



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

26 February 2024

**30005361**

**TITLE: Immunohistological assessment of Humpback Whale biopsy samples**

**1. ADVANCED CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE (ACAN)**

An ACAN is a public notice indicating to the supplier community that a department or agency intends 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.

**2. Definition of the requirement**

This contract is for protocol development of selected immunohistochemistry and immunofluorescence markers to investigate body condition and metabolic physiology of humpback whales in British Columbia. Specific objectives are:

- Protocol development for Immunohistochemistry (IHC) and Immunofluorescence (IF) of specific markers associated with lipid metabolism.
- Preparation of samples for IHC and IF staining.
- Sectioning and slides preparation of fixed and stained samples
- Digital scanning of slides

**2.1 Objective**

Humpback whales from the North Pacific feed in higher latitude waters during summer and fall, replenishing energy storage in lipids for migration to Hawaii or Central America. With a rapidly growing population and varying prey abundance, they store energy in specialized tissues like lipids and fatty acids. This contract aims to develop and apply immunohistochemistry techniques to understand physiological processes related to lipid storage and metabolism, assessing the well-being of a growing whale population.

## **2.2 Scope of Work**

2.2.1. Develop protocol for IF staining. The Contractor must complete protocol development for IF and IHC staining of the requested markers

2.2.2 Protocol application The Contractor must apply the developed protocol to the selected samples and provide a report on the efficacy

2.2.3 Slides and scanning: the contractor must provide the slides of the fixed, stained and sectioned samples, as well as their digital scans

## **2.3 Deliverables and Acceptance Criteria:**

2.3.1. The contractor must provide a detailed report of the protocol development for the selected markers

2.3.2 The contractor must provide the slides of the sectioned, fixed and stained samples and their digital scans on a USB

2.3.3 Report of protocol development must be in English.

## **3. Criteria for assessment of the Statement of Capabilities (Minimum Essential Requirements)**

Any interested supplier must demonstrate by way of a statement of capabilities that it meets the following requirements:

- a. The vendor must be located within 100 km of the Pacific Science Marine Lab (4160 Marine Drive, West Vancouver) to facilitate transfer of biopsies stored at -80C to the vendor
- b. Have the ability to offer a full-service histological assessment, including but not limited to Histological tissue preparation, slide mounting, cryo embedding and sectioning of samples;
- c. A minimum of five years' experience in immunohistochemical labelling;
- d. A minimum of five years' experience with immunofluorescence labelling;
- e. Ability to provide digitized whole section images;
- f. Provide 10 Peer reviewed scientific publications resulting from work conducted by the vendor.

## **4. Government Contracts Regulations Exception(s) or Limited Tendering Reasons**

The following exception(s) to the *Government Contracts Regulations* is invoked for this procurement under subsection 6(d) - only one person is capable of performing the work.

**5. Period of the proposed contract or delivery date**

The proposed contract is from Contract Award through to March 31, 2025 with the option to renew for up to two (2) additional one (1) year periods.

**6. Cost estimate of the proposed contract**

The total estimated value of the contract is \$95,998.00 (option periods included and GST/HST are extra).

**7. Name and address of the pre-identified supplier**

Wax-It Histology Services Inc.  
202-2386 East Mall  
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3

**8. 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.

**9. Closing date for a submission of a statement of capabilities**

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is March 12, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. AST.

**10. Inquiries and submission of statements of capabilities**

Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed to:

Terri Jones  
Contracting Officer – Contracting Services  
Procurement Hub – Fredericton  
Telephone: (506) 461-3743  
Email: [DFO.tenders-soumissions.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.tenders-soumissions.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) and [terri.jones@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:terri.jones@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)