



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

8 August 2023

30004435

**TITLE: Baseline data on intertidal mudflat and subtidal cobble communities on the Northwest Fundy Shore.**

**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 Coastal Environmental Baseline Program will be expanding its site to focus on the Northwest Fundy Shore for 2023-2027. This program funds baseline data collection on ecological gaps and components that are considered to be priorities by program partners. Information on benthic communities is important for understanding the current state of the ecosystem in the Northwest Fundy Shore region. Benthic species are important components of food webs and comprise a large amount of the biodiversity in coastal ecosystems. In addition, benthic species support important economically important fisheries (e.g. American lobster). The Department of *Fisheries and Oceans Canada* has a requirement to generate *new ecological baseline data related to invertebrate communities from intertidal mudflats and shallow subtidal cobble bottom within the Northwest Fundy Shore*. The work will involve the following:

**2.1 Scope of work:**

**2.1.1** Objective 1: Quantify biodiversity and spatial and temporal variation in infaunal invertebrate communities and physicochemical characteristics of sediment at intertidal mudflat sites.

**2.1.2** Objective 2: Quantify biodiversity and spatial and temporal variation in shallow subtidal cobble communities using cobble-filled bio-collectors.

## **2.2 Tasks:**

### **2.2.1 Objective 1:**

**2.2.1.1** Sampling 10 mudflat sites for infaunal communities and sediment and water physicochemical characteristics in fall 2023.

**2.2.1.2** Species-level identification for infaunal invertebrates and sediment analysis in 2023-2024.

**2.2.1.3** Interim reporting on 2023-2024 activities March 2024.

**2.2.1.4** Sampling 10 mudflat sites for infaunal invertebrates and sediment and water physicochemical characteristics twice in Spring/early Summer and Fall of 2024.

**2.2.1.5** Species-level identification of infaunal invertebrates and sediment analysis in 2024-2025.

**2.2.1.6** Interim reporting on 2024-2025 activities March 2025.

**2.2.1.7** Data analysis and final reporting on objective 1 in 2026-2027.

### **2.2.2 Objective 2:**

**2.2.2.1** Deploy 5 bio-collectors with temperature loggers at each of 15 study sites in July of 2024 and retrieve in October.

**2.2.2.2** Bio-collectors will be processed to examine organisms >10 mm in size (fishes and larger invertebrates) in 2024.

**2.2.2.3** Interim reporting on 2023-2024 activities March 2024.

**2.2.2.4** Deploy 5 bio-collectors with temperature loggers at each of 15 study sites in July of 2025 and retrieve in October.

**2.2.2.5** Bio-collectors will be processed to examine organisms >10 mm in size (fishes and larger invertebrates) in 2025.

**2.2.2.6** Interim reporting on 2025-2026 activities in March 2026.

**2.2.2.7** Data analysis and final data report 2026-2027.

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

**2.3.1** Interim reports that describe activities completed and data available to date March 2024, March 2025, and March 2026.

**2.3.2** Final report that describes baseline data collected under each objective March 2027.

**2.3.3** Data will be uploaded to the St. Lawrence Global Observatory (SLGO) website yearly as it is finalized. Proof of upload or an update on the progress of data upload must be provided to the project authority each March for the duration of this contract.

### **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:

- The supplier must have ten (10) years' experience in conducting biological research in coastal environments including data collection, interpretation, analysis, and peer-reviewed publications.
- The supplier must have at least ten (10) years' experience conducting subtidal and intertidal field work in the Bay of Fundy, including marine vessel-based work.
- The supplier must have ten (10) years' experience conducting intertidal infaunal invertebrate surveys.
- The supplier must have ten (10) years' experience in species-level infaunal and epifaunal invertebrate identification.
- The supplier must have ten years' experience deploying and processing bio-collectors, and must have access to pre-existing bio-collectors to deploy for this project (91.5 x 61.0 x 15.0 cm cages made of 37-mm wire mesh with a

hinged lid lined on the sides and bottom with 1 mm pet screen mesh and filled with cobbles).

#### **4. Applicability of the trade agreement(s) to the procurement**

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

- *Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA)*

#### **5. Government Contracts Regulations Exception(s)**

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

#### **6. Ownership of Intellectual Property**

Canada intends to retain ownership of any Foreground Intellectual Property arising out of the proposed contract on the basis that the main purpose of the contract is to generate knowledge and information for public dissemination.

#### **7. Period of the proposed contract or delivery date**

The proposed contract is for a period of 4 years, from Date of Contract Award to March 31, 2027 inclusive.

#### **8. Cost estimate of the proposed contract**

The estimated value of the contract is \$167,637.00 CAD (GST/HST extra).

#### **9. Name and address of the pre-identified supplier**

Dr. Heather Hunt (University of New Brunswick), 100 Tucker Park Road, Saint John, NB, E2K 5E2

#### **10. 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. Closing date for a submission of a statement of capabilities**

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is August 24, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. AST.

## **12. 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 | 301 promenade Bishop

Fredericton, NB E3C 2M6

Telephone: 506-478-7358

Email: [DFO.Tenders-Soumissions.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.Tenders-Soumissions.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)