

Request for research fishing charter

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will be doing a nearshore survey in late August-early September 2012 in the Nelson Lagoon-Port Moller area. We would like to charter a drift-gillnet boat or other small vessel to do this work.

The survey will sample fish and habitat in depths shallower than about 15 fathoms using small bottom trawls and other gear, and may also involve beach seining. These gears have been used on 32 to 45-footers in the past and they are ideal boats for this type of work.

The timing of the survey is ideal for you to make some extra money after the salmon season is over. Please read the attached statement of work and submit a bid if you think you want to do the survey.

The one bureaucratic requirement is that all businesses receiving payment for services from the federal government must have a DUNS number and be registered vendor in ORCA. If the business operating the selected vessel does not have a DUNS number, they must be willing to get one before the contract could be awarded. See <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform> for more information.

Thanks for reading this far!

-Tom Hurst, Fishery Biologist
Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NMFS

Specifications / Statement of Work

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has a need to perform a fisheries research survey in the nearshore waters north of the Alaska Peninsula in the vicinity of Port Moller and Herendeen Bay, Alaska (see map). The purpose of the survey is to examine the distribution of juvenile fishes and crabs in coastal waters and classify habitat using multiple gear types and sampling tools. Sampling will occur along transect lines extending perpendicular to shore and in sufficiently deep waters of the bays (see figures). Maximum depth sampled will be 30 m (about 16 fathoms). This may include work in the Bering Sea beyond 3 nm from shore (but no more than 10 nm), if weather and vessel specifications permit. Fishes will be sampled using a small (10 ft) bottom beam trawl. Habitat will be sampled using a conductivity-temperature sensor, a sediment grab, and a simple drop camera.

The survey will last 10 days, around late August, 2012. There is some flexibility in dates although the survey cannot begin prior to August 18 or end after September 12, 2012 (earlier availability is preferred). Specific dates will be agreed upon by mid-July. Ideally, the vessel would be available for gear staging 1 day prior to the start of the survey. The survey will be staged out of Port Moller, AK (Peter Pan Seafoods Facility). The vessel will stay at sea for multiple nights during the survey, but there will be opportunities for 1-2 harbor stops when the vessel could replenish supplies. Work hours will be long, at least 12 hours per day.

A well-equipped 32 ft (or larger) gillnetter is the ideal vessel for this work. The gear types to be used can easily be deployed using a net reel (this has been proven in past surveys). We are inviting bids for the services described above. The timing of the survey was partially designed so that a fisher could participate in a normal fishing season and then conduct the survey before putting up their boat.

The contractor will provide the vessel and captain, 1 crew member, insurance, water, food (3 meals per day), and berthing for 2 scientists and the captain and crew member. The contractor will provide fuel, fuel costs should be included in the per-day charter rate. The following specifications are also required or to be supplied by the contractor:

VESSEL REQUIREMENTS

1. Vessel length - a minimum of 9.7 m (32 ft).
2. Berthing spaces for 2 scientists as well as the captain and crew member, including clean mattresses.
3. Working and berthing spaces adequately ventilated and free from excessive engine noise and fumes.
4. A clean and flush deck large enough to accommodate a 4 X 4 ft sorting table, 10-12 sorting baskets, platform scale, a 3.05 m (10 ft) beam trawl, spare nets, and other sampling gear (gear to be provided by the Government).

5. Fuel capacity with arrangements to replenish without time loss to survey operations.
6. Potable water with capacity of at least 80 gal.
7. Space to accommodate a 0.6 X 0.9 m (2 X 3 ft) portable freezer or equivalent ship-board freezer capacity.
8. A seawater deck hose with pressure to adequately flush sorting table and deck.
9. Winch system (i.e. net reel) adequate to retrieve a 10 ft beam trawl with maximum load to 454 kg (1000 lbs). Sufficient engine horsepower to tow small trawls.
10. Availability of a small skiff (Zodiac acceptable) with outboard motor capable of deploying 3 people on shore and deploying the beach seine (may not be needed for full duration).
11. VHF marine radio for communication. A cellular phone for use in communication with AFSC with time costs to be reimbursed by the Government is desired.
12. GPS navigation system, radar, and depth sounder.
13. 120V AC power with receptacles for powering laptop computer and recharging batteries is desired. If unavailable, electrical system must have the capacity to power scientific equipment using government-supplied inverters.

SAFETY

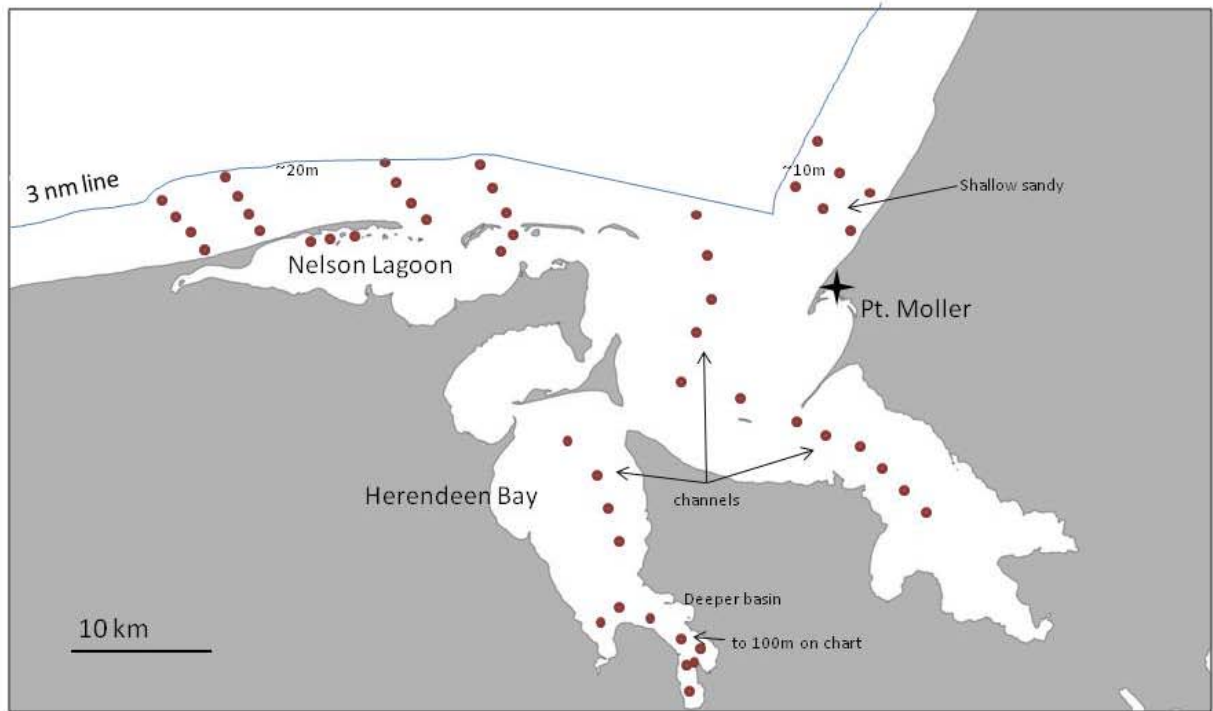
1. The vessel captain is responsible for all matters relating to the safety of personnel, the vessel and equipment operation.
2. The Contractor is to provide U.S. Coast Guard-approved life-jackets for all personnel (scientific party and vessel crew) and a U.S. Coast Guard approved survival suit for the vessel Captain and crew member.
4. Vessel shall meet U.S. Coast Guard required Safety Specifications. Specify if the vessel meets U.S.C.G. requirements for working outside the 3 nm limit.

GOVERNMENT PROVIDED PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT

The Government shall provide 2 scientists, all nets and sampling equipment, a GPS unit, and survival suits and sleeping bags for the scientists.

MAP AND SAMPLING PLAN FIGURE

Map of target sampling strategy. Exact schedule for sampling and modifications to this plan will be based on weather, tides, time, and vessel-gear constraints. Time permitted, additional sampling stations will be added within this area. If vessel characteristics and time permit, additional stations may be added offshore of the middle transects.



SUBMITTING BIDS

If you are interested in applying to conduct this survey, please submit a bid by **June 5, 2012** for the services described. Include a detailed description of your vessel and how it meets the requirements stated above and describe experience working in the waters to be sampled. Provide DUNS number (if available) or certify willingness to acquire a DUNS number. As the evaluation of bids will take place during the fishing season, please provide complete contact information, and supply photos of your vessel if possible.

Submit bid materials by mail, e-mail, or fax to:

Dr. Thomas Hurst

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Feel free to contact Dr. Hurst if you have questions.