



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

15 February 2024

30005167

TITLE: Little Trapper Lake Sockeye Egg Collection

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

The contractor is responsible for collecting eggs and milt from Little Trapper Lake sockeye stock in British Columbia, fertilizing on site, and transporting them to Port Snettisham Hatchery in Alaska. The annual egg take target is determined in season and could range from 250,000 to 2,500,000. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) will assess salmon run size and determine the target annually. The contractor will mobilize the worksite, plan and implement egg takes, provide on-site supervision, and provide logistical support.

2.1 Objective

Little Trapper Lake is located on the Inklin River, a tributary of the Taku River in north western British Columbia. Little Trapper Lake is accessible only by air. It is approximately 140 air km from Atlin, British Columbia, and 75 air km from Snettisham, Alaska. Little Trapper Lake sockeye migrate up the Taku River encountering the Canadian commercial fishery around mid to late July and enter Little Trapper Lake from early August until the end of September. Historic return information and reporting is available from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Project Authority.

Little Trapper Lake sockeye are part of a joint enhancement program on Transboundary rivers involving Canada and the United States in which an egg take is conducted to increase fisheries harvest abundance. The Transboundary Rivers Annex of the Pacific Salmon Treaty outlines the enhancement objectives for the Taku River.

The Little Trapper Lake enhancement project has been completed from 1990 through 1994 as well as 2006, 2007, 2016, 2017, and 2019 to 2023. The enhancement project includes the collection of sockeye salmon brood stock from Little Trapper Lake for egg takes and transfer of those eggs to Snettisham Hatchery in Juneau, Alaska for incubation.

2.2 Scope of Work

The contractor will coordinate all aspects of mobilising field equipment for the project and maintaining fuels for the camp.

2.3 Tasks:

Brood Stock Collection:

Primary brood stock collection will be conducted at the main collection site at the Kowatua Creek mouth through the use of a 100m * 8m * seine net (to be provided by the contractor). It is the contractor's responsibility to ensure brood stock collection targets are met. Refer to Project Authority for alternative collection strategies to meet project targets.

The contractor will conduct the brood stock holding, egg disinfection, egg fertilisation and delivery of eggs to Snettisham Hatchery as per the directions from DFO and those descriptions included in this Statement of Work.

Brood Stock Holding:

All female brood stock collected that are not yet ripe (green) and therefore not ready for egg takes must be transported to net pens to hold until ripe for egg takes. All net pen structures should be provided by the contractor, the contractor is to assemble and anchor the pens. Fish must be monitored and checked as required for ripeness and presence of disease, as per below egg take procedure, with the intent that handling and disturbance is minimized. Brood stock are to be spread about the available holding pens to manage appropriate densities. Held fish should be sorted to distinguish ripe from green fish. Net pens must be positioned and managed to minimize disturbance by bears, prevent escapement from holding pens and maintain stability of anchoring. Concerns determined during holding and sorting practices should be communicated to the Project Authority.

Egg Take Procedure:

The little Trapper Lake sockeye stock is known to naturally carry Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHNV) and Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD). To reduce the transmission of these diseases, all spawners are to be inspected and any showing gross signs of BKD (internal or external) are to be removed from the egg take effort. Specific egg take methods are required by the Project Authority. World Health Organization (OIE) fertilization and disinfection procedures are to be used. Specific methods are available upon request from the Project Authority. These protocols require a saline rinse in advance of and post fertilization, then two iodophor rinses before water hardening with IHNV free water. Special attention is to be given to the handling and sorting of brood stock, initial rinsing of eggs, iodophor disinfection application to eggs and iodophor solution recharging during egg disinfection. To facilitate optimal hatchery incubator loading and to minimize air charter costs, egg takes should be planned so that a minimum of 250,000 eggs are shipped per flight to the Snettisham Hatchery.

Egg Transport:

Water hardened eggs are to be transported along with a small volume of IHNV free water, embedded in ice as appropriate, in tightly sealed plastic bags contained within the coolers. Coolers, ice and IHNV free water is provided by Snettisham Hatchery upon coordination by contractor. Deliveries must be coordinated with U.S. Customs and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Port Snettisham Hatchery in advance (see list of contacts). The primary means of egg transport will be by float plane organized and provided by the contractor, but in the event

that weather prevents the safe passage of the aircraft, then a helicopter based out of Atlin, BC or Juneau, Alaska may be used to move eggs in a timely period to maintain high egg survival.

2.4 Project Schedule

The services of the Contractor will be required for a period of approximately 1 month commencing on Contract award and about August 5, each Contract year. The expected completion date of the field portion of this project is August 5 to September 10, each Contract year depending on progress to date in achieving the target and holding brood stock. Final project reporting is to conclude by December 31, each Contract year.

Brood Stock collection	August 15 th – September 31 st
Peak spawning period	August 15 th – September 15 th
Spawning period	August 15 th – September 30 th
Egg Collection Period	September 1 st – September 10 th
Fecundity	~ 3,247
Adults to be used	~ 630

Entry of Sockeye into the lake occurs in early August and continues into early September. Adults migrate into the inlet of the lake and spawn within Kowatua creek.

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 supplier's Project Manager **MUST** have a minimum of five (5) years cumulative experience with sockeye salmon egg collection operation;
- b. The supplier's proposed fish technicians **MUST** each have a minimum of two (2) years cumulative experience in similar activities. sockeye salmon egg collection operation
- c. The supplier's proposed fish technicians **MUST** each have a minimum of five (5) years cumulative experience in similar activities. Broadstock egg collection, sorting and shipping.
- d. The contractor **MUST** have completed a minimum of three (3) projects that are similar in nature and **MUST** have a minimum of five (5) years cumulative experience with salmon egg collection operation.

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 July 31, 2025 with the option to renew for up to three (3) additional one (1) year periods.

6. Cost estimate of the proposed contract

The estimated value of the contract is \$339,423.00 (option periods included and GST/HST are extra).

7. Name and address of the pre-identified supplier

Melta Environmental Inc
Box 20046
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 7A2

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 1, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. ADT.

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 and terri.jones@dfo-mpo.gc.ca