



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/Division of Ecology and the Environment	
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		HQ-Finance/Heather Glon	
(If applicable) Department Reference #:		N/A	
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 180,371	Advantage <u>CT</u> / RQS #:	13A 20240523000000003373
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	07/01/2024	Proposed End Date: 7/31/2025
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:		Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences (David Fields), East Boothbay, Maine	
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		To monitor zooplankton populations in and around the Maine offshore wind research array.	

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

1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.

The purpose of this Contract is to monitor zooplankton populations in the proposed area of Maine offshore wind Research Array in conjunction with the working being done under contract CT 13A 20230601-3472. Recent evidence suggests that atmospheric wakes trailing behind offshore wind turbines will have regional effects on the oceanographic and marine ecosystem. Measuring changes in stratification (temperature and salinity) is critical to parameterizing the timing and depth of the mixed layer and hence the timing and magnitude of the phytoplankton blooms. It is well known that zooplankton populations in the regions feed on the primary producers and act as a conduit for moving organic matter upward through the food chain. These small aquatic animals are the larvae or juveniles of several ecologically and commercially important species (lobsters, scallops, shrimp) or they provide food for these fisheries in the GoM. For example, *Calanus finmarchicus*, a keystone copepod in the GoM, is a primary food source for the endangered right whales. Monitoring zooplankton will help enable us to understand how the turbines may impact the entire ecosystem through changes.

Dr. David Fields of Bigelow Lab will oversee a lab technician and will work with DMR staff to obtain all of the necessary data to complete the analysis. The project team, including all Bigelow Lab and DMR staff working on and advising the project, will meet at least monthly to provide updates and get feedback on direction, needs, and timelines. Fields will submit a quarterly record of activities and semi-annual reports. This work will be conducted in collaboration with Casey Yanos and Heather Glon at Maine DMR. The work will be done primarily by Dr. Fields.

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

David Fields is the named Co-Principal Investigator for this project and is essential to its success. He is a research scientist with extensive experience working on zooplankton monitoring efforts. He has a proven track records of working with the data collected in these types of efforts and disseminating his results in sources that will be the most impactful.

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

The negotiated costs are based on the quoted amount for Dr. Fields and technician from Bigelow Lab. All personnel costs are subject to Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences 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, 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: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (COI); CONTRACT WITH THE STATE

Does the requesting Department signatory understand and acknowledge Maine's COI Statute?

Yes, the requesting Department understands and acknowledges MRS Title 5, §18-A, 2.

PART VI: APPROVALS

The signatures below indicate approval of this procurement request.

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):			
Typed Name:	Patrick Keliher, Commissioner	Date:	6/5/24
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	DocuSigned by:  41C2BA36FAF44CD...		
Typed Name:	Kathy Paquette	Date:	6/12/2024