

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Contractor Services for Kelp Rescue Initiative (KRI) – 2026-2027

Issued By: Kelp Rescue Initiative (KRI)

Onsite Location: Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre (BMSC - www.bamfieldmsc.com)

Issue Date: January 16, 2026

Proposal Deadline: January 30th, 2026, at 5:00 PM PDT

1. Overview

The **Kelp Rescue Initiative (KRI)**, based at the **Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre (BMSC)**, was established to develop science-based solutions for kelp forest decline in British Columbia. Funded by the Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Fund (AERF) and other grants, and in close partnership with the **Baum Lab (University of Victoria)**, KRI aims to understand the ecological and physical drivers of kelp forest declines (marine heatwaves, urchin herbivory, habitat loss) and restore canopy kelp forests at ecologically meaningful scales. Through the AERF, KRI has initiated an ambitious scientific research program, encompassing kelp forest ecology, genomics, and restoration experiments. The main study sites are on Vancouver Island – including **Barkley Sound** and the **North Salish Sea**.

KRI seeks proposals from qualified contractors to support the delivery of our “Roadmap to BC Kelp Recovery”, to be published by March 2027. We require one contractor to lead and support the following areas:

1. Writer and Producer of the “Roadmap to BC Kelp Recovery” Living Document

We welcome proposals from independent contractors, small teams, or firms.

2. Scope of Work and Budget

Budget: not to exceed \$48,500

Start Date: January 2026

We are seeking a skilled and creative contractor to help design and develop a Roadmap for Restoration—a dynamic, living document (in the form of a website) that will guide kelp ecosystem restoration efforts across British Columbia. The goal of the Roadmap is to map out a strategy and implementation plan for restoring BC floating Kelp ecosystems, and to mobilize resources within BC's coastal stewardship community to preserve, strengthen and restore kelp forests.

Key Tasks:

- Engage with researchers and kelp experts to develop the key aspects of the roadmap including research and knowledge syntheses, and a restoration resource hub (tools and guidance docs).
- Conceptualize the structure and function of the 'Roadmap' as a public-facing knowledge and action mobilization tool.
- Design and build the content framework, populating it with scientific and general audience summaries, documents (e.g., past KRI outputs including peer reviewed publications), photos, maps, figures, and other multimedia assets.
- Develop tools such as:
 - Decision trees and matrices for identifying restoration strategies by location, timing, and method based on expertise of the KRI team.
 - A repository of restoration projects and associated metadata across BC.
 - A mechanism for facilitating equipment loans and exchanges between organizations.

This is a unique opportunity to help shape a widely-used, accessible knowledge product that will grow over time and support restoration practitioners, researchers, community groups, and decision-makers.

3. Qualifications

We are looking for someone who brings a blend of scientific expertise, strong communication skills, and creative thinking:

- A background in coastal marine ecology or a related field (graduate degree or equivalent experience preferred).
- Strong writing and synthesis skills, including the ability to translate peer-reviewed literature into accessible language for a general audience.
- Experience with science communication or environmental storytelling.
- Experience with literature reviews, knowledge synthesis, and project-based collaboration.
- Familiarity with marine restoration practices, particularly in Canadian contexts.
- Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail.

4. Proposal Submission Requirements

A detailed proposal must be submitted including the following key components:

- Cover Letter indicating the contract being applied for
- Qualifications and Experience relevant to the scope
- Workplan and Timeline based on the scope requirements
- Portfolio or Samples of relevant work
- Proposed Fee Structure (hourly or fixed-fee)
- Estimated Expenses, including travel to/from work sites
- Three References (name, affiliation, contact)

5. Submission Instructions

Email proposals must be submitted as a single PDF to jasmin.schuster@kelprescue.org

Subject line: "KRI Roadmap Contractor Proposal – [Your Name/Organization]"

Deadline: January 30th, 2025

6. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following weighted criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Weight
Relevant experience and qualifications	30%
Quality and relevance of sample work/portfolio	25%
Proposed methodology and work plan	20%
Cost/value for budget	15%
References and past performance	10%

7. General Conditions

- KRI reserves the right not to award a contract or to split awards among contractors
- Only shortlisted contractors will be contacted
- Contractors are expected to work remotely with regular check-ins via Zoom, Teams, or email and the ability to travel / to from main study sites on Vancouver Island – including **Barkley Sound** and the **North Salish Sea**.
- Contractors must have legal authorization to work in Canada