



November 19, 2019

Advanced Contract Award Notice

1. Title: Captive Feeding and Analysis Of Stellar Sea Lions

2. ACAN

An ACAN is a public notice indicating to the supplier community that Fisheries and Oceans Canada to award a contract for goods, services or construction to a pre-identified supplier, thereby allowing other suppliers to signal their interest in bidding, by submitting a statement of capabilities. If no supplier submits a statement of capabilities that meets the requirements set out in the ACAN, on or before the closing date stated in the ACAN, the contracting officer may then proceed with the award to the pre-identified supplier.

3. Definition of requirement

Fisheries and Oceans Canada has a requirement to conduct a captive feeding experiment on Steller sea lions. This is to test and provide validation of the genetic analysis of scats to determine pinniped diets; a technique currently employed by DFO in field-studies.

Specifically:

- Generate a statistically robust, known-diet sample by collecting Steller sea lion scats from a captive animal feeding trial. The study will vary the proportion of 5 representative pinniped prey species from the NE Pacific to create 8 diet scenarios and be subdivided into 4 feeding trials.
- Quantify the inherent (uncorrected) bias in using primary metabarcoding data to estimate relative prey intake from sea lion scat.
- Establish a genetic correction factor (GCF) for each prey item. Also, test the effect of diet proportion and prey proximate composition on GCFs to potentially establish a set of generic proportional genetic correction factors (pGCF) for a broader range of prey items and diet profiles.

4. Criteria against which the statement of capabilities submitted by potential suppliers will be assessed.

- The Contractor is required to have substantial (20 or more years) experience undertaking scientific studies related to the diet, nutrition and physiology of marine mammals with an emphasis on Steller sea lions.
- The Contractor is required to oversee: the feeding trial diet preparation, communication with captive animal training and veterinarian staff, sample collection, sample processing, data tracking, and lab-based DNA extractions. Processed samples will be delivered to DFO for DNA analysis.
- The Contractor's facility/facilities must have the capacity to undertake controlled studies and experiments involving captive marine mammals, specifically Steller sea lions.



- The Contractor's facility/facilities must have designed pools and working spaces including segregated pools and dry holding spaces needed for effective (scat) sample collections, techniques to allow collections from dry spaces or from pools to maximize sample recoveries identified to individuals and have protocols to ensure that experimental diets are accurate.
- The Contractor's facility/facilities must be staffed with highly trained, experienced and research-centric animal training personnel who will ensure diets are fed as prescribed and will facilitate access to holding areas and pools for sample collection. These pools and holding spaces, and animal husbandry should meet or exceed the standards set by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, the Canadian Zoo and Aquarium Association, and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums
- Veterinarian staff must oversee and monitor the health of the animals as they are taken through the feeding trials.

5. Trade Agreements:

Not applicable.

6. Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business (PSAB).

Not applicable.

7. Comprehensive Land Claims Agreements (CLCAs).

Not applicable.

8. Justification for the Pre-Identified Supplier

At this time, the University of British Columbia (Dr. David Rosen) is the only supplier capable of fulfilling this requirement with the facilities, expertise and support needed for this DFO requirement.

Dr Rosen is a Senior Research Associate with the UBC Marine Mammal Research Unit and is the head of the Marine Mammal Energetics and Nutrition laboratory which runs on site at the Vancouver Aquarium. He has been leading the research efforts with marine mammals maintained at the Vancouver Aquarium since 1995. In 2018 he was appointed Coordinator of Collections Research at the Vancouver Aquarium, facilitating all of the research conducted with the institution's in-house animals. He has 25 years of research experience (and ~100 scientific publications) focusing on the diet, nutrition and physiology of marine mammals with an emphasis on Steller sea lions, northern fur seals, and harbour seals.

9. Government Contracts Regulations Exception(s)

The following exception to the Government Contracts Regulations is invoked for this procurement under subsection

subsection 6(d) - only one person is capable of performing the work.

10. Exclusions and/or Limited Tendering Reasons

Not applicable



11. Ownership of Intellectual Property.

Not applicable

12. The period of the proposed contract or the delivery date(s):

The work must take place between contract award and March 31, 2020.

13. A cost estimate of the proposed contract:

The estimated value of the contract, is \$ 50,000.00 + (applicable taxes extra).

14. Name and address of the pre-identified supplier:

Name: University of British Columbia – Marine Mammal Research Unit (MMRU)
Address: 2202 Main Mall
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, B.C. Canada
V6T 1Z4

15. Suppliers' right to submit a statement of capabilities

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to provide the goods, services or construction services described in the ACAN, may submit a statement of capabilities in writing to the contact person identified in this notice on or before the closing date of this notice. The statement of capabilities must clearly demonstrate how the supplier meets the advertised requirements.

16. The closing date for a submission of a statement of capabilities.

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is **December 4, 2019** at 14:00 AST.

17. Inquiries and submission of statements of capabilities

Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed to:

Name: Rob Bowie - Contracting Officer
Address: 301 Bishop drive,
Fredericton NB,
E3C 2M6

Telephone : (506) 478-4138
Facsimile: (506) 452-3676
Email: DFOtenders-soumissionsMPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca