



PROCUREMENT JUSTIFICATION FORM (PJF)

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$5,000 submitted to the Division of Procurement Services.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please provide the requested information in the white spaces below. All responses (except signatures) must be typed; no hand-written forms will be accepted. See the guidance document posted with this form on the Division of Procurement Services intranet site (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW
Table with 5 columns: Department Office/Division/Program, Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator, (If applicable) Department Reference #, Amount, Advantage CT / RQS #, Proposed Start Date, Proposed End Date, Original Start Date, Effective Date, Previous End Date, New End Date, Project Start Date, Grant Start Date, Project End Date, Grant End Date, Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State, Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant.

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION
Check the box below for the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)
Table with 4 columns: Justification type (A-L) and checkbox.

Please respond to ALL of the questions in the following sections.

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.

The Maine Department of Marine Resources (ME DMR) Division of Marine Mammal Research is contracting the Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company for three (3) inshore research cruises consisting of twelve (12) total days of visual surveys and acoustic equipment servicing in the Gulf of Maine (GoM). Research cruises will serve the purpose of retrieval and deployment of the existing Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) moorings by two (2) DMR Passive Acoustics Team personnel as well as provide a platform for a team of four (4) Marine Mammal Observers (MMO) to conduct visual surveys for North Atlantic right whales and other marine species. These surveys require the following capabilities: capacity to deploy passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) moorings, sufficient storage and deck space for PAM equipment and assembly, enclosed areas for PAM device servicing, a gunwale opening and boarding height sufficient for PAM deployment and retrieval by hydrophone, an unobscured 90° view from either side of the ship, sufficient observation platform height for visual operations, platform stability in various conditions for obtaining accurate range estimates, and an enclosed area for visual data collection equipment. Additional requirements include a Captain and crew familiar with marine mammal research operations, the ability to operate safely and maintain stability in various weather conditions, sufficient fuel capacity, PAM device swapping/servicing of multiple sites (8), and completion of inshore visual survey track lines (approximately 355 nm), a working head (restroom), indoor space protected from the elements for equipment storage, and the ability to navigate through areas of dense fishing gear without disturbance.

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II. Reference the RFP number, if applicable.

The Bar Harbor Whale Watch Co. is the only vendor available to perform this survey work in the GoM. The company owns two USCG inspected jet-propelled catamaran passenger vessels (Passenger Vessels Acadia Explorer and Coastal Explorer) with the capabilities required for these surveys and have previously been utilized as a platform for North Atlantic right whale surveys and PAM moorings deployments and retrievals by other research organizations. The vessels have a deck space large enough, as well as the sufficient gunwale openings and boarding height for storing, securing, assembling, servicing, retrieving, and deploying PAM moorings safely. The vessels are equipped with an elevated and stable Marine Mammal Observation platform that provides an unobscured view from either side of the ship, an observation platform height of 19 feet and 8 inches above the water line, with an unobscured 90° view on either side of the ship, and a protected space for visual data collection equipment and observations during inclement weather. The LOA (length overall) of 98.5 ft and beam of 28 ft, as well as the hull design of the vessels, ensure stability in a wide variety of weather conditions, which is required for obtaining accurate sighting distance measurements. The vessel crew is familiar with marine mammal research operations (including visual surveys and servicing of PAM moorings), operating around endangered large whales while mitigating disturbance, and navigating areas with dense fishing gear. These jet-propelled vessels have the additional benefit of no propeller for entangling fishing gear or harming marine life, fuel efficiency and reduced engine noise levels. The fuel capacity, speed, and stability of the vessel meet the requirements for inshore day-trip visual survey efforts. The vessel will be staffed with crew who are trained in marine firefighting and man overboard drills, passenger safety,

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

conducting safety briefings, and data collection protocols for marine mammal surveys. The vessel also includes multiple restroom facilities for all-day research cruises.

3. Explain how the negotiated costs or rates are fair and reasonable; or how the funding was allocated to grantee.

The quoted costs are fair and reasonable given the vessel specifications, equipment, capabilities, and the experience levels of the Captain and crew, which ensures ME DMR will safely and successfully accomplish the inshore passive acoustic and visual marine mammal research goals for these surveys.

4. Describe the plan for future competition for the goods or services.

The Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company will remain the Provider for ME DMR for combined multi-day acoustic and visual survey research cruises conducted by the Division of Marine Mammal Research offshore in the GoM. This company is the only vendor in the State of Maine with vessels that meet all of the combined requirements for servicing the inshore PAM moorings and conducting visual surveys for marine mammals.

PART IV: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) / MAINE JOBS & RECOVERY PLAN (MJRP)

Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?


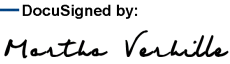
Yes, MJRP funds (023) – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).

Yes, ARPA funds (025) – If Yes, please be aware of the requirements from awarding federal agencies.

No – If No, proceed to Part V.

PART V: APPROVALS

The signatures below indicate approval of this procurement request.

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):	 Meredith Mendelson (Jan 24, 2024 14:11 EST)		
Typed Name:	Meredith Mendelson, Deputy Commissioner	Date:	23/12/2024
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	DocuSigned by:  891CE7A1493D45B...		
Typed Name:	Martha Verhille	Date:	1/30/2024

PJF- CT 13A 20240108-1908

Final Audit Report

2024-01-24

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