



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

May 26, 2022

30002675

ADVANCED CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE

TITLE: Sea Turtle Surveys - Vessel Charter

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 Daniel P. O'Neill, Halifax Regional Municipality, NS. 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:

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada requires a fishing vessel and captain for direct sampling of sea turtles in Atlantic Canadian waters.

BACKGROUND:

Sampling is used to collect biological information on sea turtles in Atlantic Canada.

OBJECTIVES:

The objective of the contract is to maximize scientific sampling of sea turtles during a seasonal window of fieldwork off Nova Scotia, by conducting opportunistic daily scientific sampling trips over a maximum of 40 sea days in July and August, 2022.

WORK REQUIREMENT:

The Contractor will provide the vessel for the sampling platform. There are various survey methods used to structure the sampling. Directed survey effort will be a dynamic process based on sightings, sea turtle encounter rate, and sampling success. The scientist-in-charge will work with the Captain to plan survey effort.

The duration of the at-sea component of this contract will be a maximum of 40 sea days in July and August, beginning when sea turtle density increases and at-sea surveys officially start. At-sea sampling may take place on any day within this period subject to sea turtle density and distribution, weather, and sea state.

The work may be conducted throughout the Scotian Shelf, no further than 20 nautical miles from shore. Location of operations may be variable, depending on oceanographic and resource conditions, predicted and verified areas of sea turtle aggregation, sea turtle sightings, and research objectives.

TASKS AND DELIVERABLES:

The Contractor will provide a vessel that has a covered workspace with electrical outlets for use of computers and other scientific equipment.

The vessel must have covered deck space for up to 5 scientific personnel and for the storage of research equipment.

The work principally consists of visually locating, capturing and sampling sea turtles over a maximum of 40 sea days in July and August, 2022.

A typical work day may span 8 to 14 hours with the vessel returning to port at the completion of each day. No overnight sampling trips will occur during this contract.

The Captain may also be asked to assist with the loading and unloading of equipment and gear related to the project to and from the vessel at the wharf, including the installation and removal of the infrastructure as well as any other sampling equipment identified by the DFO scientist-in-charge.

The Captain will be expected to take an active role in research. The work will be considered complete when sea turtles are successfully captured, sampled, and released according to established protocols and all data is recorded (the success will be determined by the DFO scientist-in-charge onboard).

Due to the nature of the work, all personnel assigned to any contract resulting from this ACAN must be ready to work in close and frequent contact with the Departmental Representative and other departmental personnel. They must be available to begin surveys with short notice, subject to changes in weather or sea state.

RESOURCES AND LEVEL OF EFFORT:

Willingness to collaborate with the scientist-in-charge to identify and survey promising areas for fieldwork, and available to work opportunistically with minimal notice during daylight hours during the contract period.

MANDATORY CRITERIA:**Vessel Requirements:**

- The vessel must be equipped with an observation tower securely mounted on the wheelhouse roof that allows for elevated, unobstructed surveying of the seascape. This structure must incorporate a second set of vessel controls and seating for a minimum of two people. Alternatively, the Contractor must accommodate the temporary installation of a supplied spotting tower prior to the contract period and DFO reserves the right to inspect fitting prior to awarding contract.
- The vessel must be equipped with an elongated bowsprit, terminating in a pulpit akin to those used in the harpoon swordfishery. Alternatively, the Contractor must accommodate the temporary installation of a supplied bowsprit and pulpit prior to the contract period and DFO reserves the right to inspect fitting prior to awarding contract.
- The vessel must accommodate the temporary installation of a hydraulic work platform mounted securely to the stern of the vessel. The vessel must have available hydraulic quick coupling links (e.g., from hauler) for powering the hydraulic platform. DFO reserves the right to inspect fitting prior to awarding contract.
- The vessel must have an unobstructed safe working deck space that meets all requirements of scientific work. If applicable, the vessel must be cleared of all fishing gear to maximize deck space. If applicable, the vessel must have a safety barrier for the open stern (mesh or other material).
- The vessel must have a deck no higher than 75 cm above the sea surface.
- The vessel must be equipped with a mast and attached hydraulic pullmaster boom capable of lifting up to 2000 lbs.

Captain Requirements:

- Minimum of ten years of experience as a commercial fishing Captain in Atlantic Canada.

- The vessel and Captain must be located west of Halifax, within 45km (or a 45 minute drive) from the Bedford Institute of Oceanography.
- Ability to interpret oceanographic information (e.g., sea surface temperature, bathymetry) and how oceanographic conditions and features relate to the distribution and abundance of marine life and use this information to help direct scientific sampling search effort.
- Recent experience, within the last three (3) years, participating in at-sea scientific research focused on sampling sea turtles, including an active role in safely surveying for, capturing, handling and releasing these animals.

ESTIMATED VALUE:

The total value of the contract shall not exceed \$16,500 excluding all applicable taxes for the firm period from contract award to August 31, 2022. Each subsequent Optional Year is estimated at \$16,500 (each).

TRADE AGREEMENTS APPLICABILITY OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS:

No Trade Agreements apply. Exemption for Fisheries Study.

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:

No new Intellectual Property will be created in this contract.

CONTRACT PERIOD:

The period of the contract is from contract award to August 31, 2022 inclusive. The contract will include 3 optional years each of 1 year duration, to be activated at the discretion of DFO.

Firm period: contract Award to August 31, 2022.

Option Year 1: September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023

Option Year 2: September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024

Option Year 3: September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025

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:

June 9, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. (EDP)

Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed to:

Tina Brown

Contracting Officer – Contracting Services

Procurement Hub – Fredericton

Email: DFOtenders-soumissionsMPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca