closure violations prior to the submission of the Application. Failure to report resource violations, accidents, and incidents may result in the rejection of your Application.
- (d) Describe any resource protection measures you would implement to avoid negative impacts to the Park's resources.

**(3) Applicant's Relevant Experience:** The Park is looking for commercial service providers with experience and competence in providing diving/snorkeling trips.

- (a) State the total number of years your company or you have provided diving/snorkeling services commercially. In your response provide specific examples, if any, related to your experience and knowledge of DRTO. Describe commercial diving/snorkeling services you offer or have offered in other relevant areas outside DRTO, if applicable. What types of severe sea and weather conditions have you encountered? What are your weather and sea condition cancellation policies?

#### **(4) Proposed Visitor Experience**

- (a) Fully describe the vessel you plan on utilizing for your operation including length and width, manufacturer, year manufactured, type of engine (four stroke gasoline engines are preferred when applicable), number of heads and the marine sanitation devices (MSD) utilized on board your vessel, any on board sleeping facilities (vessels with sleeping facilities are preferred to those without since camping space on Garden Key is limited). Please include interior and exterior photos of the vessel.
- (b) If applicable, fully describe:
  - 1. dive stations on the vessel
  - 2. compressor/tank refill facilities on the vessel
  - 3. any tender(s) on the vessel
- (c) What type and level of training do your guides receive relating to industry standards of service?

- (d) The CUA Instruction Guide (see “Special Conditions for Dive Operators”) lists NPS requirements for snorkel/dive safety. What, if any, further safety measures will you provide to visitors?
- (e) List the main points of a dive briefing you would provide your DRTO customers.
- (f) Provide the list of equipment that will be issued to each customer. Will that list change based on weather and sea condition? If so, how?
- (g) Using no more than one page, describe your knowledge of the marine wildlife found at DRTO and how this knowledge was acquired.
- (h) If awarded a CUA, how many trips to DRTO would you provide each year? Would your diving/snorkeling trips be available year round or seasonally? If seasonally, please specify the months of operation.

**V. REQUIRED NARRATIVE RESPONSES FOR WILDLIFE VIEWING TRIPS**

**(1) Visitor Safety** – The Park is committed to providing a safe experience for its visitors.

- (a) For the period beginning five (5) years prior to the submission of your Application Package, describe all marine violations, accidents, casualties, and incidents that have occurred in the Applicant's operations (including any notices or violations from the U.S. Coast Guard, the State of Florida, NOAA, and the NPS), including, but not limited to, grounding, loss of primary propulsion, passengers required to transfer from one vessel to another vessel during a trip, collision, flooding, capsizing, fire, explosion, loss of life or reportable injury incurred or received. Failure to report marine violations, accidents, casualties, and incident may result in your Application Package being rejected or disqualified.

For each incident, please provide the following information:

- Description of incident
- Date of occurrence
- Vessel involved
- Organization involved
- Resolved (Yes or No)
- How resolved (if applicable)
- Steps taken to reduce the probability of similar incidents in the future

If you have *not* experienced any such incidents, expressly state in your response to this Supplemental Question that neither the Applicant nor any of its affiliate, parent, or predecessor companies/business entities has experienced any such marine violations, accidents, casualties, or incidents during the past 5 years.

- (b) Describe the safety training completed by you and your staff and any certifications held, including Emergency First Aid, CPR and AED.
- (c) Describe your accident prevention program, including safety precautions/procedures that apply to the activity you wish to offer.

**(2) Resource Protection** – The Park may only issue CUAs that will have minimal impact on Park resources and values. One objective of the Park in evaluating your response is to assure the protection of marine and terrestrial resources.

- (a) Describe any experience and/or training you have in implementing responsible environmental practices.
- (b) Using no more than one page, please outline the information you will provide your customers regarding the Park's fragile and protected marine and terrestrial resources.
- (c) Describe any resource violations received in the last five (5) years that have occurred in the Applicant's operations, including the U.S. Coast Guard, the State of Florida, NOAA, and the NPS. Resource violations include, but are not limited to, fishing violations, reef or coral damage, and closure violations prior to the submission of the Application. Failure to report resource violations, accidents, and incidents may result in the rejection of your Application.
- (d) Describe any resource protection measures you would implement to avoid negative impacts to the Park's resources.

- (3) **Applicant's Relevant Experience:** The Park is looking for commercial service providers with experience and competence in providing wildlife the specific activity.

State the total number of years your company or you have provided wildlife viewing trips services commercially. In your response provide specific examples, if any, relating to your experience and knowledge of DRTO. Describe commercial wildlife viewing services you offer or have offered in other relevant areas outside DRTO, if applicable. What types of severe sea and weather conditions have you encountered? What are your weather and sea condition cancellation policies?

**(4) Proposed Visitor Experience**

- (a) Using no more than one page, describe the wildlife viewing experience you would provide your customers at DRTO.
- (b) Access to Loggerhead Key is limited to a total of 6-12 visitors per day by all commercial use operators. If Loggerhead Key is not available, what do you propose as a quality alternative wildlife viewing experience?
- (c) Fully describe the specific vessel you plan on utilizing for your operation including length and width, manufacturer, year manufactured, type of engine (four stroke gasoline engines are preferred when applicable), number of heads and the marine sanitation devices (MSD) utilized on board your vessel, any on board sleeping arrangements (for operators planning overnight trips to DRTO vessels with sleeping facilities are preferred to those without since camping space on Garden Key is limited). Please include interior and exterior photos of the vessel.
- (d) Using no more than one page, describe your knowledge of the wildlife found at DRTO and

how this knowledge was acquired. If awarded a CUA, how many trips to DRTO do you plan to provide each year? If seasonally, please specify the months of operation.

**VI. REQUIRED NARRATIVE RESPONSES FOR SAILING TRIPS**

(1) **Visitor Safety** – The Park is committed to providing a safe experience for its visitors.

- (a) For the period beginning five (5) years prior to the submission of your Application Package, describe all marine violations, accidents, casualties, and incidents that have occurred in the Applicant's operations (including any notices or violations from the U.S. Coast Guard, the State of Florida, NOAA, and the NPS), including, but not limited to, grounding, loss of primary propulsion, passengers required to transfer from one vessel to another vessel during a trip, collision, flooding, capsizing, fire, explosion, loss of life or reportable injury incurred or received. Failure to report all marine violations, accidents, casualties, and incidents may result in your Application Package being rejected or disqualified.

For each incident, please provide the following information:

- Description of incident
- Date of occurrence
- Vessel involved
- Organization involved
- Resolved (Yes or No)
- How resolved (if applicable)
- Steps taken to reduce the probability of similar incidents in the future

If you have *not* experienced any such incidents, expressly state in your response to this Supplemental Question that neither the Applicant nor any of its affiliate, parent, or predecessor companies/business entities has experienced any such marine violations, accidents, casualties, or incidents during the past 5 years.

- (b) Describe the safety training completed by you and your staff and any certifications held, including Emergency First Aid, CPR and AED.
- (c) Describe your accident prevention program, including safety precautions/procedures that apply to the activity you wish to offer.

(2) **Resource Protection** – The Park may only issue CUAs that will have minimal impact on Park resources and values. One objective of the Park in evaluating your response is to assure the protection of marine and terrestrial resources.

- (a) Describe any experience and/or training you have in implementing responsible environmental practices.
- (b) Using no more than one page, outline the information you will provide your customers regarding the Park's fragile and protected marine and terrestrial resources.
- (c) Describe any resource violations received in the last five (5) years that have occurred in the Applicant's operations, including the U.S. Coast Guard, the State of Florida, NOAA, and the NPS. Resource violations include, but are not limited to, fishing violations, reef or coral damage, and closure violations prior to the submission of the Application. Failure to report resource violations, accidents, and incidents may result in the rejection of your Application.
- (d) Describe any resource protection measures you would implement to avoid negative impacts to the Park's resources.

**(3) Applicant's Relevant Experience:** The Park is looking for commercial service providers with experience and competence in providing commercial sailing trips.

- (a) State the total number of years your company or you have provided sailing trips commercially. In your response provide specific examples, if any, related to your experience and knowledge of DRTO. Describe commercial sailing services you offer or have offered in other relevant areas outside DRTO, if applicable. What types of severe sea and weather conditions have you encountered? What are your weather and sea condition cancellation policies?

**(4) Proposed Visitor Experience**

- (a) Fully describe the vessel you plan on utilizing for your operation including length and width, manufacturer, year manufactured, type of engine (four stroke gasoline engines are preferred when applicable), number of heads and the marine sanitation devices (MSD) utilized on board your vessel, any on board sleeping arrangements (for operators planning overnight trips to DRTO, vessels with sleeping facilities are preferred to those without since camping space on Garden Key is limited). Please include interior and exterior photos of the vessel.
- (b) Using no more than one page, describe your plans for providing your customers a positive experience while at DRTO. If awarded a CUA, how many trips to DRTO to you plan on providing each year? If seasonally, please specify the months of operation.