



Procurement Hub – Fredericton  
301 Bishop Drive  
Fredericton, NB E3C 2M6

September 20, 2021

30001353

### **ADVANCED CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE**

**TITLE:** Installation of Transmitters, Sampling of Grey Seals (*Halichoerus grypus*) and Acoustic Observation of the Great White Shark (*Carcharodon Carcharias*) in the Magdalen Islands region.

#### **ACAN**

The purpose of this Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN) is to signal the government's intention to award a contract for these services to Ghislain Cyr, 116 chemin du Moulin, L'étang du Nord, Iles de la Madeleine, Qc G4T 3A8.

Before awarding a contract, however, the government would like to provide other suppliers with the opportunity to demonstrate that they are capable of satisfying the requirements set out in this Notice, by submitting a statement of capabilities during the ACAN posting period.

If other potential suppliers submit a statement of capabilities during this ACAN posting period that meets the requirements set out in the ACAN, the government will proceed to a full tendering process on either GETS or through traditional means, in order to award the contract.

If no other supplier submits, on or before the closing date, a statement of capabilities meeting the requirements set out in the ACAN, a contract will be awarded to the pre-selected supplier.

#### **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

Grey seals are suspected of contributing to the non-recovery of certain groundfish stocks in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. It is essential to learn more about their diet and foraging behavior. We have more than 450 samples collected from grey seals in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence over the past decade. However, we only have a few samples from the Magdalen Islands region, which is a key region for both grey seals and cod. It is therefore essential to acquire information in this region in order to improve our knowledge of the diet of grey seals, as well as their reproduction rate, information necessary for population models.

Grey seal colonies are an important food source for endangered great white sharks. Several white sharks are fitted with acoustic transmitters as part of different tagging programs and their presence is recorded each time they pass within range of an acoustic receiver. Despite the presence of several acoustic receptors at key locations in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, there are none near the grey seal colonies. Local knowledge, fishermen and the tourist industry, report that sharks are seen near the sites of Ile Brion, Corps-Mort and Rocher-aux-Oiseaux. It is important to further document the frequentation of the great shark white near the grey seal colonies of the Magdalen Islands. This information could lead to the creation of a great white shark tagging program in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The objective of this project is to document the search for food and estimate the quantity of cod consumed by grey seals in the Magdalen Islands region.

## **SCOPE OF WORK AND DELIVERABLES**

The objectives will be achieved by 1) the capture of up to 10 live grey seals to be fitted with satellite transmitters between contract award and December 2021; 2) by sampling 50 grey seals in the region of Îles de la Madeleine, Île Brion and Île de du Corps-Mort, during the period from September to December 31, 2021 and 3) by deployment of 5 acoustic receptors at Ile Brion in summer / fall 2021 and the recovery of acoustic receptors in fall or early winter 2021.

Tasks and deliverables:

Provide the workforce and specialized expertise for the capture and instrumentation of 10 grey seals between contract award and December 2021, the sampling of 50 grey seals in the Magdalen Islands region, Île Brion and Île du Corps-Mort from the award of the contract to December 31, 2021 and the deployment of 5 acoustic receivers near Île Brion during the capture of the grey seals and the recovery of these receptors at the fall / early winter 2021. The following seal samples must be taken: lower jaw, entire digestive tract and closed from the esophagus to the end of large intestine, the reproductive system, fat and muscle for the needs of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), all according to the instructions of the authorized representative of the department, present on the scene during the capture of the seals.

## **RESOURCES AND LEVEL OF EFFORT**

The level of effort corresponds to 2 people (the contractor/main resource and a fisherman's helper) per sea trip to collect and sample 50 grey seals. It takes an average of one day to catch and sample 10 seals.

A minimum of 3 days should be allowed with DFO employees to complete the capture and instrumentation of grey seals, as well as the deployment of acoustic receivers.

A minimum of one day should be allowed with a DFO employee to retrieve the acoustic receivers at the end of the season.

## **MANDATORY CRITERIA**

- The contractor must have a minimum of 5 years of experience in both collecting and identifying seal samples respectively.
- The contractor must hold a grey seal hunting license and have extensive experience (minimum of five years) of seal hunting in accordance with marine mammal regulations.
- The contractor must have a boat that is adequate and available to get to the work area and must be able to accommodate 5 people, including 3 from DFO.

## **ESTIMATED VALUE**

The total value of the contract is estimated at **\$27,500.00 CAD per year** before applicable taxes for the period of the contract. The period of the contract will be from Contract Award to March 31, 2022 with 3 option years.

**TRADE AGREEMENTS APPLICABILITY OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS:**

Canadian Free Trade Agreement.

**GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS REGULATIONS EXCEPTION AND LIMITED TENDERING REASONS:**

The following policy requirements are applicable to this ACAN process:

**Applicable Exceptions to Soliciting Bids under the Government Contracting Regulations (GCRs) (Section 6):**

Section 10.2.1 Section 6 (d) only one person or firm is capable of performing the work applies to this ACAN for the following reasons:

-There are no known alternative sources of supply. It is feasible and affordable to compete the requirement.

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY:**

Any Intellectual property arising from this project will be owned by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

**CONTRACT PERIOD:**

The period of the contract is from Contract Award to March 31, 2022 with 3 option years.

**SUPPLIER'S RIGHT TO SUBMIT A STATEMENT OF CAPABILITIES:**

**Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to provide the services described herein, must submit a Statement of Capabilities in writing to the Contracting Officer identified in this Notice on or before closing date. The Statement of Capabilities must clearly demonstrate how the supplier meets the advertised requirements.**

**CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMITTING STATEMENT OF CAPABILITIES:**

**October 4, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. (ADT)**

Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed to:

**Karen Dolan**

Contracting Officer

Procurement Hub – Fredericton

Telephone: (506) 429-6073

Email: [DFOtenders-soumissionsMPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFOtenders-soumissionsMPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)