



## 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/Marine Mammal Research		
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:	Erin Summers/HQ Finance		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:	N/A		
Agency Department Code:	13A	Advantage CT / RQS #:	20240709000000000037
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$134,111		
CONTRACT	Proposed/Original Start Date:	<b>7/1/2024</b>	Proposed/Most Recent End Date: 6/30/2026
AMENDMENT	New Effective Date:	<b>4/1/2026</b>	New End Date (if Applicable): 9/30/2026
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:	Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:	Create a Risk Assessment Tool to assess the potential entanglement risk for North Atlantic right whales due to the Maine lobster fishery.		

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.

This is an amendment to provide additional time and funds to create the risk assessment tool being created under this contract. After the project began, it became clear that additional testing and verification of the data and analyses are needed, and a spatially explicit fleet model is required for the risk assessment tool to function as DMR needs it for management decision making. This amendment also aligns this part of the project with the timeframe of another collaborator working on pieces of this project in a separate contract. Without this amendment, the Risk Assessment Tool developed will not be what DMR needs for management decision making in one of the highest priority parts of the agency. The additional scope of work includes: 1. Work to systematically evaluate the data quality of trip reporting data, particularly the mismatch between reported depth and actual depth in the buffer areas around reported coordinates. The extension will also include running additional tests of different allocation assumptions and methods to ensure the realism and robustness of the resulting gear distribution for completing tasks outlined in the original contract. 2. Develop a spatially explicit fleet dynamic model to better represent a more realistic representation of lobster fishermen's decisions on trap allocation, a more robust and interpretable prediction of effort distribution, and greater potential to evaluate alternative management measures (e.g., closures or trap caps) and their impacts on lobster fleets.

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.

All the same qualifications for a unique vendor from the original contract still apply. Dr. Chen's lab has been working on the development of this tool from its inception, and it cannot transition elsewhere at this point in its development. Dr. Chen's lab has the necessary confidential data access, has built all the code and modeling associated with the components of this project, and has the collaborations needed to turn this into a Risk Assessment Tool that managers can use. Not finishing this project with the Chen lab would mean it does not get finished at all. This tool is needed for upcoming management decision making processes, which are set to begin later in 2026.

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

Stony Brook developed a Scope of Work and related budget based on DMR's needs and timeframes for conducting this work, which included hiring new personnel. The Scope of Work and budget used negotiated indirect rates and benefits packages, etc. for the staff that will be hired. The Chen lab is a named recipient of these funds in DMR's Spend Plan for these funds, which is overseen by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

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

In the future if other vendors become available to perform this work they will all be considered competitively.

**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*[Meredith Mendelson \(Apr 3, 2026 14:01:15 EDT\)](#)

Typed Name:

Meredith Mendelson, Deputy  
Commissioner

Date:

04/03/2026

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):

Typed Name:

Date:

**\*\*OSPS Section Only\*\***Signature of DAFS  
Procurement Official:DocuSigned by:  
*Kathy Paquette*  
41C2BA36FAF44CD...

Typed Name:

Kathy Paquette

Date:

4/14/2026






# PJF CT 13A 20240709-0037 Amendment 4-1-26

Final Audit Report

2026-04-03

Created:	2026-04-02
By:	Mickenzy Breton (mickenzy.breton@maine.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAXL83EIL9dYbitc6vwyQxSuQ79bcxXCIK

## "PJF CT 13A 20240709-0037 Amendment 4-1-26" History

-  Document created by Mickenzy Breton (mickenzy.breton@maine.gov)  
2026-04-02 - 5:39:57 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Meredith Mendelson (meredith.mendelson@maine.gov) for signature  
2026-04-02 - 5:40:02 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Meredith Mendelson (meredith.mendelson@maine.gov)  
2026-04-03 - 5:58:18 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Meredith Mendelson (meredith.mendelson@maine.gov)  
Signature Date: 2026-04-03 - 6:01:15 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.  
2026-04-03 - 6:01:15 PM GMT