



## **Marine Plan Partnership (MaPP) Initiative Contract Announcement:**

### **POLICY ASSESSMENT FOR MANAGING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES IN HAIDA GWAI**

The Marine Plan Partnership (MaPP) seeks to contract a consultant to conduct a policy assessment and gap analysis for managing aquatic invasive species in Haida Gwaii.

#### **Background**

The Marine Plan Partnership for the North Pacific Coast (MaPP) is a collaborative process for implementing marine plans completed in 2015 for the coastal and marine areas of four sub-regions of B.C. MaPP is a partnership between the Province of British Columbia represented by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO), the Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative, the North Coast-Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society, Central Coast Indigenous Resource Alliance, Council of Haida Nation(CHN) and the N<sub>a</sub>n<sub>w</sub>a<sub>k</sub>o<sub>l</sub>a<sub>s</sub> Council (the MaPP Partners). The partnership includes 17 member First Nations.

The four MaPP sub-regional marine plans will be implemented at the sub-regional level, and, where appropriate through regional initiatives as identified in a Regional Action Framework.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the MaPP partners in March 2015 outlines the responsibilities of a Marine Working Group (MWG). These include providing strategic direction and executive oversight to regional and specific sub-regional implementation activities. Tides Canada is supporting the MaPP partners by, among other activities, holding and disbursing funds. Tides Canada has set up a project called the MaPP Implementation Support Project.

The MWG is supported by the MaPP Implementation Technical Team (MITT) that includes technical staff from each partner organization and other support personnel. Sub-regional MITT teams are tasked by their specific MWG members with carrying out sub-regional work plans. The Haida Gwaii Technical Team (HGTT) is comprised of technical staff from the CHN and the FLNRO who carry out implementation of the work plan for the Haida Gwaii sub-region.

#### **Contract Overview**

Aquatic invasive species can alter marine ecosystems, and could have significant negative ecological and economic impacts. In particular, two species of botryllid tunicates have invaded Haida Gwaii and are of concern. These tunicates are fouling organisms, and are known to have significant negative impacts on marine ecosystems and on shellfish aquaculture.

The HGTT, in collaboration with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Gwaii Haanas, is currently monitoring for aquatic invasive species in Haida Gwaii. Two of the main vectors for invasive species are vessel traffic and aquaculture operations. Marine debris is another potential vector. Mitigating the spread of aquatic invasive species requires an understanding of the available regulatory and non-regulatory mechanisms.

The contractor will work directly with the HGTT to assess the policies and legislation that are relevant to aquatic invasive species in Haida Gwaii, identify the current gaps in these policies, and assess best practices to fill these gaps. This is part of the commitment in the in the Haida Gwaii Marine Plan to minimize the introduction and impacts of aquatic invasive species. The results of this policy assessment will be used to develop a management plan to monitor aquatic invasive species and mitigate their introduction, spread, and impact.

### **Scope of Work**

The contractor will work with available information and solicit expert opinion to assess policy tools for managing the impacts of aquatic invasive species in Haida Gwaii. Information sources will include:

- Discussions with the HGTT to provide context for the management of aquatic invasive species in Haida Gwaii
- Interviewing invasive species specialists from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO); Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO); Ministry of Environment (MoE); Ministry of Transportation (MoT); Transport Canada; the aquaculture industry; and other experts.
- Reviewing legislation, policies, white papers, and other documents relevant to managing aquatic invasive species in BC.

The contractor will conduct an assessment of:

- Federal and provincial legislation, policies and programs that are relevant to managing aquatic invasive species in Haida Gwaii.
  - Aquaculture policies and best practices relevant to managing AIS.
  - Transportation policies and best practices relevant to managing AIS.
- Existing regulatory and non-regulatory mechanisms to control the introduction and spread of invasive species to Haida Gwaii and an assessment of their relative effectiveness (include assessment of cost, feasibility, impact).
  - E.g., Processes for permits/licenses/tenure of boats and floating structures, including DFO, FLNRO, MoT, and how these processes are/ could be used to regulate and track/monitor potential vectors.
- Available resources that could be useful for managing aquatic invasive species (e.g., best practices, new technologies).
- Other relevant information or literature

### **Deliverables:**

The contractor will prepare an assessment of aquatic invasive species policies relevant to Haida Gwaii that:

- Identifies the tools that are available to prevent and/or monitor the spread of aquatic invasive species in Haida Gwaii;
- Identifies any gaps in the existing policies and legislation;
- Suggests potential solutions to fill any policy gaps

### **Contract Timeline and Milestones** – (subject to change)

- Proposals due: January 6, 2017
- Project start: January 16, 2017
- Draft report: March 15, 2017
- Final report: March 31, 2017

**Contract Remuneration:**

- Up to a contract maximum of \$18,000 plus GST for fees and all expenses including travel if required, sub-contracting, if required, of individual parts of the data management system and data entry

**Qualifications, Experience and Skills**

This opportunity is open to consulting firms or individuals who demonstrate:

- Experience with terrestrial and/or aquatic invasive species issues
- Fair knowledge of marine and/or environmental policies and legislation
- Excellent written communication skills
- An ability to source, review, analyze, and present different types of information
- Experience structuring and conducting interviews
- An ability to understand and interpret legislation
- Experience working with First Nations considered an asset

**To Apply**

**Please submit, via email, by January 6, 2017** a project proposal that outlines the proposed project approach, proposed software interface or options, name of consultants, qualifications, and fees and expense projections. Extensions to the submission timeline may be granted if there are insufficient applications.

Address proposals with the subject line **Policy Assessment for Managing Aquatic Invasive Species in Haida Gwaii:**

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