

SUBJECT: 30000530A – Request for Information (RFI)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) are enquiring whether or not the following expertise can be found:

- Towing marine mammal carcasses is an important activity for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) in order to collect data and provide information on cause of death for marine mammals, as well as provide information on the overall health of the marine environment. Determining cause of death helps inform fisheries and vessel management decisions, especially for priority species such as the North Atlantic right whale.
- Our requirements for towing marine mammal carcasses might be different every time a marine mammal carcass is located. DFO does not know the specific towing requirements until the carcass is observed and an assessment is done.
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada Atlantic and Quebec regions has a requirement to establish an “as and when requested” Offer to hire a vessel capable of towing large marine mammal carcasses in Eastern Canadian waters when the need arises.

The proposed bidder must:

- The Master and authorized representative are required under the CSA 2001 to comply with all the required law, regulations, IO.
- The bidder must provide fully qualified certified master and crew, in sufficient number, to ensure that the hours of rest and hours of work are in accordance to the *Marine Personnel Regulations*
- The vessels proposed by the Offeror must hold the proper Transport Canada Safety Inspection Certificate and has well, have on board a safety management system or emergency procedures in place to all emergency situations i.e., Fire, Person Overboard, Grounding, Flooding, Medical Evacuation, Pollution Event, Abandon Ship
- The bidder must be able to demonstrate that the vessel has the adequate stability and towing procedures for the operation.
- Vessel must be in full compliance with the new *Navigation Safety Regulations, 2020* requirements
- The bidder must provide evidence that his towing gear is maintained in accordance with industry best practices and that a recent bollard pull test was conducted to demonstrate the tug's suitability to be able to these type of operations.
- The Offeror must demonstrate that it can provide the services. To demonstrate this, the vessels must have the following minimum characteristics:
 - a) Vessel must be able to tow at least 30 tonnes (a range of 5 tonnes to 175 tonnes)
 - b) Vessel must be able to tow slowly at 7 knots or less
 - c) Need specialized equipment – thick towing rope (working load limit in pounds – 9600 lbs vertical; 7600 lbs choker; 19200 lbs v. basket)
- The Contractor must have appropriate insurance and coverage as per Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, including current liability insurance and/or appropriate Workers Compensation coverage in place in the Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Quebec throughout the duration of the contract

Overview of tasks:

- DFO has a requirement to hire a vessel capable of towing large objects (capacity to tow a range of 5 tonnes to 175 tonnes).
- Occasionally, a smaller vessel and crew is needed to transfer the whale carcass from deeper waters to the shore in order for a necropsy to be performed.
- Towing marine mammal carcasses is very time sensitive. We would need services within a day of observing a carcass.

- Vessel Capacity & Capabilities
 - Vessel must be able to tow at least 30 tonnes (a range of 5 tonnes to 175 tonnes)
 - Vessel must be able to tow slowly at 7 knots or less
 - Need specialized equipment – thick towing rope (working load limit in pounds – 9600 lbs vertical; 7600 lbs choker; 19200 lbs v. basket)
- The services outlined above will be required on an as and when required basis.
- Contract activities will take place within the DFO Gulf, Quebec and Maritimes Region, specifically in the waters of the Maritimes Provinces and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Given the nature of the work it is not possible to anticipate where all towing activities will take place.
- Occasionally, on an as and when needed basis, the contractor may be required to travel elsewhere in Atlantic Canada to undertake similar activities. This would only be done at the written request of Fisheries and Oceans.

Estimated timeline:

Contract Award – November 15, 2022.

Those suppliers who have the above requested expertise, please respond by return email by August 10, 2021 at 14:00 ADT.

Please note: responding to this enquiry does not guarantee to the suppliers an invitation for any future Request for Proposals (RFP) issued and/or subsequent contracts.