

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR COMMUNITY GROUP-BASED FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE TRANS CANADA HIGHWAY PROJECT

## INTRODUCTION

As a result of the design and construction relationship between New Brunswick Department of Transportation (NBDOT) and the private Developer for the new Trans Canada Highway sections from Grand Falls to Aroostook and Perth-Andover to Woodstock (the "Trans Canada Highway Project"), the NBDOT is required to compensate for lost fish habitat at unavoidable watercourse crossings. This compensation is required for authorization under Section 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act*.

This request for proposals is intended to identify fish habitat enhancement projects that could be funded by NBDOT and carried out by a "proponent" such as a community, Non Government Organization (NGO), academic group or First Nation groups, in the effort to compensate for lost fish habitat. Proposals are requested from groups with expertise and experience in improving or constructing fish habitat in the Province of New Brunswick.

The preferred area for these potential projects is watercourses crossed by the new Trans Canada Highway between Grand Falls and Fredericton (Long's Creek). Please note that the new Trans Canada Highway is located to the west of the Saint John River between Grand Falls and Fredericton. Projects outside of this area, but within the Saint John River watershed, will also be considered. Please contact Mike Phillips (contact information at end of this RFP) if you have questions regarding the location of the new Trans Canada Highway, or regarding the potential eligibility of your proposed project location.

Generally, projects that will increase the quality of fish habitat or the productive capacity of fish within the indicated area will be considered, provided they are cost effective and can be undertaken and completed prior to September 30, 2007.

Examples of previous habitat enhancement projects include:

- removal of obstructions to fish passage;
- creating or improving spawning, rearing or nursery habitat for salmonids (trout or salmon) by use of proven techniques;
- decreasing sediment loading into rivers or streams by planting vegetation or installing river bank erosion control structures; and
- planting vegetation along watercourses to create shaded areas.

## WORKSCOPE

Please include the details for items 1-7 below in your proposal for fish habitat enhancement projects. Please note that NBDOT will obtain all required Wetland and Watercourse Alteration Permits (WAWA) for all enhancement projects.

### 1) Project Summary

| Project Summary Table         |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Project Name:                 | name of the project   |
| Location:                     | waterbody, community if applicable, county, province        |
| Landowner:                    | person, group or government                                 |
| Type of Work                  | habitat enhancement, watercourse obstruction removal, etc.  |
| Effective Period:             | time period during which the work will be undertaken        |
| Estimate of costs:            | total cost of materials, disbursements and labour           |
| Name of Proponent:            | person, or company if applicable                            |
| Address of Proponent:         | street address or box no., community, province, postal code |
| Contact Person for Proponent: | name of the contact person                                  |
| Telephone/Fax:                | phone no. and fax no. of the contact person                 |
| Email                         | email address, if available                                 |

### 2) Project Location

Describe the location of the project including the watercourse, nearest community, and county. Provide a map that identifies the area designated for the enhancement work along with, at a minimum, the following information:

- watercourse \ waterbody name; and
- land ownership and access (the proponent will be expected to obtain landowner permission).

Mark the project on a map clearly using an arrow to point to the exact location of the planned work. Detailed mapping is available from NBDOT upon request (please use contact information for Mike Phillips located at end of this RFP).

### 3) Description of the Proposed Work

A complete description of the site, and the proposed work, should be provided. The description should include, but is not limited to, the following:

- a brief description of the site and planned work. This should include photographs of the site (if possible), and a dimensioned sketch of the site identifying the approximate location, number and dimensions of in-water structures. The approximate dimensions of the area where the enhancement work will be carried out should be identified on the drawing \ sketch;
- available details on fish habitat at the site, and the fish that are known to presently use the site during the year;
- conceptual identification of the factors limiting the productive capacity of the area to be enhanced (e.g., natural barrier to fish passage; sediment infilling, etc.);
- where riparian vegetation is to be planted, a dimensioned sketch which depicts plant species, numbers, stock, size and planting density; and
- if applicable, identification of established stakeholder groups, ongoing or previous habitat restoration-enhancement efforts on the same watercourse \ waterbody and, ideally, information on how the plan should fit into a larger watershed management scheme.

Construction activities are subject to field inspection by NBDOT personnel and regular updates to NBDOT may be required.

Effectiveness monitoring to determine the final compensation value of the fish habitat enhancement project will be the responsibility of NBDOT, and should not be included in the proposal.

#### **4) Proposed Timing of Work**

The timeline for implementation of the enhancement plan should be identified. If the project is to require instream work, the timeframe is restricted to between June 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **5) Reporting**

A report is required within 30 days of project completion and should include, but is not limited to the following:

- the objectives of the habitat enhancement project;
- a description of the methods used to implement the project; and
- a description of the physical and biological habitat at the site before and after the enhancement project.

#### **6) Estimate of Costs**

Please present a detailed budget for all costs associated with completion of the proposed work. The budget must be categorized by costs associated with materials, disbursements, labour rates and time required to complete each task of the project.

## **7) Description and Experience of Proponent**

Please provide a brief description of your group or organization, the primary purpose of the group, and how it relates to fish and fish habitat. Also, please provide any relevant experience the group has with fish habitat enhancement-related work. This may include fish and fish habitat surveying and fish habitat improvement projects.

### **RESPONDING TO THE RFP**

Proposals for the 2005 season will be reviewed as they are received until July 15, 2005. All proposals received after this date, until April 30, 2006 will be considered for the 2006 season. It should be noted that there is a limited amount of enhancement work to be distributed to respondents of this RFP, and that there is no guarantee that funds will be available beyond the 2005 season.

Proposals must be submitted to:

Mr. Mike Phillips  
New Brunswick Department of Transportation  
Planning and Land Management  
P.O. Box 6000  
Fredericton, NB  
E3B 5H1  
Phone: 506-453-2754  
Fax: 506-444-5207

Acceptable proposals that are received earlier in the year will have a better chance of award over those received later. Proposals may be accepted with Conditions of Approval. The acceptability of proposals is at the discretion of NBDOT. NBDOT reserves the right to accept/reject proposals for any reason, and reserves the right to nullify this RFP at any time and for any reason. The applicant will be notified regarding the decision for this years work, no later than August 5, 2005.