**Request for Proposal (RFP) – Synthesis on climate change and commercial fisheries in Pacific Canada**

**Responses due:** November 21, 2023

Please send responses and inquiries to Marissa Ng, BC Marine and Coastal Program Manager, Nature United at marissa.ng@tnc.org

## About Nature United

Nature United is a unique and science-based conservation NGO that is recognized for being a "solutions broker", bringing governments, Indigenous peoples, industry, and other perspectives together to find innovative strategies and pathways that build a better future for people and nature. Nature United is also the Canadian affiliate to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) – a global organization operating in over 70 countries.

## Context

Climate-related changes are currently affecting marine ecosystems and fisheries across Canada. However, Canada is currently lagging in its approach to climate-resilient fisheries management. Understanding the scope of climate change impacts on fisheries and its implications for fisheries management is necessary to inform adaptive solutions to fisheries challenges under climate change.

While various research and information sources exist to understand the oceanographic, ecological, socioeconomic, and policy implications of climate change related impacts on fisheries in Canada's Pacific region, this information remains in disparate sources and is not easily accessible for a public audience. Similar public-facing documents exist in other jurisdictions, including the Atlantic and Eastern Arctic regions of Canada (i.e., Oceans North's report – Turning up the Heat: Managing the impacts of climate change on fisheries in Atlantic Canada & the Eastern Arctic) and California (i.e., Readying California Fisheries for Climate Change), but Canada's Pacific region is currently lacking a comprehensive synthesis on the current state of knowledge of climate change and fisheries with recommendations for action specific to the region.

This contract seeks to help fill this gap by developing a synthesis of existing research and knowledge on how climate change is impacting – or predicted to impact – commercial fisheries in Pacific Canada. The resulting report would summarize the current state of knowledge on the ecological and socioeconomic vulnerabilities of Pacific fisheries to climate change and provide high-level policy recommendations. The report is for a public and government audience, to summarize the current climate-fisheries challenges Pacific Canada faces and to serve as a foundation for advancing discussions and actions related to building more resilient and adaptive fisheries management and operations.

**Objectives**

1. To synthesize the current state of knowledge on climate change and fisheries in Pacific Canada based on existing sources of information. More specifically, the synthesis should summarize:
    a. How climate change operates to influence oceanographic factors (brief overview);
    b. The state of knowledge (and key gaps) regarding the ecological vulnerability of the major commercial fisheries in Pacific Canada to climate change;
    c. The state of knowledge (and key gaps) regarding the socioeconomic vulnerability of the major commercial fisheries in Pacific Canada to climate change;
    d. The Canadian fisheries policy and management landscape that currently addresses climate change in commercial fisheries; and
    e. Some key examples of how other global jurisdictions are taking meaningful actions toward more climate-resilient fisheries management.
2. The synthesis should be written for a non-technical audience (the ecological section would likely be the most technical).
3. To provide high-level recommendations for advancing adaptive and climate-resilient fisheries management in Pacific Canada, informed by existing information and understanding of the current challenges and insights from other jurisdictions.

*Note: The focus of this report will be on commercial fisheries, without ignoring the importance of Indigenous and small-scale fisheries.*

**Deliverables**

- Synthesis report (approximately 70-100 pages long), including an executive summary and/or policy brief
- Presentation to communicate key findings from synthesis report, including two versions (a detailed version and a high-level version)

**Existing resources**

- Nature United has already conducted some preliminary research and has some draft written content already prepared for most of the report sections (a-e above). This content would be available to the contractor to use, and should significantly cut down on primary research time required to complete this contract.

**Scope of work**

- Review existing content written for this report (existing content does not need to be included in final report but should be a helpful starting point and provides some general framing)
- Review similar reports for other jurisdictions (links in Context section for Oceans North and California reports) – this report should have a similar tone and scientific flavour as the Oceans North report, but no new research or modelling is required
- Conduct desktop research to support development of report (many sources available in existing draft content that could be useful)
- Draft full outline for report and submit to Nature United for review/feedback (see timeline below)
- Draft each chapter of report and submit to Nature United for review/feedback (see timeline below)
- Engage in additional review process with external experts in fisheries management in Pacific Canada, convened by Nature United

**Timeline**

*December 11, 2023:* Submit full outline of report for review/feedback (allow 2 weeks)

*January-April 2024:* Submit each chapter draft for review/feedback (allow 2 weeks each) – timeline of chapters to be agreed upon with outline of report

*April 15, 2024:* Submit last chapter draft for review/feedback (allow 2 weeks)

*May 15, 2024:* Final report completed

*May 30, 2024:* Final presentations completed