



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.

Maine DMR has received funds from the Consolidated Appropriation Act Funds from ASMFC to create the Maine Innovative Gear Library (MIGL) and to purchase experimental on-demand fishing gear to disperse to participating commercial lobster and gillnet fishermen in Maine.

The ability to test these emergent gear retrieval systems is important for assessing their viability within commercial fixed gear fisheries and evaluating potential impacts to heterogenous fishing operations.

The need to test and evaluate this novel equipment is a direct result of needing to reduce the risk of fishing gear to protected species, including the North Atlantic right whale. This on-demand fishing system reduces the risk of the traditional vertical line to these species by removing it from the water column. Providing options to fishermen is a key component to ensuring they are able to sustain high fishing effort within the parameters of protected species requirements.

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

This on-demand fishing gear is novel and therefore the goods offered by this manufacturer is unique. It is not possible to purchase the same technology from another company. Ropeless Systems supplies on-demand fishing gear using liftbag technology with it's own retrieval system and underwater units.

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

The MIGL seeks to purchase various types of on-demand fishing gear from many manufacturers to allow Maine fishermen the ability to test experimental technologies of various retrieval types, cost and technology sophistication. The MIGL will purchase from up to 10 different manufacturers to create the inventory needed for 50 fishermen to test at least 2 retrieval units each.

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

There is an incredibly limited market for purchasing these emergent and relatively untested retrieval systems. DMR will continue to monitor product development in this space for other suitable options for testing.

As testing of on-demand fishing technology increases, the MIGL seeks to provide feedback to manufacturers to increase the functionality and cost efficiency of specific technologies.

**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> <a href="#">Meredith Mendelson (Mar 28, 2024 12:41 EDT)</a>		
Typed Name:	Meredith Mendelson, Deputy Commissioner of DMR	Date:	3/28/24
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	DocuSigned by: <i>William J.E. Allen</i> 2D5B6E39F57E44A...		
Typed Name:	william J.E. Allen	Date:	4/24/2024

NOI 0420240463 04/24/2024 - 04/30/2024

# PJF- RQS 13A 20240322-1379

Final Audit Report

2024-03-28

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