



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:		HQ-Finance		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:		N/A		
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)		\$ 74,387	Advantage <u>CT</u> / RQS #:	13A 20240627000000003819
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	7/1/2024	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:		Gulf of Maine Research Institute (Graham Sherwood), Portland, Maine		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		To continue monitoring the pelagic ecosystem in the area proposed for 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 continue monitoring the pelagic ecosystem in the area proposed for the Gulf of Maine Offshore Wind Research Array prior to construction of the array using active acoustics and environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling. This project began in 2022 to establish baseline pelagic ecosystem characterization for this area which has previously received poor coverage of pelagic monitoring making this project necessary to fill a data gap. Data will be collected every other month throughout the year to provide information on seasonal variation. In addition, baseline data is needed for comparisons with data that will be collected at various stages of the array construction and operation process and analysis to detect changes to the pelagic community that coincide with these activities. Specifically, the work will be comprised of 1) collection and analysis of acoustic data for pelagic fish schools, near-bottom fish biomass, and pelagic invertebrate biomass and changes and 2) collection and analysis of eDNA for ground truthing acoustic signals through identification of species in observed schools and for examining changes in pelagic communities before and after deployment through both species-specific and broader taxonomic analyses. This project is part of a larger effort which will take place in the coming years to measure overall ecosystem effects of offshore wind energy infrastructure. It is crucial that monitoring continues this year, so we can understand yearly fluctuations to minimize the risks of over or underestimating the effect of offshore wind on species and populations whose abundance naturally fluctuates over the course of a couple of years.

The Provider shall oversee a research associate and a vessel captain who will assist with work on this project. The Provider will work with DMR staff to obtain all the necessary data to complete the analysis. The project team, including all Gulf of Maine Research Institute 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.

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

Graham Sherwood at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute is the named Principal Investigator for this project and is essential to its success. Graham is a research scientist with extensive experience working on pelagic monitoring efforts. He has a proven track record of working with the data collected in these types of monitoring 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. Sherwood and a research associate and a vessel captain from the Gulf of Maine Research Institute who will assist with this project. All personnel costs are subject to Gulf of Maine Research Institute 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 by 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 III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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:	7/10/24

Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	<small>DocuSigned by:</small>  <small>41C2BA36FAF44CD...</small>		
Typed Name:	Kathy Paquette	Date:	7/9/2024