



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

17 May 2023

30004219

TITLE: Mobile gear sentinel fisheries in NAFO Divisions 4S and 4T (northern part).

1.0 Advance 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.

2.0 Definition of the requirement

DFO aims to engage a commercial fishers' association to conduct a bottom trawl survey as part of the Mobile Gear Sentinel Fisheries Program. The data collected during this work will be used by DFO in the development of a fishery-independent abundance index to ultimately help with the annual adjustment of allowable catches. This work is particularly useful for the assessment of several groundfish stocks, including northern Gulf cod, Atlantic halibut, redfish and Greenland halibut (i.e., turbot). The surveys began in 1995 and have been maintained annually in July since.

3.0 The work will involve the following:

The work will be carried out in the following two NAFO divisions having a total of up to 120 trawl stations distributed according to a stratified random sampling design:

- Division 4S – over ten (10) fathoms
- Division 4T (northern part) – over one hundred (100) fathoms

About 80% of the trawl stations will be carried out in NAFO Division 4S and the rest in Division 4T.

Once the contract has been awarded to a supplier, the final list of positions (latitude, longitude) of the trawl stations will be provided by DFO to the successful contractor. This final list will be different for each year of the contract.

The type of bottom trawl used for this survey is a Star Balloon 300 mounted on a Rockhopper bicycle with a 40 mm liner in the codend. DFO will provide these trawls, and once the contract is awarded to a contractor, the contractor will be responsible for storing and maintaining them for the duration of the contract.

The contractor must retain, at his own expense, the services of one (1) at-sea observer certified by a [DFO-accredited company](#) for each vessel that will be involved in trawling activities and throughout the duration of the work at sea. Observers must follow the scientific protocol provided by DFO.

4.0 Criteria for assessment of the Statement of Capabilities (Minimum Essential Requirements)

Any interested supplier must demonstrate by way of a statement of capabilities that its product/equipment/system (as appropriate) meets the following requirements:

- The contractor **must** be a commercial fishing association that includes groundfish fishermen with a minimum of five (5) years of existence;
- The contractor **must** have a minimum of three (3) vessel captains;
- Each of the three (3) proposed captains **must** have at least two (2) seasons of experience in groundfish fishing and/or sentinel surveys;
- Each of the three (3) proposed captains **must** be in possession of a commercial mobile gear license for cod in NAFO Divisions 4S and 4T;
- Each of the three (3) proposed captains **must** have access to a stern trawler with a minimum length of 45 feet during work at sea; and
- The contractor **must** have experience managing and/or coordinating at least five (5) projects involving scientific fishing protocol for groundfish fishing.

5.0 Applicability of the trade agreement(s) to the procurement

This procurement is subject to the following trade agreement(s)

- *Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA)*

6.0 Justification for the Pre-Identified Supplier

The Coopérative des Capitaines Propriétaires de la Gaspésie (i.e., ACPG) has been the contractor retained for the services requested in this contract. ACPG is the only company to have bid on service calls over the years and DFO believes it is the only organization capable of performing the work in the region of deliverables.

Since the 1994-1996 moratorium, groundfish fishing using a bottom trawl has been prohibited for the cod fishery, and the only fishers using it are those fishing for northern shrimp and those participating in the redfish index fishery. These fishermen are essentially the only ones employing stern trawlers in the commercial fishery. In divisions 4S and 4T where the work is taking place, the only association representing these fishers is the ACPG.

Over the past few years, DFO has given the opportunity to other suppliers to submit a proposal, but no company other than the ACPG has shown interest..

7.0 Period of the proposed contract or delivery date

The proposed contract is for a period of one (1) year from date of Contract Award until June 30th, 2024. This contract includes two (2) additional one (1) year option years on the same terms and conditions.

8.0 Cost estimate of the proposed contract

The estimated value of the contract, including options years, is **\$586,372.50** (GST/HST included).

9.0 Name and address of the pre-identified supplier

Coopérative des Capitaines Propriétaires de la Gaspésie (ACPG)
1-1 rue de la Mary
Rivière-au-renard, Québec
G4X 5E9

10.0 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.

11.0 Closing date for a submission of a statement of capabilities

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is June 1st, 2023 at 2:00 PM (ADT) Atlantic Daylight Time.

12.0 Inquiries and submission of statements of capabilities

Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed to:

Name: Claire Lavoie
Title: Contracting Officer
Department: Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Address: 301 Bishop Drive, Fredericton NB, E3C 2M6
Telephone: 506-282-2340
Email: DFO.Tenders-Soumissions.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca