



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
OFFICE OF STATE PROCUREMENT SERVICES
 STATE OF MAINE

PROCUREMENT JUSTIFICATION FORM (PJF)

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$10,000 submitted to the Office of State 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 Procurement Services intranet site (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW			
Department Office/Division/Program:		Marine Resources / Division of Marine Mammal Research	
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Sarah Leiter/HQ Finance	
(If applicable) Department Reference #:		N/A	
Agency Department Code:	13A	Advantage CT / RQS #:	20240108000000001908
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)		\$ 2,652,204.00	
CONTRACT	Proposed/Original Start Date:	2/1/2024	Proposed/Most Recent End Date: 12/31/2025
AMENDMENT	New Effective Date:	12/1/2025	New End Date (if Applicable): 12/31/2026
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:		Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company, Bar Harbor, ME	
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Vessel services for PAM Program, Survey Program and Habitat Program	

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION			
Check the box below for the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	A. Competitive Process	<input type="checkbox"/>	G. Grant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B. Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/>	H. State Statute/Agency Directed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor	<input type="checkbox"/>	I. Federal Agency Directed
<input type="checkbox"/>	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents	<input type="checkbox"/>	J. Willing and Qualified
<input type="checkbox"/>	E. Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	K. Client Choice
<input type="checkbox"/>	F. Higher Education Cooperative Project	<input type="checkbox"/>	L. Other Authorization

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 amending the current contract with Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company with the purpose of continued sampling by the Survey Program, PAM Program and Habitat program in the Gulf of Maine in 2026. Monthly visual surveys will provide consistent monthly coverage of the most gear-dense waters in the State. These research cruises will provide a platform for a team of five (5) Marine Mammal Observers (MMO) to conduct visual surveys for North Atlantic right whales and other marine species and incorporate the regular monthly sampling of plankton and environmental variables for the Habitat Program. The Survey and Habitat Programs require 5 days, monthly, in each month of 2026 to continue this work. Lodging for survey personnel at the Gov't per diem rate is also required for the Downeast survey legs, at 5 nights per month for 5 personnel. This amendment also supports all services for inshore and offshore PAM Program operations, and the 3 times annually servicing of the 26-site Gulf of Maine PAM grid which continuously monitors for the calls of North Atlantic right whales. Additional work included in this amendment for the Habitat Program includes the sampling of 6 offshore sites, seasonally, and the modification of the survey vessels to accommodate plankton acoustics. Acoustic plankton sampling will occur during visual transects at 10 knots and during pre-determined transects on offshore plankton sampling trips (12) in 2026. Effectively, these modifications will greatly increase plankton sampling efforts which can be efficiently conducted during already ongoing visual and plankton sampling efforts.

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II. Reference the solicitation (RFP/RFA/RFQ) number if applicable.

The Bar Harbor Whale Watch Co. is the Single Source/Unique Vendor available to perform this survey work in the Gulf of Maine in 2026. 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 by DMR. The vessels are equipped with an elevated and stable Marine Mammal Observation platform which includes mounts for Fujinon 25x150 binoculars that will increase visual coverage along survey track lines, provide an unobscured view from either side of the ship, an observation platform height of 19 feet and 8 inches above the water line, with and 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. Further, both of these survey vessels have already been modified to accommodate work by the Division's Habitat Program, which includes CTD casts and vertical plankton tows. The vessel crew is familiar with marine mammal research operations, 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, conducting safety briefings, and data collection protocols for marine mammal surveys. The vessel also includes multiple restroom facilities for all-day research cruises. In addition to the continuation of ongoing

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

sampling, Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company has the infrastructure and expertise that will enable the swift installation of through-hull transducers to accommodate increased Habitat Program work with plankton acoustics during already occurring survey work.

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

The negotiated costs are based on the quoted amount for 2026 from Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company, which is the sole provider of the vessel support needed for the combined passive acoustic and visual survey inshore operations. The quoted costs for additional surveys, vessel modifications, lodging, and logistical support 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 goals of visually and acoustically monitoring for North Atlantic right whales and studying their habitat and prey sources in the Gulf of Maine by the Division of Marine Mammal Research Survey Program, PAM Program and Habitat Program.

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

The Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company will remain the Single Source/Unique Vendor for ME DMR for visual survey research cruises, PAM operations and habitat sampling conducted by the Division of Marine Mammal Research in the inshore and offshore in the Gulf of Maine. This company is the only vendor in the State of Maine with vessels that meet all of the combined requirements of the Survey Program, PAM Program and Habitat Program.

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) or (026) – If Yes, please be aware of the requirements from awarding federal agencies.

No – If No, proceed to Part V.

PART V: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (COI); CONTRACT WITH THE STATE

Maine law contains Conflict of Interest statutes directed to State Departments, State Officers, and Employees Generally under MRS [Title 5, §18](#) and [§18-A](#), in harmony with MRS [Title 17, §3104](#).

The requesting department’s signatory affirms, understands, and acknowledges Maine’s Conflict of Interest statutes and, in accordance with those statutes and to the best of their knowledge, has determined that no conflict of interest exists at the time of this contract, renewal, or amendment.

PART VI: APPROVALS

Governor/Department Commissioner or Designee

1. The signature below indicates approval of this procurement request.

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):	 Meredith Mendelson (Nov 24, 2025 17:53:12 EST)		
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Typed Name:	Meredith Mendelson, Deputy Commissioner	Date:	24/11/2025
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2. Additional signature required **ONLY if box E (Emergency) is selected in PART II**. The signature below indicates approval by the Department's Commissioner, or the designee specifically authorized to approve emergency procurement requests.

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):			
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Typed Name:		Date:	
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****OSPS Section Only****

Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	Signed by: 		
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Typed Name:	William J.E. Allen	Date:	1/8/2026
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NOI 012026020 01/08/2026 - 01/14/2026






PJF CT 13A 20240108-1908 Amendment 11-24-25

Final Audit Report

2025-11-24

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