



Marine Plan Partnership (MaPP) Initiative Contract Announcement:

SURVEY OF LOCAL VESSEL TRAFFIC IN HAIDA GWAI

The Haida Gwaii Technical Team seeks to contract a consultant to design and complete a survey to assess boat traffic 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 N̄anwak̄olas 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.

Aquatic invasive species are spread through two main vectors: attachment to hulls of vessels (including barges), and ballast water discharge from large ships. Vessel traffic can therefore be responsible for bringing new invasive species to Haida Gwaii, and for spreading invasive species that have already arrived to new areas of the archipelago. (Other vectors such as marine debris are not part of this study.) An accurate assessment of vessel traffic in Haida Gwaii is therefore important for understanding and mitigating the arrival and spread of aquatic invasive species in Haida Gwaii. This study will be limited to a survey of vessels that anchor or visit harbours in Haida Gwaii coastal waters.

The contractor is required to assess vessel traffic around Haida Gwaii, as part of the commitment in the Haida Gwaii Marine Plan to minimize the introduction and impacts of aquatic invasive species. The results of this assessment will be used to develop management plans to monitor and prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and mitigate their impact.

Scope of Work

The contractor will work with the Haida Gwaii Technical Team (HGTT), and any stakeholders identified by HGTT, to determine how best to assess vessel traffic around Haida Gwaii. The contractor will then present HGTT with a suggested study design that will include, at a minimum,

- A list of marine user groups, businesses, agencies, and organizations to be assessed
- The preferred strategy for assessing each group's marine traffic activity (e.g., questionnaires, interviews, boat counts by an observer)
- The best way to collect and organize the data on vessel locations and movements which is expected to include the number and type of vessels, locations visited during a typical year and maintenance procedures (such as cleaning of hulls)
- The user group's knowledge and understanding of aquatic invasive species and any precautions or standard operating procedures taken to avoid their spread

Based on the feedback from HOTT, the contractor will develop and complete the recommended assessments of recreational boaters, businesses, agencies/organizations or other vessel owners or operators.

Deliverables:

Design and administer surveys including questionnaires and/or interviews for:

- Recreational boaters in Haida Gwaii to assess the patterns of recreational boat traffic. This survey can be similar to the work by Clarke Murray et al. (2011) or Zabin et al. (2014).
- Businesses that utilize the marine environment of Haida Gwaii to assess the movement of vessels including boats, barges, float camps, and marine equipment (e.g., docks, floats, fishing gear). These businesses will include:
 - Fishing lodges and fishing charter companies based out of the communities on Haida Gwaii, including Masset, Port Clements, Queen Charlotte, and Sandspit.
 - Fuel/freight/garbage transport, and float camp transport for the remote fishing lodges, including:
 - Langara Island (West Coast Fishing Club, Langara Fishing Adventures)
 - Naden Harbour (Queen Charlotte Lodge, Peregrine Lodge, Samson Lodge)
 - Port Louis (West Coast Fishing Club)
 - Englefield Bay (Westcoast Resorts)
 - Nesto Inlet (Westcoast Resorts)
 - Commercial fishing vessels that tie up at dock facilities in Haida Gwaii
 - Tourism operators, including businesses that offer boat tours, mothership tours, boat transport of tourists, and tourist float camps
 - Fuel and freight transport companies, including North Arm Transportation.
 - Contractors that provide marine services around Haida Gwaii, including Highlander Marine Services, Eaglecrest Enterprises, and others.
 - Barge traffic for the forestry companies on Haida Gwaii
 - Shellfish aquaculture companies, including QCI Shellfish.
 - BC Ferries

- Construction companies that provide services for marinas or docks
- Float planes
- Agencies and organizations that use vessels for management, research, or other purposes. This will include:
 - Government agencies such as Haida Fisheries, Gwaii Haanas, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations.
 - Non-governmental organizations that utilize marine transport, including Laskeek Bay Conservation Society and the Research Group on Invasive Species.

If the vessel traffic from some of the user groups listed above cannot be adequately assessed through surveys, design and implement a boat count to assess their vessel traffic.

Enter data into an appropriate database.

Prepare a report that presents the purpose of the study, the survey design, the data obtained (presented in tabular and spatial formats), and results of the analysis.

This assessment of vessel traffic will not include:

- Marine transport vessels that are passing by Haida Gwaii but are not stopping, anchoring or docking.
- Commercial fishing vessels that are not stopping, anchoring or docking.

Where possible, the contractor will collaborate with other stakeholders who are also involved in assessing vessel traffic around Haida Gwaii. This includes:

- Some Harbour Authorities, such as the Queen Charlotte Harbour Authority, will be surveying the users of their dock.
- Gwaii Haanas is interested in vessel movement within Gwaii Haanas, and keeps track of some of this data.
- Some of the businesses to be surveyed, such as Langara Fishing Adventures, that utilize an Automatic Identification System (AIS) to track their vessels.

It is assumed that some interviews will be conducted face-to-face in Haida Gwaii and some will be by telephone. The proposal should indicate the number and type of interviews that are expected to occur.

Contract Timeline and Milestones – (subject to change)

- Proposals due: January 6, 2017
- Project start: January 23, 2017
- Proposed survey design: February 10, 2017
- Draft report: April 14, 2017
- Final Report: May 1, 2017

Contract Remuneration:

- Up to a contract maximum of \$35,000 plus GST inclusive of fees and all expenses including travel if required and mapping and data entry costs.

Qualifications, Experience and Skills

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

- An understanding of vessel traffic on the Pacific North Coast and/or around Haida Gwaii
- An understanding of the businesses, agencies, and organizations involved in vessel traffic around Haida Gwaii
- An efficient and effective approach to assess vessel traffic as a vector for spread of AIS including identification and management of information
- Experience with designing and implementing surveys
- 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 **Survey of Local Vessel Traffic in Haida Gwaii:**

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