



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES  
**DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**  
 STATE OF MAINE

## 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				
Department Office/Division/Program:		Marine Resources/Division of Marine Mammal Research/Acoustic & Visual Survey Programs		
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Sarah Leiter / Amanda Webb		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:		N/A		
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)		\$ 1,308,450.00	Advantage <u>CT</u> / RQS #:	13A 20231228000000001824
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	3/1/2024	Proposed End Date:	12/31/2024
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:		University of Delaware, College of Earth Ocean & Environment- Lewes, DE		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Research Vessel for Marine Mammal Acoustic and Visual Surveys		

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	E. Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	K. Client Choice
<input type="checkbox"/>	F. University 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 contracting the Research Vessel (R/V) Hugh R. Sharp for three multi-day offshore research cruises in the Gulf of Maine (GoM). Research cruises will serve the purpose of retrieval and deployment of the existing Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) array devices by four (4) DMR Acoustic Survey Team personnel as well as provide a platform for a team of six (6) 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 PAM devices, 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, dual 25x150 "big eye" binoculars with reticles mounted on either side of the ship for extension of the visual survey area and accurate sighting range estimation, 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 offshore weather conditions, sufficient fuel capacity for completing the required transits and multiple days at sea (10-14), PAM device swapping/servicing of multiple sites (27) located up to 75 nm from shore, and survey track lines (approximately 750 nm), bunk space for a minimum of ten (10) researchers, at least two (2) restrooms, and a galley kitchen for provision storage and food preparation.

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

**The R/V Hugh R. Sharp is the only vendor that meets all of the combined requirements for servicing the offshore PAM array and conducting visual surveys for marine mammals.** This vessel is a 146 ft U.S. Coast Guard designated Oceanographic Research Vessel and has been utilized by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for offshore scientific research and can safely operate up to 200 nm offshore. The R/V has a deck space of approximately 1500 square feet as well as the sufficient gunwale openings and boarding height for storing, securing, assembling, servicing, retrieving, and deploying PAM devices safely. The crane aboard the vessel will facilitate the safe and easy loading of heavy PAM equipment (anchors) onto the deck. The R/V is equipped with a stable Marine Mammal Observation platform that provides an unobscured view from either side of the ship, an observational eye height of 32 ft above the water line, two pairs of mounted 25x150 "big eye" binoculars with reticles on either side of the ship, and a protected space for visual data collection equipment and observations during inclement weather. Additional instrumentation in the bridge will also allow for the collection of environmental and oceanographic data beneficial to marine mammal research. The vessel crew is familiar with both acoustic and visual research survey operations and has conducted multi-day marine species and oceanographic surveys with NOAA Northeast Fisheries and Science Center. The fuel capacity of the R/V is greater than the required 10-14 day range, at up to 17 days. The vessel will be staffed with crew who are certified and experienced in offshore research operations, including PAM retrievals/deployments and visual operations. The vessel also includes the required bunk space for up to 14 scientists, sufficient restroom and shower facilities, and a galley kitchen and cook that provides 3 meals/day.

**PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

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

**The Department of Marine Resources was given Omnibus "OMNI" funds, to use for whale research, which must be spent in a timely manner.**

The negotiated costs are based on the quoted amount from The University of Delaware, College of Earth Ocean & Environment, which is the sole provider of the vessel support needed for the combined acoustic and visual survey offshore multi-day operations. The quoted costs are fair and reasonable given the R/V Hugh R. Sharp specifications, equipment, capabilities, and the experience levels of the Captain and crew, which ensures ME DMR will safely and successfully accomplish the offshore acoustic and visual marine mammal research goals for these three surveys.

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

Unless we can find another vendor, ME DMR will continue to use the University of Delaware College of Earth Ocean & Environment R/V Hugh R. Sharp for combined multi-day acoustic and visual survey research cruises conducted by the Division of Marine Mammal Research offshore in the GoM. This vessel is the only vendor that meets all of the combined requirements for servicing the offshore PAM array 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):	<i>Meredith Mendelson</i>		
	Meredith Mendelson (Mar 6, 2024 15:31 EST)		
Typed Name:	Meredith Mendelson, Deputy Commissioner, DMR	Date:	03/06/2024
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Brandon Martin</i> <small>2F79272FCC37434...</small>		
Typed Name:	Brandon Martin	Date:	3/7/2024

NOI 0320240260

# PJF- CT 13A 20231228-1824

Final Audit Report

2024-03-06

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