

**Letter of Interest – Request for Information
Science Vessel Charter(s): Information Session on Fisheries and Oceans Canada
(DFO) Requirements – Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of St. Lawrence**

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) will be releasing a Request for Information and hosting an Industry Engagement Day Session prior to issuing a Request for Supply Arrangement (RFSA) for research vessel charter(s). This engagement with industry seeks to help potential bidders increase their understanding of the science requirements for vessel capabilities as well as DFO's procurement process for vessel charter(s).

Description

DFO is seeking capable research vessel charter(s) (vessel and crew) to conduct and deliver 'at-sea' field programs. The research mission's at-sea will vary in requirements as they relate to different ocean science operations (e.g. oceanography, marine mammal studies, hydrography, etc.) and fisheries science (e.g., stock assessment, biodiversity, habitat management, etc.). The requirements for these research vessel charter(s) will also vary depending on the location of the science mission(s) (e.g., Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic Oceans, etc.). The potential requirement for research vessel charter(s) is for multiple programs and could range from 28 to 265 days annually with options for multiple years.

Industry Information Session

The first of three (3) information sessions will be held on March 26, 2019 at 9AM AST at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada. Dates, times and location of subsequent sessions in the Pacific and Central and Arctic Regions will be communicated via Buy and Sell at a later date.

The Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of St. Lawrence information session will include:

- an overview of the technical requirements of the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of St. Lawrence science programs;
- an overview of the procurement process; and
- an opportunity to see first-hand some of the scientific instrumentation that may be used and/or deployed during the missions at sea.

There will also be an opportunity to meet one-on-one with DFO representatives on the afternoon of March 26, 2019 and seek individual clarification on what was presented the previous day at the information session. Bidders who wish to have this time will be assigned a session. Sessions will run for a maximum of 30 minutes beginning at 1PM AST

Comments and feedback from vessel operators and/or potential bidders concerning draft elements of the categorization and qualification of vessel(s) will be accepted in the form of Q&As on each individual element comprising the solicitation process. Q&A's will be accepted at Industry day or before at the email address listed below.

There are two ways to attend the information session held on March 26, 2019:

1. In person:
 - RSVP to Vessel-Clearance.XNCR@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. In your response please indicate the name of the individual(s) and the company or affiliation that they are representing. This is mandatory in order gain access to this government facility.
2. Attend virtually via the online meeting platform WebEx:
 - RSVP to Vessel-Clearance.XNCR@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. Please indicate the email address you would like the meeting invitation sent to.

The deadline to RSVP for either method is March 19, 2019 at 16:00 Eastern Time.

This is not a solicitation, and there is no commitment with respect to the issuance of a future contract/solicitation nor is this information session a pre-requisite to being able to submit proposals against a future RFSA.