

LETTER OF INTEREST FOR SUPPLYING GEAR TAGS

Overview

Effective April 1, 2013, Atlantic Canada licence holders have been required, in areas where tags are mandatory, to assume full responsibility for both the cost and acquisition of commercial gear tags. As a result, licence holders are required to obtain gear tags from a Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) approved tag supplier of their choice that services their fishing area. To guide the process, DFO developed the *Protocol for Gear Tagging in Atlantic Commercial Fisheries* (The Protocol) available at www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/sdc-cps/protocol-eng.htm. The current Protocol will be effective April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. The Protocol sets out application procedures, tags specifications, the process for issuing tags to licence holders and submitting the information to DFO, and audit processes in place to ensure the reliability of the tagging process.

It is important to note that, as per the current tag colour rotational cycle, an updated version of the Protocol will be available online well before the beginning of the fishing season to provide details on any change that has been made. To address urgent operational needs, the Protocol could be amended by DFO at any time.

In advance of the upcoming fishing season, DFO is soliciting the interest of companies, fishing organizations and Aboriginal groups to apply to become approved tag suppliers. DFO will review proposed applications in their ability to meet the criteria outlined in the Protocol. As set out in the Protocol, Tagging Plans must demonstrate that tags meet departmental standards, confirm the integrity of the distribution system and provide for audits by Fishery Officers. To ensure the integrity of the tagging system, DFO will not approve Tagging Plans submitted by applicants where approval will result in a conflict of interest between an approved tag supplier and licence holders. Details on how to complete a Tagging Plan is included in the Protocol.

Should you be interested to be approved as a tag supplier, please submit your application by **December 15, 2021** to the DFO regional office responsible for managing fisheries or licensing fishing vessels in the area to which you would like your application to be considered (Attention: Regional Gear Tag Program Coordinator). Your Application should include the proposed Tagging Plan (a template is available at <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/sdc-cps/nir-nei/tags-etiquettes-temp-gab-eng.htm>). Once an applicant has been approved by DFO, approved supplier will be notified and its contact information will be added to the list of approved tag suppliers and posted online at <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/sdc-cps/nir-nei/tags-supplier-region-eng.htm>.

Submission of Tagging Plan, including pictures of the tags intended to be used.

- Applications shall be submitted via email to the office of the Director of Resource Management (Attention : Regional Gear Tag Program Coordinator) at the applicable regional office below:
 - Gulf Region
P.O. Box 5030
Moncton, New Brunswick
E1C 9B6
Email: GulfInfoGolfe@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
 - Maritimes Region
P.O. Box 1006, P600
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
B2Y 4A2
Email: smartags@dfo-mpo.gc.ca,
 - Newfoundland and Labrador Region
P.O. Box 5667
St. John's, Newfoundland
A1C 5X1
Email: Gary.Bruce@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
 - Quebec Region
104 Dalhousie Street
Québec, Quebec
G1K 7Y7
Email : Infostatqc.XLAU@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Request for Proposal Publication

A Request for Proposal will not follow this letter of interest as Fisheries and Oceans Canada will not be placing any orders as a result of this process.

Disclaimers

The Approval of a Tagging Plan by DFO does not create any binding or contractual arrangement between the Applicant and DFO. The approval of a Tagging Plan is undertaken solely at the request of the applicant and all

benefits of an approved Tagging Plan accrue to the applicant and licence holders in the fishing area for which the Tagging Plan is approved.

DFO may approve any number of Tagging Plans for a fishing area. Submission of Tagging Plans may not result in any Tagging Plan being approved for a fishing area.

Approval of a Tagging Plan is not an assurance of approval or renewal of that Tagging Plan in subsequent years.

Where an approved tag supplier is found to be in non-compliance with the terms of an approved Tagging Plan, the approved tag supplier may be removed from the list of DFO-approved tag suppliers.

Non-compliance with a Tagging Plan may result in the rejection of subsequent applications for approval or renewal.

DFO retains the discretion to change gear tagging requirements for operational or other reasons notwithstanding approval of a Tagging Plan.

Regional Gear Tag Program Coordinators

For further information, you may contact one of the following coordinators:

<p style="text-align: center;">Gulf Region Daniel Doiron Email: GulfInfoGolfe@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Maritimes Region Glenn Mackay Email: XMARTags@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Newfoundland and Labrador Region Gary Bruce Email: Gary.Bruce@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Quebec Region Marcelle Deslauriers Email: Infostatqc.XLAU@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</p>