

State of Maine Procurement Justification Form

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 website (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW			
Department Office/Division/Program:	Marine Resources/Biological Assessment/Halibut		
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:	Rochelle Nutting		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:			
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 52,361.00	Advantage CT / RQS #:	13A 20210315000000000832
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	4/1/2021	Proposed End Date: 6/10/2021
AMENDMENT	Original Start Date:	Effective Date:	
	Previous End Date:	New End Date:	
GRANT	Project Start Date:	Grant Start Date:	
	Project End Date:	Grant End Date:	
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:	Innovasea, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:	Acoustic tag used in fisheries research		

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

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
Please respond to ALL of the following:
1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.
<p>These Innovasea acoustic tags will help protect the interests of the Maine halibut fishery by filling in data gaps on halibut movement and spawning. In recent years, catch and landed value of halibut in the Maine state waters and federal fisheries has been rising. Unfortunately, since this is a data-poor stock it is managed very conservatively by the federal body charged with setting catch limits for halibut. If stocks are rebounding and catches continue to rise, there is an imminent danger of fisheries closures for Maine fishermen, whether federally-permitted groundfishermen or Maine state waters</p>

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PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

fishermen.

These tags will help to address some of the data gaps that compel managers to limit catch. The tags, implanted into the halibut body, send out a signal every that can be detected by receiver arrays, providing the time and location of halibut movement. These receivers are being deployed throughout Maine, in addition to an extensive network in Atlantic Canada. Additionally, since the tagged fish also carry a data storage tag, if the fish is captured the acoustic detections can be used to better ground truth geolocation estimates from the depth/temperature data captured by the archival tag. This combined information helps to address if halibut is in fact a trans-boundary stock with Canada, where and when they spawn, and, ultimately, how to better assess the stock so managers can make informed decisions about halibut in US waters for the benefit of halibut stocks and fishermen.

These tags can only be detected by receivers manufactured by the same company (Innovasea). At present, there is large network of these receivers located off the coasts of Maine, Massachusetts, and Atlantic Canada. In particular, the largest acoustic receiver array in the world stretches 205km from Halifax to the edge of the Scotian Shelf. Twenty years of wire tag returns to DMR have shown numerous Maine fish have crossed this line sometime during their time at liberty. Acoustic tags would show the exact timing and distribution of migration for all fish tags, not just those captured.

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

The Department does not possess the tags required for use in this project. These acoustic tags that can be detected by existing receiver networks are only produced by Innovasea.

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

Though the market for acoustic tags is rather limited, the cost of these tags is comparable with other acoustic tags; however other tag manufacturers' hardware would not be compatible with existing receiver networks in the Northwest Atlantic.

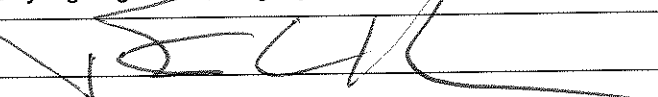
4. Describe the plan for future competition for the goods or services.

Given the extensive existing network of acoustic receivers, at this time it would be impractical to switch to a different tag manufacturer. The Canadian government has invested millions of dollars developing the largest acoustic receiver array in the world, and this array exclusively detects Innovasea tags.

PART IV: APPROVALS

**Signature of requesting
Department's Commissioner
(or designee):**

By signing below, I signify that I approve of this procurement request.



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Printed Name:	<i>PATRICIA KELLEY</i> <i>PK</i>	Date:	<i>3/15/21</i>
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	DocuSigned by: <i>William J.E. Allen</i>		
Printed Name:	<small>2D5B6E39F57E44A...</small> william J.E. Allen	Date:	3/16/2021

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