



## 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/Bureau of Marine Science		
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:	Jack Ewing		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:	N/A		
Agency Department Code:	13A	Advantage <u>CT</u> / RQS #:	2025112400000001239
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$257,836.79		
CONTRACT	Proposed/Original Start Date:	<b>11/15/2025</b>	Proposed/Most Recent End Date: 11/30/2026
AMENDMENT	New Effective Date:	<b>4/1/2026</b>	New End Date (if Applicable): 3/31/2028
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:	University of Maine (James Beupré), Orono, ME		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:	Advise and assist the Archival Passive Acoustic Monitoring program on the collection, analysis, and reporting of North Atlantic Right Whale acoustic data.		

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
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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' (DMR) Modeling Program within Maine DMR's Division of Marine Mammal Research (Division) is responsible for the development of statistical models and analyses that synthesize historical oceanographic and marine mammal directed research datasets with the ongoing marine mammal and habitat data collection efforts recently underway by the Division. The modeling and analysis goals are to provide defensible insight into the habitat use of North Atlantic right whales (NARW) in the Gulf of Maine and how habitat use informs risk of anthropogenic impacts, such as entanglements in fishing gear. The Modeling Program is involved in every aspect of in-house data collection and processing, and is also tasked with integrating the disparate data outputs. Further, the Modeling Program aims to support ongoing work by DMR to react and respond to detections of NARW by bridging the gap between data collection and policy implications. The goals of this Program are wide ranging, with many opportunities for growth and expansion as scientific and policy research questions are refined. To achieve these goals, additional quantitative support is required to support the State of Maine's capacity for monitoring and responding to large whales in the Gulf of Maine. The Division has rapidly developed a multi-modal monitoring and data collection endeavor, and the synthesis and analyses of these data require expert knowledge of statistics, marine mammal modeling, oceanography, and spatial and temporal analysis.

The University of Maine School of Marine Sciences (SMS) will provide targeted scientific support to ensure that DMR's Modeling program meet their operational, analytical, and reporting objectives. This work may include supporting the ongoing statistical modeling work to better understand the distribution and drivers of risk for NARW in the Gulf of Maine through the independent development of real-time or historical statistical models, rapid turnaround of analyses to support the State's monitoring and response goals, and supporting the development of communication and dissemination tools.

Because DMR's data collection efforts are substantial and their integration is novel, the Division requires quantitative and analytical support from SMS, who are capable of advising on large scale goals, and who contain the unique quantitative training and skillset required to develop statistically sound, justifiable models that incorporate space, time, oceanographic conditions, and marine mammal datasets. The support provided to the Modeling Program by SMS will facilitate the development, testing, and execution of necessary statistical models with a faster turnaround time, at a high level of academic rigor, using advanced statistical analyses and novel modeling concepts.

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.

**PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

The University of Maine School of Marine Sciences is uniquely suited to facilitate and execute the development of statistical models that integrate multiple datasets including multiple trophic levels and oceanographic data. PI Dr. Damian Brady has over 25 years of experience developing and assessing ecological statistical models to support decision making in marine ecosystems across a range of taxa, systems, and communities. Dr. Brady has expert knowledge of the ecology and oceanography of the Gulf of Maine and will provide unique and valuable insight into the statistical modeling process. This work will be conducted by postdoctoral scientist, Dr. Camille Ross, with specialized training at the PhD level in statistical modeling, oceanography, forecasting, and data analysis and presentation.

The proposed work requires direct scientific collaboration rather than a traditional vendor service, and the University of Maine is the sole entity able to meet these programmatic needs with the necessary expertise, continuity, and accessibility for regular onsite engagement.

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

The costs reflect standard salary, fringe benefit, and indirect rate structures established by the University of Maine for faculty and research personnel. The total request of \$257,836.79 directly corresponds to 2 years of salary for Dr. Camille Ross, fringe costs (49.5%), and the University's federally negotiated indirect cost rate (16%). These are standard, non-negotiable institutional rates applied to all externally funded projects and are consistent with prior university-supported scientific contracts of similar scope.

The level of effort (2 years at full time) was developed collaboratively between DMR and UMaine to reflect the time-frame and amount of expertise required to meet the goals of the modeling program within the Division of Marine Mammal Research and support the efforts of the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team on the existing timeline for needed modeled data products. The cost is therefore reasonable and directly tied to the personnel effort needed to complete the defined scope of work.

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

The work for these analyses requires unique expert knowledge of the Gulf of Maine oceanography, marine mammal behavior, habitat use, and dataset analysis, and the relevant landscape of policy surrounding marine mammal anthropogenic risk on the east coast of the United States. The combination of long term expert knowledge and experience in the Gulf of Maine with substantial quantitative skills within SMS makes them uniquely suited to this position at present. Further, the short timelines for impending management discussions around NARWs and the lobster fishery present the need for a rapid turnaround of goods and services, which does not allow for a competitive process.

**PART IV: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) / MAINE JOBS & RECOVERY PLAN (MJRP)**

Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, MJRP funds (023) – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, ARPA funds (025) or (026) – If Yes, please be aware of the requirements from awarding federal agencies.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 (Apr 23, 2026 12:19:20 GMT+1)		
Typed Name:	Meredith Mendelson, Deputy Commissioner	Date:	04/23/2026

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:	Signed-by: 		
	41C2BA36EAE44CD		
Typed Name:	kathy blais	Date:	4/28/2026






# PJF CT 13A 20251124-1239 Amendment 4-2-26

Final Audit Report

2026-04-23

Created:	2026-04-22
By:	Mickenzy Breton (mickenzy.breton@maine.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAAHMp5o4jTC_uwraD5oM5qV4V2dP0b5aM

## "PJF CT 13A 20251124-1239 Amendment 4-2-26" History

-  Document created by Mickenzy Breton (mickenzy.breton@maine.gov)  
2026-04-22 - 3:50:52 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Meredith Mendelson (meredith.mendelson@maine.gov) for signature  
2026-04-22 - 3:50:56 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Meredith Mendelson (meredith.mendelson@maine.gov)  
2026-04-23 - 11:03:58 AM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Meredith Mendelson (meredith.mendelson@maine.gov)  
Signature Date: 2026-04-23 - 11:19:20 AM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.  
2026-04-23 - 11:19:20 AM GMT