



## **Marine Plan Partnership (MaPP) Initiative**

### **Contract Announcement:**

#### **Study of Recreational Fishing Service Providers on Haida Gwaii**

The MaPP Initiative seeks to contract a consultant or consulting team to design, lead, and complete a Study of Recreational Fishing Service Providers in Haida Gwaii in order to address impacts and enhance monitoring of recreational fishing activities. The study purpose is to define the limits of acceptable change to priority social, cultural, and ecological values that interact with recreational fishing activities associated with recreational fishing service providers and propose options for improving existing conditions and monitoring effectiveness. This study is intended to be used to develop a management plan for recreational fishing activities in Haida Gwaii to address conservation, cultural, and sustainability concerns.

#### **Overview**

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. including Haida Gwaii. The Haida Gwaii Marine Plan (the Marine Plan) is being implemented by the Province of British Columbia and the Council of the Haida Nation who are two of the MaPP partners.

Tides Canada is supporting the MaPP partners by, among other activities, holding and disbursing funds. Tides Canada has set up a project called the Marine Plan Partnership for the North Pacific Coast Implementation Support Project to carry out activities identified by partners to support the initiative including activities related to the Haida Gwaii Marine Plan.

Implementation of the Marine Plan is being led by the Haida Gwaii Marine Plan Implementation Technical Team (HG MITT), co-chaired by a representative from each of the Council of the Haida Nation and the provincial government.

#### **Background**

Several issues, objectives and strategies are identified in the Marine Plan that provide direction for managing recreational fisheries. The following two objectives and strategies are important for this proposed study:

- **Objective 2.1 Work to address conservation, cultural and sustainability concerns.**

- **Strategy 2.1A** Develop and implement a Haida Gwaii recreational fishery management plan for provincially tenured or CHN managed activities that address social, cultural and ecological carrying capacity limits for existing and any new operations or fishing areas.  
*Examples – Build on existing agreements and relevant documents such as the 1994 Commercial Recreational Fishery Plan and recreational fishery protocol agreements*
- **Strategy 2.1B** Establish regulations to manage untenured floating lodges and passenger vessels operating as resorts.
- **Objective 2.2 Document the extent and monitor the impacts of recreational fishing activities.**
  - **Strategy 2.2A** Work with relevant agencies and others to support the development of monitoring programs to facilitate implementation of ecosystem-based management initiatives.

## Contract Summary

### Scope of Work

*Phase 1 - Project scoping and methods development (35% of time commitment):*

The consultant or team of consultants will be required to:

- Review relevant background materials to understand the purpose and scope of the project, including (but not limited to): the Haida Gwaii Marine Plan (CHN-BC, 2015), the CHN 1994 Management Plan for the Commercial Recreational Fishery on Haida Gwaii, the Draft CHN-BC Discussion Paper for the Recreational Fishing Industry in Haida Gwaii (1994), Haida Gwaii Recreational Fishery: Background Document (CHN, 2005), A Vision for Recreational Fisheries in British Columbia (DFO, BC, Sport Fishing Advisory Board, 2007), Stantec’s Assessment of Waste Discharge on Haida Gwaii (2017), Firelight’s Survey of Local Vessel Traffic in Haida Gwaii (2017) and other background materials.
- Solicit feedback from and respond to a Technical Steering Committee (TSC) that oversees the quality and scope of the contract and provides local context and additional information on project purpose and scope. The TSC is composed of the MaPP contract managers from the Council of the Haida Nation (CHN) and Province of BC, as well as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). TSC meetings may involve Haida leadership and/or industry stakeholders from time to time.
- Develop a detailed methodology for identifying the limits of acceptable change to priority social, cultural, and ecological values that are affected by activities associated with recreational fishing service providers. Methods will include a description of the following steps:
  - Definition and confirmation of study objectives;
  - Identification and verification of values, such as: marine bird colonies, important habitat for whales and other marine mammals, water quality, safe navigation, habitat for key fish species, quality of fishing experience, Haida traditional fishery access, sensitive sites (including their cultural and spiritual importance), location of village sites, local and

Haida employment, local and Haida benefits, current and future uses and activities, and ecosystem integrity.

- Collation and description of confirmed values;
  - Identification, justification, and confirmation of the identified limits of recreational fishing activities; and,
  - Definition and verification of existing tools available to CHN, BC, and DFO resource managers to implement the limits of recreational fishing activities, and recommendations for future tools that are feasible to implement (e.g. code of conduct, fishing effort ceilings, bag limits, number of bed nights, number or type of tenure(s) per square kilometer, etc.).
- In developing the methodology for collating and describing confirmed values, the following steps should be considered:
    - A gaps analysis that identifies (a) available datasets to be used in the study and (b) information gaps, focusing primarily on social and cultural datasets. For information gaps identified, a method of primary data collection intended to fill the data gaps will be proposed in the methodology.
    - A summary of available datasets that may include (but not limited to): (a) number of lodge operators and number of beds per operator, (b) number of local charters, (c) total recreational catch for Area 1, 2W, and 2E, (d) recreational fishing allocation limits for key fishing areas and key target species [salmon, halibut, lingcod, yelloweye and other rockfish, crab, prawn and other shellfish], (e) catch and release data of target species, including mortality estimates, (f) catch and effort for target species, (g) catch effort [i.e. boat days from Haida Watchmen creel surveys, DFO's iRec survey (h) location of seabird colonies (i) select commercial fishing data, (j) water quantity and quality, and (k) safe anchorages and safety response plans.
    - Additional datasets are also available through the Marine Plan Partnership and Marine Protected Area Network initiatives on the SeaSketch spatial analysis tool.
    - Excluding any modelling of population dynamics of fisheries.
  - The methodology should be clearly justified using peer-reviewed publications and grey literature, including consideration of the approach used by Gwaii Haanas for visitor management. Spatial and temporal boundaries of analysis should be selected and justified based upon available data, location of recreational fishing activities, and feedback from the TSC. Locations of interest to include (but not limited to) fishing lodge locations and their related activities.
  - Once the methodology is reviewed by the contract managers, present the methodology to recreational fishing stakeholders at a meeting in winter 2018/19 (date TBC) in order to refine the gaps analysis, gather feedback on approach, and initiate primary data collection.

*Phase 2 – Undertake assessment and write report (65% of time commitment):*

The consultant or team of consultants will be required to:

- Collect primary data to fill information gaps identified in Phase 1. Effort should be minimized as much as possible through a thorough gaps analysis and careful scoping of the methodology to reduce reliance of study on primary data.
- Apply the methodology developed in Phase 1 to estimate the limits of acceptable change to priority values affected by activities undertaken by recreational fishing service providers.
- Undertake an assessment and develop a list of these limits, ensuring they are measurable and primarily quantitative, including (but not limited to) existing limits currently used to manage activities associated with recreational fishing service providers (e.g. number of bed nights, fishing effort, total catch limits, approach distance and speed limits for vessels in proximity to whales, other marine mammals and seabird colonies, number of rod days, total number of operators, size limits), with clear evidence and justification.
- Identify and describe data limitations and uncertainty, including recommendations for further data collection and monitoring activities to address information gaps.
- Identify and describe existing and reasonably feasible management tools for improving existing conditions and monitoring effectiveness, including barriers and opportunities associated with each.

**Contract Timeline & Milestones (subject to change):**

This contract will be targeted for award by September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

- **By September 7<sup>th</sup>** – Proposals due
- **By September 24<sup>th</sup>** – Project start
- **By October 1<sup>st</sup>** – Finalize work plan, including draft methodology
- **By October 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Provide detailed draft methodology and results of gaps analysis
- **By February 4<sup>th</sup>** – Draft report
- **By March 4<sup>th</sup>** – Revised draft report for stakeholder input
- **By April 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Final report
- **Ongoing** bi-weekly check-ins with Haida Gwaii Co-leads to review progress against deliverables and present draft deliverables for discussion and feedback

**Qualifications, Experience and Skills:**

- Consultant or consulting team with experience and expertise in designing, undertaking, and completing assessments of resource activities.
- Experience working with relevant data sets.
- Understanding of the recreational fishing sector and how its activities affect ecological, social, cultural, and economic values.
- Knowledge of methodologies used to establish limits of acceptable change based on evidence.
- Excellent written communication skills.

- Strong project management, time management, and organizational skills.
- Proven ability to review and analyze volumes of information to make informed and rational recommendations.
- Local knowledge about Haida Gwaii and recreational fishing service providers is considered a strong asset.

#### **Contract Remuneration:**

- Up to a contract maximum of \$89,000 plus GST inclusive of fees and all expenses, including travel if required, on-island transportation, mapping and data entry costs.

## **To Apply**

Please submit, via email, a project proposal that outlines the proposed project approach, including mapping software, names of consultants, qualifications, and a detailed fees and expense projection broken down by task and consultant name. Budget will be inclusive of fees and all expenses, including travel if required, on-island transportation, mapping and data entry costs, plus GST. Please include a sample of similar work that has been completed, with an explanation on why this work was chosen. Extensions to the submission timeline may be granted if there are insufficient applications.

Proposals are due by 5pm on September 7, 2018.

Send proposals with subject line **Study of Recreational Fishing Service Providers on Haida Gwaii** to:

Fiona Kilburn, Administration and Finance Coordinator  
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