



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

May 22 2023

30004244

TITLE: Fixed gear sentinel fisheries in NAFO Division 4S.

1. 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. Definition of the requirement

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans requires fixed gear sentinel fisheries services in NAFO Division 4S. These sentinel surveys are a useful part of the cod stock assessment in the Northern Gulf of St Lawrence. They have been performed annually since 1995. Although the sentinel program has several components, this statement of work covers only gillnet and longline surveys in Quebec (NAFO division 4S).

3. The work will involve the following:

The Contractor is responsible for coordinating with the masters of the vessels that will be used to perform the services detailed below. Sentinel fishers must fish 2 to 4 times a week at each of the 11 sites over a period of 12 to 16 weeks according to the protocol provided by DFO Science Branch and under the supervision of the contractor's coordinator. The total number of fishing trips is approximately 285. The contractor must also collect two cod samples (max 170 fish/sample) per month (June, July, August and September), for a total of 8 samples, at different sites in division 4S. The exact number of units and samples for condition will depend on the value of the selected tender.

Fishing activities must take place along the North Shore of the Gulf of St Lawrence in the following areas or other acceptable areas: Port-Cartier, Kégaska, Natasquan, Tête à la Baleine, Mutton Bay, Harrington Harbour, Rivière St-Paul and Blanc-Sablon.

All areas use only gillnets except for the Eastern area, which uses both gillnets and longlines.

The contractor must hire a field technician or retain the services of an at-sea observer certified by a company accredited by DFO to cover the fishing period of 12 to 16 weeks and monitor activities in the field. Field technicians or at-sea observers help improve data quality and facilitate communications

between fishers and the contractor. The goal is to ensure the scientific protocol (Refer to Appendix 1 – Protocol) is correctly followed.

A logbook must be filled out (gear, effort, site, etc.) for each fishing trip, the fish caught must be weighed, counted and measured (cod), and cod otolith samples must be collected.

Depending on the availability of the company offering dockside weighing services, fishers will have to weigh their catch at the dock on returning from each fishing trip, especially in June and July (at the contractor's cost).

During the regular fishing season, fishers must collect two cod samples per month (June, July, August and September) at different sites in division 4S, and the cod will be frozen for future analysis in the laboratory. The data collected for condition include fish weight and length, otolith samples and organ weights (stomach, liver, gonads). These data must be entered into the sentinel database ("fixed gear" database provided by DFO) and emailed to DFO science representatives by November.

The contractor's staff must apply the science protocol (Refer to Appendix 1 – Protocol) (applicable under this contract) according to DFO requirements for data collection. Once the fishing season is over, the data set will be entered into the "fixed gear" file (logbook, fish data), validated and delivered (electronic version) in November of each year. All data collected are the property of DFO. The contractor may not make the data it collects public.

The contractor must communicate sentinel sampling activities to fishers and fishers' organizations and to DFO management and science branch representatives.

The following deliverables apply under this project:

1. List of fishing trips (number of trips per site, catch per trip and number of cod samples for condition) in June and July before July 31st, each year.
2. All data collected in June, July, August and September (information on fishing trips, catches, length frequencies, conditions and other), and otolith, fish or other samples required under the scientific protocol (Refer to Appendix 1 – Protocol) or special sampling. Samples must be clearly identified with the date, fishing location, vessel name and project number and sent to DFO by November 30th, each year.

4. 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:

- The Contractor **MUST** be a commercial fishing organization (association) that includes groundfish harvesters and a minimum of five (5) years of existence.
- The Contractor must demonstrate that its commercial fishers' association includes a minimum of five (5) member vessel masters, each with:
 - o at least two (2) seasons of experience in groundfish fishing and/or sentinel surveys.
 - o A commercial fixed gear cod license in NAFO 4S division.

- The contractor MUST demonstrate that he/she has at least five (5) years of project management experience involving a scientific fishing protocol for groundfish fishing

5. Applicability of the trade agreement(s) to the procurement:

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

- o *Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA)*

6. Justification for the Pre-Identified Supplier

The APBCN has been the selected contractor for the services requested in this contract for almost 30 years. The APBCN is the only company to have bid on calls for services over the years. The remote geographical aspect is what most restricts the opening of this purchase request to other suppliers. In the area where the work is being carried out, the only commercial fishers' association is the proposed one (APBCN).

7. Government Contracts Regulations Exception(s)

The following exception(s) to the *Government Contracts Regulations* is (are) invoked for this procurement under subsection 6.(c) the nature of the work is such that it would not be in the public interest to solicit bids; and 6. (d) only one person or firm is capable of performing the contract.

8. Period of the proposed contract or delivery date

The proposed contract is for a period of one (1) year, from date of contract award to May 31st, 2024. Two one-year option periods. Option period one, from June 1st, 2024 to May 31st, 2025. Option period two, from June 1st, 2025 to May 31st, 2026.

9. Cost estimate of the proposed contract

The estimated value of the contract, including option(s), is \$867,479.00 (GST/HST extra).

10. Name and address of the pre-identified supplier

Association des Pêcheurs de la Basse-Côte-Nord, 2 rue Blais, C.P. 140 La Tabatiere, Quebec, G0G 1T0.

11. 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.

12. Closing date for a submission of a statement of capabilities

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is e.g. June 6th, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. ADT.

13. Inquiries and submission of statements of capabilities

Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed to:

Marie-Carmen Sedji – Contracting Specialist

301 Bishop Drive Fredericton, NB E3C 2M6

Telephone: 506-478-7358

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