

Save Ontario Shipwrecks-Superior Chapter

Request for Proposals-01-22-16

Preparation of a “Lake Superior – Graveyard of Ships” Dive Inventory/Strategy”

Closing- 3:00 pm Friday, February 26, 2016.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of RFP

This document describes the products expected from a consultant engaged to conduct a “Dive Inventory” and “Strategy” for the site commonly known as the “Lake Superior Graveyard of Ships”, as well as the shipwreck Theano, including “next steps” for developing Technical Wreck Diving tourism in the “Top of Superior region.”

1.2 About the Proponent

Save Ontario Shipwrecks Superior Chapter (SOS-Superior), formerly known as Superior Underwater Exploration Society (SUES) is the Superior Chapter of Save Ontario Shipwrecks (SOS), a Provincial Heritage Organization in Ontario Canada, dedicated to the study, preservation and promotion of an appreciation of Ontario's marine heritage. SOS-Superior has been actively working to promote diving in the Top Of Superior region including a mooring project entitled The Lake Superior Shipwreck Trail and the Top of Superior Dive Strategy. SOS-Superior is partnering with Thunder Bay Tourism, the Township of Nipigon, Wally's Thunder Country Diving and Parks Canada/Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area on the “**Lake Superior – Graveyard of Ships” Dive Inventory/Strategy”**

1.3 Background

In 2014/2015, the Township of Nipigon Working with the Superior Under Water Exploration Society (SUES) and with the support of a number of partners hired Steve Lewis Consulting to produce a Dive Inventory and Marketing strategy for the Top of Lake Superior Region. Perhaps the most important recommendation to come out of the report was that an inventory of the “Graveyard of Ships” and the Theano be started as soon as practically possible, as the success of dive tourism in the Top of Superior Area will hinge on this asset.

The graveyard of ships was created in 1936 when a decision was made to undertake the removal of derelict vessels from Port Arthur and Fort William Harbor for disposal elsewhere. The two adjoining municipalities ultimately combined to form the present day city of Thunder Bay. A suitable deep area was identified by the harbormaster where the remaining hulks

once stripped of any useful/reusable/recyclable materials would be scuttled. What was seen in 1936 as a beneficial action for the management of the harbor with the passage of time also became favorable for the preservation of a slice of nineteenth century Great Lakes shipping history and the maritime history of Canada. In fact, the Thunder Bay Ship Graveyard holds an estimated collection of over 35 hulks including multiple specimens of passenger/freight steamers, bulk freighters, tugs, barges, scows, and dredges.

In 2004 Parks Canada asked the Underwater Archaeology Service of the Ontario Service Centre (OSC) as well as the Archaeological Services Branch of the Heritage Conservation and Commemoration Directorate (HCCD) to evaluate the archaeological and historical value of the abandoned. This led to archival research that helped to better define the overall historical events and to determine the area to be searched. This was supplemented by a field survey using side scan and sector sonar as well as remotely operated vehicle (ROV) to confirm the presence and evaluate the state of preservation of the remains located in what was called the “dumping grounds” by the local Harbormaster in 1936. Survey operations in 2004 necessarily focussed on remote sensing activities given both the prohibitive depth of water at hand (60-90m) as well as the considerable number of targets that had the potential to be identified. Parks Canada returned in 2007 to do further field work including ROV investigations. At this time the 2004 report is available but the 2007 is not.

The THEANO was a “Three-Island Tramp” type steamer. In November 1906, the 255-foot Canadian steamer *Theano*, was bound for Port Arthur (Thunder Bay) with a cargo of steel rails. She was pushed off course and into the rocks off Trowbridge Island where she struck Marvin Island, was holed and sank. Storm waves later pushed her off into deep water near Trowbridge Island. The final resting place of the Theano was discovered in 2005 in water ranging from 79 to 104 metres (260 to 340 feet). Although a very limited number of divers have reportedly dived the site little information is available.

The goal of this project is to have sufficient information about the quality of wrecks reputed to be sitting on the lake bed to promote them to the technical diving community and attract dive tourism to the Top of Superior Region. It should also look at how the project could align with Parks Canada’s product development strategies for the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area.

2.0 SCOPE OF WORK

2.1 Consulting Relationship

The following summarizes the general working relationship expected with the consultant:

- Work closely with the Project Team and project partners throughout all phases.
- Optimize the use of existing information, studies, reports, and other available resources.
- Undertake (or oversee) fieldwork as necessary to complete the assignment.
- Liaise with Provincial and Federal Governments and local resource personnel as appropriate.
- Obtain any required permits to carry out the work

- Make Team Member available for media interviews and presentations to project partners
- Prepare and present a final report to the Project team and Project Partners

2.2 Project Objective

The main goal or objective of the project is to undertake an initial inventory of at least five targets (wrecks) in the area “GRAVEYARD of SHIPS”, near Thunder Bay as well as the Theano. The goal is to have sufficient information about the quality of wrecks reputed to be sitting on the lake bed to promote them to the technical diving community and attract dive tourism to the Top of Superior Region. It is estimated that the length of the inventory "taking" process will run from seven to nine days. Diving will be weather dependent.

A secondary goal is to promote diving in the area and in particular to promote the project and its discoveries. To this end, participants agree to help with daily postings in blog, facebook, Instagram and other social media outlining progress through high value postings.

2.3 Project Components

The project will require an initial underwater inventory of at least 6 wrecks. The base inventory may be supplied in either electronic or printed form (to be negotiated). In addition, the inventory should include High-Resolution video and stills. (This may be supplemented with Go-Pro type “footage” but should not be primarily limited to that) and a written account of dive operations suitable for promotional purposes. Rights to any of these materials will belong to the proponent but use by the consultant team may be negotiated.

The inventory itself should supply data in three main categories:

1. Dive parameters:

Equipment Configuration (gases used, thermal protection employed, etc.); Depth, Temperature (bottom and for various staged decompression stops); Water Conditions/Visibility; Surface / Weather Considerations (distance from safe harbour, prevailing winds, average wave heights during dive season, etc.);

2. Dive Difficulty:

(categories run from simple sport dive suitable for newly certified OW diver, to Advanced exploration dive presenting high risk of injury or death!); Dive Rating 1-5 scale (1 = fantastic 5 = don't bother).

3. Wreck details:

Type of Vessel (sail, steam, freighter, wooden, steel, composite etc.); General Condition of Wreck (silt, damage, decay, position in water (on keel, on side, etc.)), Artifacts (presence rather than surveyed inventory); Features of Wreck (if any special sights to see).

4. Marketing Plan:

A brief plan on how to market the product to the Technical Diving Community including identifying potential partners and recommended packaging; It is our desire to have a “sellable” product at the end of this project.

2.4 Project Phases

The proponent suggests that this project include the following four (4) phases:

Phase 1 - Project Initiation

Project Initiation includes, as a minimum, the initial meeting of the consultant with the proponent to refine preliminary work plan, consulting team meet with the proponent, identify coordination tasks, and agree on specific deliverables and timelines. This meeting may be conducted through teleconference or other electronic means.

Phase 2 – Research, engagement and fieldwork

During this phase the consultant(s) will review previous reports and studies, collect primary data needed, and conduct field work. It is estimated that fieldwork will take between seven and nine days. The phase is completed with the production of a summary report to be reviewed by the project team. The summary report will identify other information/data that is needed to complete the project and suggest options for obtaining said information.

Phase 3 – Draft Report

During this phase, the consultant will prepare a Draft Report of its findings during the inventory, plus proposed next steps for marketing and further investigation, which will have at least one cycle of review including meeting of consultant(s) with the Proponent. The Phase-3 report will include documentation, assessment and response to stakeholder concerns and comments,

Phase 4 – Final Report

The final report will be presented to the project partners for preliminary review and final discussion. Thereafter, a final “Dive Inventory and Strategy” Plan will be recommended to the Partners for formal review and adoption.

3.0 PROJECT MANAGEMENT

3.1 Project Management

The primary contact for the client Project Team will be Richard Harvey. Other partners may be appointed to carry out work on behalf of the client.

3.2 Consultant Project Team

The Consultant Project Team will have specialized experience in the Technical dive industry and dive tourism as well as Economic Development and Marketing. The operational team members will be required to supply bona-fides of their experience making dives below 70 metres in Great Lakes Conditions. Not only must members carry certification with a recognized agency in Advanced Trimix, but also must be able to

prove recent experience with deep cold-water dive operations and demonstrate their suitability to complete the requisite tasks successfully.

The Consultant team must also provide a copy of the dive team's SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) for surface and sub-surface operations and supply for each Team Member current medical forms signed by a Physician/Hyperbaric Doctor or Nurse Practitioner stating he/she is fit for Diving. Each Team Member must also show proof of personal Medical Insurance Covering Deep Diving (Dan Guardian level for example) and verification that this medical insurance covers activities in Ontario, Canada.

Please be aware, there is NO HYPERBARIC CHAMBER ON SITE.

Due to the considerable amount of money and logistical challenge a diving platform (boat) may be made available if requested depending on teams requirements.

4.0 PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Consulting Agreement

The consultant shall agree to enter into a contract for the completion of the work in accordance with an accepted schedule presented by the consultant with its proposal. The contract will specify reporting and amendment provisions.

4.2 Schedule and Timeline

The proponent anticipates awarding the contract in March 2016. Completion Date will be fall 2016.

The consultant shall provide a detailed schedule clearly indicating all tasks, milestones, critical path and the parties responsible for completing each task.

4.3 Meetings

It is anticipated that most meetings can be conducted using teleconference or online. Facilities for meetings and consultation will be provided by the Proponent.

4.4 Deliverables

All plans and documents and all digital information produced/used in this assignment and prepared under this contract by the consultant shall be owned by the client.

The consultant shall provide one (1) digital pdf format of each report and document submitted at the milestone stages of the project. .

Upon completion of the project, the consultant will also provide, in electronic format, all relevant documentation including, but not limited to all video and still photography, all dive logs and notes, any sonar data, public and key correspondence, draft report documents and final report documents.

5.0 SUBMISSION

5.1 Address & Date for Submission of Proposals

Request for Proposal --Dive Inventory
Attention Richard Harvey
52 Front ST, PO Box 160
Nipigon ON. P0T 2J0
richard@btba.ca

Proposals must be received no later than: **3:00 pm Friday, February 26, 2016.**

5.2 Form of Submission

If possible Proposals should be submitted in electronic form (email) although printed proposals are acceptable. Interested consultants are requested to submit one (1) electronic copy (preferred) or six (6) printed copies of their proposal which is not to exceed ten (10) pages in total, and should include the following:

- Qualifications and experience of consultant team related to the proposal including dive team members bona-fides of their recent experience making dives below 70 metres in Great Lakes Conditions.
- A copy of the dive team's SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) for surface and sub-surface operations.
- Proposed work program that outlines the consultants approach and process to be followed
- Complete list of all deliverables for each phase and itemized costs to complete the project in its entirety
- Anticipated work schedule indicating time allotment for each stage of the process
- Details of any work or services or equipment expected to be provided by the proponent, if applicable
- Examples of previous work completed may be submitted as a separate document.

5.3 Inquiries from Consultants

Consultants are to direct enquiries during the proposal call period to:

Richard Harvey
807-887-4614
Richard@btba.ca

The Proponent will not necessarily accept the lowest or any proposal.