



### 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:		Marine Resources	
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		HQ Finance	
(If applicable) Department Reference #:		N/A	
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 405,130	Advantage <u>CT</u> / RQS #:	13A 20240823000000000412
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	10/14/2024	Proposed End Date: 10/13/2026
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:		Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation (VC0000270594), Saunderstown, RI	
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Collaboration to develop offshore lobster survey	

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.

This proposed survey was developed at the request of Maine Department of Marine Resources (MEDMR) Commissioner Keliher to address a priority lobster fishery data gap and timely questions from the Maine lobster fishery about the offshore lobster population. The proposed work described below represents a collaboration between the MEDMR and The Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation (CFRF) to answer lobster industry questions. We proposed to do this by developing a voluntary offshore ventless trap survey with federally permitted Maine lobster boats. This survey would be administered and overseen by MEDMR but using the well-established data collection remote data entry framework created by CFRF. MEDMR researchers developed this work, received Commissioner approval on this plan, and received funding from the Lobster Research, Education, and Development (RED) board to support this work as proposed.

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

MEDMR has conducted lobster fishery sampling in collaboration with industry partners in some form since 1967 with the lobster sea sampling program beginning in 1985. These surveys, in addition to the ventless trap survey which started in 2006, were developed in part to engage industry in the research needed to support successful co-management of the fishery. While critical sources of data for assessment purposes, these surveys do not consistently sample in federal Gulf of Maine (GOM) waters year-round meaning there is a data gap in our knowledge of the offshore resource. CFRF developed the Lobster and Jonah Crab Research Fleet in 2013 to begin addressing data needs in southern New England and ultimately to inform the assessment and management of the lobster and Jonah crab resources. The CFRF already uses a Research Fleet approach that includes inshore vessels (Lobster Management Area 2) and offshore vessels (Lobster Management Areas 1,3, and 4), with vessels strategically chosen to provide biological data from areas and times of year that are poorly sampled by traditional surveys. **This makes CFRF an ideal and the only partner for MEDMR to quickly address this industry request and develop a voluntary offshore ventless trap survey with federally permitted Maine lobster boats. This survey would be administered and overseen by MEDMR but using the well-established data collection remote data entry framework created by CFRF.** This partnership allows MEDMR to leverage this data framework saving time and money while quickly addressing this priority data gap.

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

The negotiated costs were estimated and approved by the RED board. The detailed and final budget was negotiated with CFRF and approved by Bureau of Marine Science Director and MEDMR project leads. This budget allows MEDMR to lead this survey effort while collecting and storing new survey data in an existing data collection application and database. This will allow MEDMR to quickly develop this survey and address this request from the Maine lobster industry and Commissioner's Office.

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

**PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

At the conclusion of this award, MEDMR will evaluate the need to continue this survey and this collaboration with CFRF. If this work continues, they will be asked to provide a revised budget to be reviewed by MEDMR and the members of the RED board which will be negotiated as needed.

**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**

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 signatory understands and acknowledges Maine's Conflict of Interest statutes.

**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:	9/16/24
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	DocuSigned by:  891CE7A1493D45B...		
Typed Name:	Martha Verhille	Date:	10/9/2024