



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:		Department of Marine Resources		
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Erin Summers / Marge Morrisette		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:				
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 328,885	Advantage <u>CT</u> / RQS #:	13A	2022050300000002731
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	6/6/2022	Proposed End Date:	6/30/2024
AMENDMENT	Original Start Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.	Effective Date:	
	Previous End Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.	New End Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:	
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:	
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:		Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences (Nick Record), East Boothbay, ME		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		To complete a nearshore modeling effort to resolve the fine-scale distribution patterns of North Atlantic right whales in Maine waters.		

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 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	
<p>1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.</p>	<p>Federal decisions regarding the management of the endangered North Atlantic right whale are informed by the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (TRT). This group includes scientists, managers, industry members, and conservation organizations. A variety of information sources are used to inform decisions, and model output has been an increasingly important part of this information. In particular, habitat-based right whale density maps and projections supported by NOAA and other collaborators have become a key piece of input in the TRT decision-making process. These models input a series of covariate data layers (e.g. sea surface temperature, bathymetry, etc.) and use a cetacean density modeling approach to map the expected density of right whales (Roberts et al. 2016). The output right whale maps are then used by the TRT to help make decisions.</p> <p>One of the areas of highest uncertainty in the current version of the right whale models is the nearshore region from the coast of Maine out to the Maine Coastal Current. This is also one of the regions of high fishing effort, making it an important area important to resolve. There is also evidence that changing oceanography is shifting the foraging patterns of right whales in Maine waters (Record et al 2019). To help resolve these issues, the Maine Department of Marine Resources and the Northeast Fisheries Science Center have deployed passive acoustic buoys for whale detection beginning in 2020. Additionally, there are numerous sources of opportunistic, glider, and other sightings data in nearshore Maine waters. We propose to synthesize available data with a nearshore modeling effort to resolve the fine-scale distribution patterns of right whales in this region. Specifically, our work will include: (1) Convening stakeholders to guide the specific questions and tools that can help with decision making; (2) Aggregating, synthesizing, and calibrating existing and ongoing right whale data sources; (3) Testing, refining, and validating species distribution models in their ability to produce reliable distribution maps, in coordination with density models for the larger region; and (4) Producing and documenting right whale data layers for appropriate time periods to inform decision making.</p> <p>The Provider shall recruit and oversee a post doc to work on this project. The Provider will work with DMR staff to establish the specific questions and tools that will be developed to help with decision making. The project team, including any Bigelow and DMR staff working on and advising the project, will meet at least quarterly to provide updates and get feedback on direction, needs, and timelines.</p>
<p>2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II. Reference the RFP number, if applicable.</p>	<p>Nick Record at Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences is the named Primary Investigator for this project in the successful funding proposal and it pivotal to the work. It cannot be completed without him. Nick is the director of the Tandy Center for Ocean Forecasting and has extensive experience and peer-reviewed publications on work of this nature. He also has a proven track record working with and understanding the data needed and available for this work, as well as how the results may be used for management purposes. Nick is the only scientist from Maine represented on the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team, which makes him uniquely suited for making sure this work is relevant to the Maine lobster fishery and the associated regulatory process and in disseminating his results to the people and places it will be the most impactful.</p>
<p>3. Explain how the negotiated costs or rates are fair and reasonable; or how the funding was allocated to grantee.</p>	

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

The negotiated costs are based on the quoted amount for Dr. Record and a post doc that will be recruited and hired specifically to execute this project. All personnel costs are subject to Bigelow approved rates.

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

This is a difficult skill to make competitive since it is so specialized and grant funds cannot be obtained with designating these skilled people on the proposal at the time of submission. The recruitment of post docs or students who assist with this work can be a competitive process.

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



Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

Yes – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).

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):	 Patrick C Kellher (May 18, 2022 07:47 EDT)		
Typed Name:		Date:	May 18, 2022
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	DocuSigned by:  1DFA565D481F42E...		
Typed Name:	Debbie Jacques	Date:	5/18/2022