

## State of Maine Procurement Justification Form

This form must accompany ALL contract requests and sole source requisitions submitted to the Division of Procurement Services.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please provide the requested information in the white spaces below.

PART I: OVERVIEW			
Department Office/Division/Program:	Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Bureau of Resource Management, Wildlife Division		
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:	Beth Swartz Brenda Lord, Secretary		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:			
Estimated Contract or Grant Amount:	\$ 16,023.00	Advantage CT / RQS #:	CT-09A-20200311*2496
AMENDMENT	Original Start Date:		New Start Date:
	Original End Date:		New End Date:
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:
ALL OTHER	Proposed Start Date:	6/1/2020	Proposed End Date: 12/31/2020
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:	Biodrawversity LLC Ethan Nedeau, Principal 206 Pratt Corner Road Leverett, MA 01054		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:	Capture-Mark-Recapture (CMR) study to implement a long-term monitoring plan at two sites for the state-Threatened Brook Floater. Services require a three-person team with extensive expertise in freshwater mussel survey and CMR methodology. Majority of field work is performed underwater via snorkel and/or SCUBA.		

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION			
Mark an "X" before the justification(s) that applies to this request.			
	A. Competitive Process		G. Grant
	B. Amendment		H. State Statute/Agency Directed
<b>X</b>	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor		I. Federal Agency Directed
	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents		J. Willing and Qualified
	E. Emergency		K. Client Choice
	F. University Cooperative Project		L. Other Authorization

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS
Please respond to ALL of the following questions.
<b>1. Provide a more detailed description of the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.</b>

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## PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

The Brook Floater is a species of freshwater mussel that has declined throughout its range and is currently listed as Endangered or Threatened in most states where it still occurs. Because Maine hosts the best remaining populations rangewide, MDIFW has a high level of responsibility for conservation of the species. As a partner in a multi-state Competitive State Wildlife Grant (CompSWG) award, MDIFW received funding to implement long-term monitoring at sites where Brook Floaters are known to occur. This contract would continue (Year 3) a Capture-Mark-Recapture (CMR) study initiated in 2018 at two sites believed to have healthy populations based on past qualitative surveys. Following a survey and monitoring protocol developed by the Brook Floater Working Group as part of the CompSWG project, the CMR study will provide data that allow MDIFW to estimate population size, trends, and demographic rates over time, as well as enable comparison among populations throughout the species' range.

Maine statute mandates it is the policy of the State to conserve all species of fish and wildlife found in Maine, and to maintain and enhance the numbers of species at risk of extirpation. In order to meet this mandate for the state-Threatened Brook Floater, MDIFW needs current data on population size and demographics, and the ability to monitor populations over time using a standardized protocol.

### 2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II.

Ethan Nedeau (*Biodrawversity* LLC) and his staff have extensive experience surveying for freshwater mussels in Maine and the Northeast, and in particular with conducting Brook Floater surveys and monitoring on behalf of state, federal, and private conservation agencies in all Northeast states (<http://www.biodrawversity.com/ethan.htm>). MDIFW has previously contracted *Biodrawversity* to conduct Brook Floater surveys in more than 30 Maine rivers, including the original qualitative surveys at the two sites to be surveyed under this contract, therefore they are very familiar with these rivers and where mussels are distributed. MDIFW also contracted *Biodrawversity* to set-up, implement, and manage the data for Years 1 and 2 of this CMR study in 2018 and 2019. The current contract is a continuation (Year 3) of this work. No other consulting mussel biologist in the Northeast has Ethan's experience with and direct knowledge of this rare species, or the two study areas and their populations of marked mussels. While several other consulting firms in the region do offer mussel survey capabilities, *Biodrawversity* is the only contractor currently available where expertise in freshwater mussel survey and conservation is the priority focus. Ethan's knowledge, experience, writing proficiency and unique graphic talents result in high quality final products that also serve as valuable outreach and management tools for MDIFW in support of freshwater mussel conservation in Maine.



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

*Biodrawversity* offers a significantly reduced labor rate for services to state, federal and private conservation agencies that is not available from other consultants of the same caliber and experience. MDIFW has compared *Biodrawversity's* estimates for similar projects to the average billing rate of other well-respected environmental consulting companies offering services in Maine and found it to be discounted by 30-40%.

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

Competently locating, handling, and studying a rare, cryptic and sensitive species like the Brook Floater, especially in large river systems, requires extensive experience in freshwater mussel survey, handling and monitoring techniques – a field of expertise not widely available and which is practiced entirely underwater, necessitating the use of expert snorkel and SCUBA capability. Staff resources at MDIFW are limited and extended underwater survey capability coupled with mussel expertise is not available. This expertise is also not available from any other in-state governmental agency. Unless other local biological or environmental consulting companies or private contractors hire staff who specialize in freshwater mussel identification, survey, monitoring, and conservation, have SCUBA capabilities, and demonstrate an equal or higher level of proficiency and expertise with the Brook Floater, there will be few potential opportunities for future competition.

## PART IV: APPROVALS

<b>Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):</b>	By signing below, I signify that I approve of this procurement request.		
			
<b>Printed Name:</b>	Nathan Webb	<b>Date:</b>	March 19, 2020
<b>Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:</b>	DocuSigned by: 		
<b>Printed Name:</b>	1DFA565D481F42E... Debbie Jacques	<b>Date:</b>	3/20/2020