

State of Maine
Master Score Sheet

RFA # 202410193					
RESEARCH TO INFORM RESPONSIBLE FLOATING OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT IN THE GULF OF MAINE 2					
PROJECT 1: Baseline assessment of social, economic, and cultural impacts of floating offshore wind development on Maine's fishing industry					
Bidder Name:		Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI)	Karp Strategies	Lynker	SWCA
Proposed Cost:		\$324,146.89	\$399,283.98	\$371,296.91	\$395,070
Proposed Cost-Sharing:		\$40,463.54	\$34,600	\$37,356.40	\$10,979
Scoring Sections	Points Available				
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	26	21	21	22
Proposed Scope of Work	40	34	23	22	23
Cost Proposal	25	21	17	19	16
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	1	2	1	4
TOTAL	<u>100</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>65</u>

State of Maine
Master Score Sheet

RFA # 202410193					
RESEARCH TO INFORM RESPONSIBLE FLOATING OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT IN THE GULF OF MAINE 2 PROJECT 2: Baseline secondary entanglement risk assessment and technology feasibility study					
Bidder Name:		Oceantic Network	SWCA	University of Maine	Xodus Group
Proposed Cost:		\$336,067.36	\$214,500	\$263,672	\$349,699
Proposed Cost-Sharing:		\$24,500	\$15,500	\$76,446	\$48,673
Scoring Sections	Points Available				
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	16	17	16	24
Proposed Scope of Work	40	23	30	30	25
Cost Proposal	25	20	20	24	10
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	6	0	5	6
TOTAL	<u>100</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>65</u>

State of Maine
Master Score Sheet

RFA # 202410193				
RESEARCH TO INFORM RESPONSIBLE FLOATING OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT IN THE GULF OF MAINE 2				
PROJECT 3: Baseline offshore bat monitoring assessment				
Bidder Name:		Biodiversity Research Institute	Stantec	Tetra Tech
Proposed Cost:		\$399,996.63	\$368,964	\$318,981
Proposed Cost-Sharing:		\$151,800.60	\$96,000	\$12,000
Scoring Sections	Points Available			
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	26	23	22
Proposed Scope of Work	40	33	30	31
Cost Proposal	25	23	18	20
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	7	5	1
TOTAL	<u>100</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>74</u>

Award Justification Statement
RFA#202410193 Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind
Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

I. Summary

The State of Maine is seeking applications to address the following three high-priority research topics identified by the Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium Advisory Board:

- Project 1: Baseline assessment of social, economic, and cultural impacts of floating offshore wind development on Maine's fishing industry;
- Project 2: Baseline secondary entanglement risk assessment and technology feasibility study; and
- Project 3: Baseline offshore bat monitoring assessment.

II. Evaluation Process

Given the wide range of topics represented across the three Projects, three separate review teams, one for each Project, were convened in order to have the expertise necessary to thoroughly review all applications. Each reviewer read the RFA, the Q&A Summary, and the applications in their respective Projects and then took individual notes on each application. Each review team then met as a group, discussed the details of each application based on the individual notes he/she had taken and, through a consensus process, determined an appropriate score based on the objectives stated in the RFA. The evaluation team evaluated and scored the following sections of the RFA: Organization Qualifications and Experience, Proposed Services, Cost Proposals, and Letters of Commitment/Support. The review teams were comprised of key leaders in state government in offshore energy and marine resources, as well as experts in fisheries, floating offshore wind technology, social science, and socioeconomics. These qualifications included an intimate understanding of the Gulf of Maine, offshore wind, social science, and technology related to fisheries and offshore wind.

III. Qualifications & Experience

Project 1: Baseline assessment of social, economic, and cultural impacts of floating offshore wind development on Maine's fishing industry

- The organization is a leader in cooperative research and collaboration across the Gulf of Maine
- The project team has demonstrated offshore wind, fisheries, and socioeconomic expertise
- The project team includes subcontractors based in Maine and New England that contribute to the project team's ability to complete the scope of work

- The application described the team's relevant experience, skills, and stakeholder connections that meet the needs of this Project as outlined in the RFA

Project 2: Baseline secondary entanglement risk assessment and technology feasibility study

- The organization is a leader in materials and advanced manufacturing and engineering of composites, specifically in floating offshore wind
- The project team includes subject matter experts with research backgrounds, notably in mooring lines and fisheries and floating offshore wind coexistence, relevant to the Project
- The project team will work with a 3rd party expert, a nonprofit based in Maine, to add to the literature review, data collection, risk assessment, and monitoring recommendations
- The application clearly articulated the project team's skills relevant to the project

Project 3: Baseline offshore bat monitoring assessment

- The organization is a nonprofit that has been working in the Gulf of Maine for over 25 years
- The project team has demonstrated and relevant experience conducting bat acoustic research in on- and offshore environments
- The project team includes subcontractors that will provide technical support, peer-review, and general advisory support and direct engagement with Maine's fishing communities
- The application clearly outlined the project team's skills, experience, and connection to key stakeholders that meet the needs of this Project as outlined in the RFA

IV. Proposed Services

Project 1: Baseline assessment of social, economic, and cultural impacts of floating offshore wind development on Maine's fishing industry

- The organization included a very detailed and thorough application responsive to the full scope of work articulated in the RFA.
- The proposal demonstrated researchers' grasp on recent literature and an understanding of socioeconomic and sociocultural data, offshore wind, and fisheries in the Gulf of Maine.
- It detailed methods, data sets, key assumptions, and socioeconomic impact analysis (SIA) methodologies and indicators that will be synthesized and used to conduct assessments.

- It included a comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan that ensures incorporation of fishing industry feedback and, amongst other deliverables, will result in a communications toolkit for fishermen.
- The proposal included a complete description of project management for the full scope of work with clearly articulated roles and responsibilities, deliverables and milestones within the allotted timeline.

Project 2: Baseline secondary entanglement risk assessment and technology feasibility study

- The organization included a very detailed and thorough proposal responsive to the full scope of work articulated in the RFA.
- The proposal demonstrated researchers' regionally specific knowledge and expertise related to the risk of secondary entanglement, pointing to relevant considerations around fishing gear, derelict gear, and floating offshore wind turbine technologies.
- It detailed a clear and robust stakeholder engagement plan involving the fishing industry to gain feedback and incorporate guidance around risk assessment work.
- It identified specific risk metrics that will be aggregated to perform risk assessment.
- It included a complete description of project management for the full scope of work with roles and responsibilities clearly defined, deliverables for each task, and ongoing communication with the Governor's Energy Office and the Offshore Wind Research Consortium.

Project 3: Baseline offshore bat monitoring assessment

- The organization included a very detailed and thorough proposal responsive to the full scope of work articulated in the RFA.
- The proposal articulated clear plans to conduct multifaceted acoustic monitoring and analysis efforts to understand bat occurrence in the Gulf of Maine.
- It identified specific data processing software and metrics for analysis to produce a standardized comparison of bat occurrence between different areas and over time.
- It included a thorough description of the project management team, identified project partners and monitoring sites, specified plans to collaborate with US Fish and Wildlife Service and Bat Conservation International, and demonstrated the need to coordinate closely with the State throughout the process.

V. Cost Proposal

Project 1: Baseline assessment of social, economic, and cultural impacts of floating offshore wind development on Maine's fishing industry

Out of four applications, the lowest proposed cost was \$324,147 and the highest proposed cost was \$399,284. The highest proposed cost share was \$40,464 and the lowest proposed cost share was \$10,979. The awarded bid had the lowest proposed cost and the highest proposed cost share.

Project 2: Baseline secondary entanglement risk assessment and technology feasibility study

Out of four applications, the lowest proposed cost was \$214,500 and the highest proposed cost was \$349,699. The highest proposed cost share was \$76,446 and the lowest proposed cost share was \$15,500. The awarded bid had the second lowest proposed cost and the highest proposed cost share.

Project 3: Baseline offshore bat monitoring assessment

Out of three applications, the lowest proposed cost was \$318,981 and the highest proposed cost was \$399,997. The highest proposed cost share was \$151,801 and the lowest proposed cost share was \$12,000. The awarded bid had the highest proposed cost and the highest proposed cost share.

VI. Letters of Commitment/Support

Project 1: Baseline assessment of social, economic, and cultural impacts of floating offshore wind development on Maine's fishing industry

The application included Letters of Support from a fishing industry association, offshore wind developers working in the Gulf of Maine, and from NOAA Fisheries.

Project 2: Baseline secondary entanglement risk assessment and technology feasibility study

The application included Letters of Support from a Maine-based nonprofit engaged in offshore wind as well as from offshore wind developers working in the Gulf of Maine.

Project 3: Baseline offshore bat monitoring assessment

The application included Letters of Commitment from its two subcontractors and Letters of Support from eleven entities representing a diverse set of stakeholders including federal agencies, academic institutions, and the potential hosts of acoustic monitors.

VII. Conclusion

Project 1: Baseline assessment of social, economic, and cultural impacts of floating offshore wind development on Maine's fishing industry

Based on the scoring of all four sections of the RFA, including having the lowest proposed cost among other competitive bids, the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) had the highest overall score. GMRI had a competitively priced bid and compiled a strong application that was thorough and clearly explained their relevant experience on this priority research topic.

Project 2: Baseline secondary entanglement risk assessment and technology feasibility study

Based on the scoring of all four sections of the RFA, as well as having the second lowest proposed cost among other competitive bids, the University of Maine (UMaine) had the highest overall score. UMaine had a competitively priced bid and compiled a strong application that clearly explained their relevant experience on this priority research topic.

Project 3: Baseline offshore bat monitoring assessment

Based on the scoring of all four sections of the RFA, Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) had the highest overall score. BRI maximized the use of the allowable budget and compiled a strong application that was thorough, engaged the fishing industry, and clearly explained their relevant experience on this priority research topic.



STATE OF MAINE
Governor's Energy Office

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Dan Burgess
Director

April 4, 2025

Gulf of Maine Research Institute
Attn.: Kanae Tokunaga
350 Commercial Street
Portland, ME 04101

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202410193,
Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf
of Maine 2

Dear Kanae Tokunaga:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Governor's Energy Office (GEO) for Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2. The Governor's Energy Office has evaluated the applications received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and GEO is hereby announcing its conditional contract award(s) to the following applicant(s):

1. Project 1: Baseline assessment of social, economic, and cultural impacts of floating offshore wind development on Maine's fishing industry
 - Gulf of Maine Research Institute
2. Project 2: Baseline secondary entanglement risk assessment and technology feasibility study
 - University of Maine
3. Project 3: Baseline offshore bat monitoring assessment
 - Biodiversity Research Institute

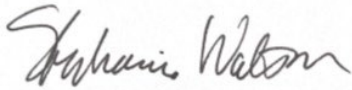
The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). GEO will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result, this Notice does NOT constitute the formation of a contract between GEO and the apparent successful vendor. The vendor shall not acquire any legal or equitable rights relative to the contract services until a contract containing terms and conditions acceptable to GEO is executed. GEO further reserves the right to cancel this Notice of Conditional Contract Award at any time prior to the execution of a written contract.

As stated in the RFA, following announcement of this award decision, all submissions in response to the RFA are considered public records available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA). 1 M.R.S. §§ 401 et seq.; 5 M.R.S. § 1825-B (6).

This award decision is conditioned upon final approval by the State Procurement Review Committee and the successful negotiation of a contract. A Statement of Appeal Rights has been provided with this letter; see below.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Watson", is positioned above the typed name.

Stephanie Watson
Offshore Wind Program Manager
Governor's Energy Office
207-620-4379 stephanie.watson@maine.gov

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

Any person aggrieved by an award decision may request an appeal hearing. The request must be made to the Director of the Bureau of General Services, in writing, within 15 days of notification of the contract award as provided in 5 M.R.S. § 1825-E (2) and the Rules of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, Office of State Procurement Services [formerly the Division of Purchases], Chapter 120, § (2) (2).



STATE OF MAINE
Governor's Energy Office

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Dan Burgess
Director

April 4, 2025

Karp Strategies, LLC
Attn.: Annie White
26 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10004

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202410193,
Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf
of Maine 2

Dear Annie White:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Governor's Energy Office (GEO) for Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2. The Governor's Energy Office has evaluated the applications received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and GEO is hereby announcing its conditional contract award(s) to the following applicant(s):

1. Project 1: Baseline assessment of social, economic, and cultural impacts of floating offshore wind development on Maine's fishing industry
 - Gulf of Maine Research Institute
2. Project 2: Baseline secondary entanglement risk assessment and technology feasibility study
 - University of Maine
3. Project 3: Baseline offshore bat monitoring assessment
 - Biodiversity Research Institute

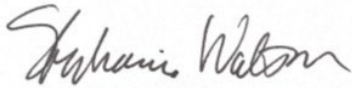
The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). GEO will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result, this Notice does NOT constitute the formation of a contract between GEO and the apparent successful vendor. The vendor shall not acquire any legal or equitable rights relative to the contract services until a contract containing terms and conditions acceptable to GEO is executed. GEO further reserves the right to cancel this Notice of Conditional Contract Award at any time prior to the execution of a written contract.

As stated in the RFA, following announcement of this award decision, all submissions in response to the RFA are considered public records available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA). 1 M.R.S. §§ 401 et seq.; 5 M.R.S. § 1825-B (6).

This award decision is conditioned upon final approval by the State Procurement Review Committee and the successful negotiation of a contract. A Statement of Appeal Rights has been provided with this letter; see below.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephanie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Watson".

Stephanie Watson
Offshore Wind Program Manager
Governor's Energy Office
207-620-4379 stephanie.watson@maine.gov

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

Any person aggrieved by an award decision may request an appeal hearing. The request must be made to the Director of the Bureau of General Services, in writing, within 15 days of notification of the contract award as provided in 5 M.R.S. § 1825-E (2) and the Rules of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, Office of State Procurement Services [formerly the Division of Purchases], Chapter 120, § (2) (2).



STATE OF MAINE
Governor's Energy Office

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Dan Burgess
Director

April 4, 2025

Lynker Corporation
Attn.: Alyssa Maraj Grahame
338 East Market Street, Suite 100
Leesburg, VA 20176

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202410193,
Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf
of Maine 2

Dear Alyssa Maraj Grahame:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Governor's Energy Office (GEO) for Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2. The Governor's Energy Office has evaluated the applications received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and GEO is hereby announcing its conditional contract award(s) to the following applicant(s):

1. Project 1: Baseline assessment of social, economic, and cultural impacts of floating offshore wind development on Maine's fishing industry
 - Gulf of Maine Research Institute
2. Project 2: Baseline secondary entanglement risk assessment and technology feasibility study
 - University of Maine
3. Project 3: Baseline offshore bat monitoring assessment
 - Biodiversity Research Institute

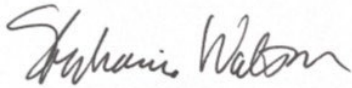
The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). GEO will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result, this Notice does NOT constitute the formation of a contract between GEO and the apparent successful vendor. The vendor shall not acquire any legal or equitable rights relative to the contract services until a contract containing terms and conditions acceptable to GEO is executed. GEO further reserves the right to cancel this Notice of Conditional Contract Award at any time prior to the execution of a written contract.

As stated in the RFA, following announcement of this award decision, all submissions in response to the RFA are considered public records available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA). 1 M.R.S. §§ 401 et seq.; 5 M.R.S. § 1825-B (6).

This award decision is conditioned upon final approval by the State Procurement Review Committee and the successful negotiation of a contract. A Statement of Appeal Rights has been provided with this letter; see below.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephanie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Watson".

Stephanie Watson
Offshore Wind Program Manager
Governor's Energy Office
207-620-4379 stephanie.watson@maine.gov

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

Any person aggrieved by an award decision may request an appeal hearing. The request must be made to the Director of the Bureau of General Services, in writing, within 15 days of notification of the contract award as provided in 5 M.R.S. § 1825-E (2) and the Rules of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, Office of State Procurement Services [formerly the Division of Purchases], Chapter 120, § (2) (2).



STATE OF MAINE
Governor's Energy Office

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Dan Burgess
Director

April 4, 2025

SWCA, Incorporated dba SWCA Environmental Consultants
Attn.: Michael Lychwala
20 East Thomas Road, Suite 1700
Phoenix, AZ 85012

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202410193,
Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf
of Maine 2

Dear Michael Lychwala:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Governor's Energy Office (GEO) for Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2. The Governor's Energy Office has evaluated the applications received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and GEO is hereby announcing its conditional contract award(s) to the following applicant(s):

1. Project 1: Baseline assessment of social, economic, and cultural impacts of floating offshore wind development on Maine's fishing industry
 - Gulf of Maine Research Institute
2. Project 2: Baseline secondary entanglement risk assessment and technology feasibility study
 - University of Maine
3. Project 3: Baseline offshore bat monitoring assessment
 - Biodiversity Research Institute

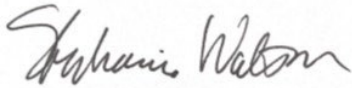
The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). GEO will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result, this Notice does NOT constitute the formation of a contract between GEO and the apparent successful vendor. The vendor shall not acquire any legal or equitable rights relative to the contract services until a contract containing terms and conditions acceptable to GEO is executed. GEO further reserves the right to cancel this Notice of Conditional Contract Award at any time prior to the execution of a written contract.

As stated in the RFA, following announcement of this award decision, all submissions in response to the RFA are considered public records available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA). 1 M.R.S. §§ 401 et seq.; 5 M.R.S. § 1825-B (6).

This award decision is conditioned upon final approval by the State Procurement Review Committee and the successful negotiation of a contract. A Statement of Appeal Rights has been provided with this letter; see below.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Watson", is positioned above the typed name.

Stephanie Watson
Offshore Wind Program Manager
Governor's Energy Office
207-620-4379 stephanie.watson@maine.gov

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

Any person aggrieved by an award decision may request an appeal hearing. The request must be made to the Director of the Bureau of General Services, in writing, within 15 days of notification of the contract award as provided in 5 M.R.S. § 1825-E (2) and the Rules of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, Office of State Procurement Services [formerly the Division of Purchases], Chapter 120, § (2) (2).



STATE OF MAINE
Governor's Energy Office

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Dan Burgess
Director

April 4, 2025

Oceantic Network
Attn.: Ross Gould
1340 Smith Avenue, Suite 200
Baltimore, MD 21209

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202410193,
Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf
of Maine 2

Dear Ross Gould:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Governor's Energy Office (GEO) for Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2. The Governor's Energy Office has evaluated the applications received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and GEO is hereby announcing its conditional contract award(s) to the following applicant(s):

1. Project 1: Baseline assessment of social, economic, and cultural impacts of floating offshore wind development on Maine's fishing industry
 - Gulf of Maine Research Institute
2. Project 2: Baseline secondary entanglement risk assessment and technology feasibility study
 - University of Maine
3. Project 3: Baseline offshore bat monitoring assessment
 - Biodiversity Research Institute

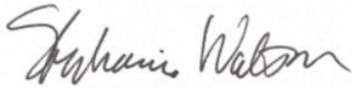
The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). GEO will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result, this Notice does NOT constitute the formation of a contract between GEO and the apparent successful vendor. The vendor shall not acquire any legal or equitable rights relative to the contract services until a contract containing terms and conditions acceptable to GEO is executed. GEO further reserves the right to cancel this Notice of Conditional Contract Award at any time prior to the execution of a written contract.

As stated in the RFA, following announcement of this award decision, all submissions in response to the RFA are considered public records available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA). 1 M.R.S. §§ 401 et seq.; 5 M.R.S. § 1825-B (6).

This award decision is conditioned upon final approval by the State Procurement Review Committee and the successful negotiation of a contract. A Statement of Appeal Rights has been provided with this letter; see below.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephanie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Watson".

Stephanie Watson
Offshore Wind Program Manager
Governor's Energy Office
207-620-4379 stephanie.watson@maine.gov

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

Any person aggrieved by an award decision may request an appeal hearing. The request must be made to the Director of the Bureau of General Services, in writing, within 15 days of notification of the contract award as provided in 5 M.R.S. § 1825-E (2) and the Rules of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, Office of State Procurement Services [formerly the Division of Purchases], Chapter 120, § (2) (2).



STATE OF MAINE
Governor's Energy Office

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Dan Burgess
Director

April 4, 2025

SWCA, Incorporated dba SWCA Environmental Consultants
Attn.: Michael Lychwala
20 East Thomas Road, Suite 1700
Phoenix, AZ 85012

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202410193,
Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf
of Maine 2

Dear Michael Lychwala:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Governor's Energy Office (GEO) for Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2. The Governor's Energy Office has evaluated the applications received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and GEO is hereby announcing its conditional contract award(s) to the following applicant(s):

1. Project 1: Baseline assessment of social, economic, and cultural impacts of floating offshore wind development on Maine's fishing industry
 - Gulf of Maine Research Institute
2. Project 2: Baseline secondary entanglement risk assessment and technology feasibility study
 - University of Maine
3. Project 3: Baseline offshore bat monitoring assessment
 - Biodiversity Research Institute

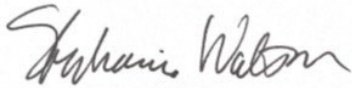
The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). GEO will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result, this Notice does NOT constitute the formation of a contract between GEO and the apparent successful vendor. The vendor shall not acquire any legal or equitable rights relative to the contract services until a contract containing terms and conditions acceptable to GEO is executed. GEO further reserves the right to cancel this Notice of Conditional Contract Award at any time prior to the execution of a written contract.

As stated in the RFA, following announcement of this award decision, all submissions in response to the RFA are considered public records available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA). 1 M.R.S. §§ 401 et seq.; 5 M.R.S. § 1825-B (6).

This award decision is conditioned upon final approval by the State Procurement Review Committee and the successful negotiation of a contract. A Statement of Appeal Rights has been provided with this letter; see below.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephanie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Watson".

Stephanie Watson
Offshore Wind Program Manager
Governor's Energy Office
207-620-4379 stephanie.watson@maine.gov

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

Any person aggrieved by an award decision may request an appeal hearing. The request must be made to the Director of the Bureau of General Services, in writing, within 15 days of notification of the contract award as provided in 5 M.R.S. § 1825-E (2) and the Rules of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, Office of State Procurement Services [formerly the Division of Purchases], Chapter 120, § (2) (2).



STATE OF MAINE
Governor's Energy Office

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Dan Burgess
Director

April 4, 2025

University of Maine System acting through the University of Maine
Attn.: Dr. Spencer Hallowell
5717 Corbett Hall
Orono, ME 04469-5717

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202410193,
Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf
of Maine 2

Dear Dr. Spencer Hallowell:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Governor's Energy Office (GEO) for Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2. The Governor's Energy Office has evaluated the applications received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and GEO is hereby announcing its conditional contract award(s) to the following applicant(s):

1. Project 1: Baseline assessment of social, economic, and cultural impacts of floating offshore wind development on Maine's fishing industry
 - Gulf of Maine Research Institute
2. Project 2: Baseline secondary entanglement risk assessment and technology feasibility study
 - University of Maine
3. Project 3: Baseline offshore bat monitoring assessment
 - Biodiversity Research Institute

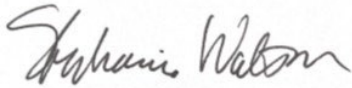
The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). GEO will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result, this Notice does NOT constitute the formation of a contract between GEO and the apparent successful vendor. The vendor shall not acquire any legal or equitable rights relative to the contract services until a contract containing terms and conditions acceptable to GEO is executed. GEO further reserves the right to cancel this Notice of Conditional Contract Award at any time prior to the execution of a written contract.

As stated in the RFA, following announcement of this award decision, all submissions in response to the RFA are considered public records available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA). 1 M.R.S. §§ 401 et seq.; 5 M.R.S. § 1825-B (6).

This award decision is conditioned upon final approval by the State Procurement Review Committee and the successful negotiation of a contract. A Statement of Appeal Rights has been provided with this letter; see below.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephanie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Watson".

Stephanie Watson
Offshore Wind Program Manager
Governor's Energy Office
207-620-4379 stephanie.watson@maine.gov

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

Any person aggrieved by an award decision may request an appeal hearing. The request must be made to the Director of the Bureau of General Services, in writing, within 15 days of notification of the contract award as provided in 5 M.R.S. § 1825-E (2) and the Rules of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, Office of State Procurement Services [formerly the Division of Purchases], Chapter 120, § (2) (2).



STATE OF MAINE
Governor's Energy Office

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Dan Burgess
Director

April 4, 2025

Xodus Group
Attn.: Emma Martin
The Capitol Building, 431 Union St
Aberdeen AB 11 6DA, United Kingdom

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202410193,
Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf
of Maine 2

Dear Emma Martin:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Governor's Energy Office (GEO) for Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2. The Governor's Energy Office has evaluated the applications received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and GEO is hereby announcing its conditional contract award(s) to the following applicant(s):

1. Project 1: Baseline assessment of social, economic, and cultural impacts of floating offshore wind development on Maine's fishing industry
 - Gulf of Maine Research Institute
2. Project 2: Baseline secondary entanglement risk assessment and technology feasibility study
 - University of Maine
3. Project 3: Baseline offshore bat monitoring assessment
 - Biodiversity Research Institute

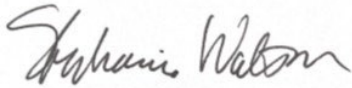
The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). GEO will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result, this Notice does NOT constitute the formation of a contract between GEO and the apparent successful vendor. The vendor shall not acquire any legal or equitable rights relative to the contract services until a contract containing terms and conditions acceptable to GEO is executed. GEO further reserves the right to cancel this Notice of Conditional Contract Award at any time prior to the execution of a written contract.

As stated in the RFA, following announcement of this award decision, all submissions in response to the RFA are considered public records available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA). 1 M.R.S. §§ 401 et seq.; 5 M.R.S. § 1825-B (6).

This award decision is conditioned upon final approval by the State Procurement Review Committee and the successful negotiation of a contract. A Statement of Appeal Rights has been provided with this letter; see below.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephanie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Watson".

Stephanie Watson
Offshore Wind Program Manager
Governor's Energy Office
207-620-4379 stephanie.watson@maine.gov

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

Any person aggrieved by an award decision may request an appeal hearing. The request must be made to the Director of the Bureau of General Services, in writing, within 15 days of notification of the contract award as provided in 5 M.R.S. § 1825-E (2) and the Rules of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, Office of State Procurement Services [formerly the Division of Purchases], Chapter 120, § (2) (2).



STATE OF MAINE
Governor's Energy Office

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Dan Burgess
Director

April 4, 2025

Biodiversity Research Institute
Attn.: Wing Goodale, Ph.D.
276 Canco Road
Portland, ME 04102

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202410193,
Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf
of Maine 2

Dear Wing Goodale, Ph.D.:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Governor's Energy Office (GEO) for Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2. The Governor's Energy Office has evaluated the applications received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and GEO is hereby announcing its conditional contract award(s) to the following applicant(s):

1. Project 1: Baseline assessment of social, economic, and cultural impacts of floating offshore wind development on Maine's fishing industry
 - Gulf of Maine Research Institute
2. Project 2: Baseline secondary entanglement risk assessment and technology feasibility study
 - University of Maine
3. Project 3: Baseline offshore bat monitoring assessment
 - Biodiversity Research Institute

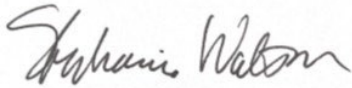
The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). GEO will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result, this Notice does NOT constitute the formation of a contract between GEO and the apparent successful vendor. The vendor shall not acquire any legal or equitable rights relative to the contract services until a contract containing terms and conditions acceptable to GEO is executed. GEO further reserves the right to cancel this Notice of Conditional Contract Award at any time prior to the execution of a written contract.

As stated in the RFA, following announcement of this award decision, all submissions in response to the RFA are considered public records available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA). 1 M.R.S. §§ 401 et seq.; 5 M.R.S. § 1825-B (6).

This award decision is conditioned upon final approval by the State Procurement Review Committee and the successful negotiation of a contract. A Statement of Appeal Rights has been provided with this letter; see below.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephanie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Watson".

Stephanie Watson
Offshore Wind Program Manager
Governor's Energy Office
207-620-4379 stephanie.watson@maine.gov

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

Any person aggrieved by an award decision may request an appeal hearing. The request must be made to the Director of the Bureau of General Services, in writing, within 15 days of notification of the contract award as provided in 5 M.R.S. § 1825-E (2) and the Rules of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, Office of State Procurement Services [formerly the Division of Purchases], Chapter 120, § (2) (2).



STATE OF MAINE
Governor's Energy Office

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Dan Burgess
Director

April 4, 2025

Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
Attn.: Trevor Peterson
300-10220 103 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T5J 0K4 Canada

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202410193,
Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf
of Maine 2

Dear Trevor Peterson:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Governor's Energy Office (GEO) for Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2. The Governor's Energy Office has evaluated the applications received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and GEO is hereby announcing its conditional contract award(s) to the following applicant(s):

1. Project 1: Baseline assessment of social, economic, and cultural impacts of floating offshore wind development on Maine's fishing industry
 - Gulf of Maine Research Institute
2. Project 2: Baseline secondary entanglement risk assessment and technology feasibility study
 - University of Maine
3. Project 3: Baseline offshore bat monitoring assessment
 - Biodiversity Research Institute

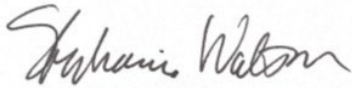
The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). GEO will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result, this Notice does NOT constitute the formation of a contract between GEO and the apparent successful vendor. The vendor shall not acquire any legal or equitable rights relative to the contract services until a contract containing terms and conditions acceptable to GEO is executed. GEO further reserves the right to cancel this Notice of Conditional Contract Award at any time prior to the execution of a written contract.

As stated in the RFA, following announcement of this award decision, all submissions in response to the RFA are considered public records available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA). 1 M.R.S. §§ 401 et seq.; 5 M.R.S. § 1825-B (6).

This award decision is conditioned upon final approval by the State Procurement Review Committee and the successful negotiation of a contract. A Statement of Appeal Rights has been provided with this letter; see below.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephanie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Watson".

Stephanie Watson
Offshore Wind Program Manager
Governor's Energy Office
207-620-4379 stephanie.watson@maine.gov

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

Any person aggrieved by an award decision may request an appeal hearing. The request must be made to the Director of the Bureau of General Services, in writing, within 15 days of notification of the contract award as provided in 5 M.R.S. § 1825-E (2) and the Rules of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, Office of State Procurement Services [formerly the Division of Purchases], Chapter 120, § (2) (2).



STATE OF MAINE
Governor's Energy Office

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Dan Burgess
Director

April 4, 2025

Tetra Tech, Inc.
Attn.: Derek Hengstenberg
451 Presumpscot Street
Portland, ME 04103

SUBJECT: Notice of Conditional Contract Award(s) under RFA # 202410193,
Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf
of Maine 2

Dear Derek Hengstenberg:

This letter is in regard to the subject Request for Applications (RFA), issued by the State of Maine Governor's Energy Office (GEO) for Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2. The Governor's Energy Office has evaluated the applications received using the evaluation criteria identified in the RFA, and GEO is hereby announcing its conditional contract award(s) to the following applicant(s):

1. Project 1: Baseline assessment of social, economic, and cultural impacts of floating offshore wind development on Maine's fishing industry
 - Gulf of Maine Research Institute
2. Project 2: Baseline secondary entanglement risk assessment and technology feasibility study
 - University of Maine
3. Project 3: Baseline offshore bat monitoring assessment
 - Biodiversity Research Institute

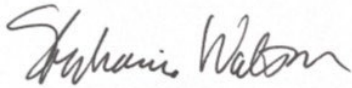
The applicant(s) listed above received the evaluation team's highest ranking(s). GEO will be contacting the aforementioned applicant(s) soon to negotiate a contract. As provided in the RFA, the Notice of Conditional Contract Award is subject to execution of a written contract and, as a result, this Notice does NOT constitute the formation of a contract between GEO and the apparent successful vendor. The vendor shall not acquire any legal or equitable rights relative to the contract services until a contract containing terms and conditions acceptable to GEO is executed. GEO further reserves the right to cancel this Notice of Conditional Contract Award at any time prior to the execution of a written contract.

As stated in the RFA, following announcement of this award decision, all submissions in response to the RFA are considered public records available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA). 1 M.R.S. §§ 401 et seq.; 5 M.R.S. § 1825-B (6).

This award decision is conditioned upon final approval by the State Procurement Review Committee and the successful negotiation of a contract. A Statement of Appeal Rights has been provided with this letter; see below.

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephanie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Watson".

Stephanie Watson
Offshore Wind Program Manager
Governor's Energy Office
207-620-4379 stephanie.watson@maine.gov

STATEMENT OF APPEAL RIGHTS

Any person aggrieved by an award decision may request an appeal hearing. The request must be made to the Director of the Bureau of General Services, in writing, within 15 days of notification of the contract award as provided in 5 M.R.S. § 1825-E (2) and the Rules of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, Office of State Procurement Services [formerly the Division of Purchases], Chapter 120, § (2) (2).

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: 2/14/2025

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Governor's Energy Office

Name of RFA Coordinator: Meghan Suslovic

Names of Evaluators: Doug Christel, Kiara Acevedo Martinez, Meghan Suslovic, Erin Wilkinson

<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	26
Proposed Scope of Work	40	34
Cost Proposal	25	21
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	1
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>82</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: 2/14/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Organization Qualifications and Experience**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	26

Evaluation Team Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- The Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) is an independent nonprofit that advances cooperative research and collaboration across the Gulf of Maine. They've been working with the fishing community for decades, and specifically on offshore wind for a decade. Their staff also has demonstrated socioeconomic experience.

1. The interdisciplinary team will help advance objectives of project.

- GMRI has experience working with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) in the commercial leasing process in the Gulf of Maine
- Overall, GMRI seems well-qualified and demonstrates expertise, having worked on relevant issues and already engaged in applicable work.
 - 1. Project 1: Shellfish Advisory Council with Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR)
 - a. Worked with Maine DMR and the Shellfish Advisory Council to conduct an economic and market analysis of commercially harvested molluscan shellfish species
 - b. Project uses time series econometrics and climate econometrics to explore environmental macroeconomic and other socioeconomic factors contributing to landings and prices. Project relied on using confidential data
 - c. Overall, a relevant and strong project that demonstrates relevant experience and contributes to GMRI's ability to respond to communities informing the proposed work
 - 2. Project 2: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center
 - a. Worked with NOAA Fisheries to study the impact of environmental and human caused stressors on the volatility

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: 2/14/2025

of ex-vessel fish prices using climate econometric methods to study price volatility and local fisheries employment.

- b. Familiarity with Catch Accounting and Monitoring System (CAMS) will be very helpful in evaluating impacts of offshore wind given that it's a foundational data source for some of the relevant information for evaluating fishery changes.
- c. Project is a good background to have as demonstrates ability to analyze impacts of human-caused stressor.
- 3. Project 3: BOEM and Consensus Building Institute (CBI)
 - a. Worked with BOEM and CBI to create an engagement strategy to reach Gulf of Maine fishing community members to receive feedback during the draft Wind Energy Area (WEA) public comment period.
 - b. Organized and facilitated 15 port meetings that engaged 163 coastal community members
 - i. Strong example of engagement capabilities
 - c. Demonstrates already built trust between GMRI and coastal communities thereby streamlining some of the outreach and engagement

2. Subcontractors

- Subcontractor 1: University of Maine (UMaine)
 - 1. UMaine is an R1 University with more than 150 graduate-level degree programs. Their Department of Anthropology has faculty working on a wide range of socio-environmental issues.
 - 2. The role of Dr. Beitzl is to supervise a graduate student conducting ethnographic research to identify vulnerable communities and characterize the sociocultural impacts on those communities.
 - 3. Dr. Beitzl demonstrates good qualifications and background, but little detail on the qualifications of graduate student performing the work. More details about the student would be helpful.
 - 4. Subcontractor has worked with GMRI in the past
- Subcontractor 2: University of Rhode Island (URI)
 - 1. URI is an R1 University with a mission to advance teaching, research, and outreach. Their Department of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics has faculty working in fisheries, energy, and water economics.
 - 2. Role is to help design and implement choice experiments to understand the behavior and valuation of floating offshore wind farms in the Gulf of Maine and contribute to an overall economic impact analysis for Maine and the estimates of onshore impacts

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: 2/14/2025

3. Dr. Guilfoos is well-qualified and experienced in conducting similar work for other offshore wind projects including creating scenarios and economic impact evaluations on changes to fishery operations
 - a. Demonstrates familiarity with the data to be utilized for this project
 - b. Likely can't access confidential data- analysis would need to be done by NOAA staff
 4. Subcontractor has worked with GMRI in the past, demonstrating working relationship
3. Organizational Chart
 - Did provide organizational chart
 - Seemed like a lot of entities and individuals are involved which can make it difficult to manage multiple personnel and work streams from different institutions.
4. Litigation (if applicable)
 - None
5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Complete

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: 2/14/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Proposed Scope of Work**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Proposed Scope of Work	40	34

Evaluation Team Comments:

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Task 1: Review indicators, recommendations, and related activities

- Proposes to conduct a review of indicators and recommendations from the best practice analysis from GEO Socioeconomic Baseline Inventory study and Responsible Offshore Science Alliance's (ROSA) Offshore Wind Project Monitoring Framework and Guidelines and Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative's (RWSC) Science Plan Recommendations
- Will synthesize the literature on social impact assessments (SIA) in fisheries to assess strengths and limitations of existing methodological approaches for systematically gathering sociocultural and historical data
- Key deliverables include:
 - 1. Bibliography of reviewed documents
 - 2. Spreadsheet summarizing relevant federal guidance
 - 3. Spreadsheet listing assessments, key project information, methods, data sets, and key assumptions, and synthesis of SIA methodologies and indicators to inform engagement meetings
- Discrete references to foundational research papers enhanced awareness and capacity to advance this task efficiently and provide a good foundation for the SIA
 - 1. Also includes literature for Communities at Sea which would be beneficial to this study
 - 2. Applicant appears knowledgeable about the work already performed in this space
- Included/cited recent research
 - 1. Demonstrates up-to-date understanding of a rapidly advancing field

2. Task 2: Create a stakeholder engagement plan

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: 2/14/2025

- Plans to refine and implement an engagement plan to build capacities among Maine's fishing communities to understand and communicate the project findings effectively
 - Deliverables and milestones:
 1. Form a Project Advisory Committee (PAC) and plan engagement for PAC
 2. Communications toolkit for fishermen
 3. Two SIA literacy workshops
 4. Workshop and meeting summaries
 - Description of how participants in the PAC were selected and what criteria were used would enhance evaluations of the representativeness of the PAC
 1. How will they decide who is on the Advisory Committee? Have individuals already agreed to participate? If not, what level of flexibility is built into the plans?
 2. Familiarity bias in selecting PAC representatives has the potential to affect the input received from this group
 - Step 3 should define what input is being solicited through the survey. Clarity on the objectives of the survey would help maximize the utility of input provided.
 - Step 3 could solicit input on the assumptions used in the assessment described in Step 4. Knowing stakeholder thoughts on the assumptions could help refine them before the assessments are conducted.
 - Step 3 should identify the sampling frame – it's unclear to whom the survey would be distributed in Step 3. Determining sampling size and representativeness could enhance the utility of the survey
3. Task 3: Adapt and define assessment methodologies
- Propose to develop a study protocol to identify a set of behavioral scenarios as well as a protocol to conduct an online survey to elicit plausible behavioral responses
 - Haven't yet seen scenario development applied in the offshore wind space – innovative for this field, although:
 1. Could potentially be difficult to replicate in the future
 2. Without knowing fundamental components of the floating projects themselves (mooring systems, cables, platform types), it's difficult to develop operational scenarios.
 - What variables will be controlled in these scenarios? As the Consortium-funded coexistence study highlights, there are several variables that

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: 2/14/2025

could change fisheries operations within and around these projects. It is unclear which elements will contribute to the range of scenarios.

- Overall a strong approach proposed.

4. Task 4: Conduct Assessments

- Proposes to conduct scenario-based baseline economic assessment to estimate impacts on landings and employment
- Graduate student will collect historical documents to gain a better understanding of communities' history, culture, identity, economy and social dynamics. Will conduct interviews with towns, harbor masters, business, fishing organizations, etc.

1. Plans to build off some of the work UMaine has been doing around social indicators in the lobster industry. What is the nexus between these two?

- Shift-share method for modifying impacts is not described sufficiently
 1. What is the justification for using this method as opposed to the input/output model most often implemented in the offshore wind space?

- Subtask 4: New Data Collection

1. Unclear if this is the Task 2 survey or an independent survey. Clarification around this point might answer the questions raised in Task 2

2. Is this survey properly timed in the process?

5. Task 5: Identify Fishing Communities

- Plans to identify potentially impacted communities based on the baseline economic and socio-cultural assessments and proposed offshore wind lease areas in the Gulf of Maine
- Plans to write a report that summarizes findings from the economic and sociocultural impact assessments, prioritization framework, and discussion of potentially impacted communities.
- This section discusses criteria to help them evaluate, but it does not provide details regarding these criteria. What is the metric used to evaluate?
- References prioritization here and in other sections, but it's unclear what they're prioritizing

6. Task 6: Final Report and Communication Products

- Will summarize the findings and results, and will recommend next steps to enhance socioeconomic work related to floating offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine
- Deliverables include:
 1. Final report, slide deck and presentation to the Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium Advisory Board (AB), the Governor's

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: 2/14/2025

Energy Office (GEO), and Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) meetings

2. Interim project deliverables will be consolidated into appendix in final report, engagement with ROSA, RWSC, and other regional entities.

- a. ROSA has not defined their role as reviewing projects yet. So far, they are only reviewing projects they fund and coordinate. Clarity on interactions and engagement with ROSA and RWSC would be helpful.

- Plans to submit to external evaluator, PEER Associates, for third party review

1. What is the added benefit of third-party reviewer in addition to meeting with collaborators and AB?

7. Implementation – Work Plan

- Relatively detailed Gantt Chart included
- Proposing 12-month project timeline
 1. Start date likely to be delayed

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: 2/14/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Cost Proposal**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Cost Proposal	25	21

Evaluation Team Comments:

III. Cost Proposal

1. Narrative broken down by core team and institutions
2. Overall transparent and detailed, with clarity around which individual is responsible for each task
3. Fringe benefit rate and indirect cost rate are pretty high, inflating some of the cost
4. Clarity around “incentive payments” would help justify cost
5. Plans to submit to external evaluator, PEER Associates, for third-party review
 - What is the added benefit of third-party reviewer in addition to meeting with collaborators and the Advisory Board?
6. Total cost requested ~\$322,000; however, if all task totals are added, total actually comes to ~\$324,000
7. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - GMRI is offering ~\$40,000 of in-kind cost sharing in salary support, fringe benefits, and indirect costs
 - Clarity on whether the in-kind could be used to offset the high fringe cost would be helpful
 - In-kind contribution is almost equal to indirect cost of \$45,969.34

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: 2/14/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Partnerships and Letters of Support**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	1

Evaluation Team Comments:

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations

- No Letters of Commitment from subcontractors as required by RFA
- Letters of Support:
 1. MCFA
 2. Invenergy
 3. Avangrid
 4. Samantha Werner, NOAA Fisheries
 - a. Not listed as co-collaborator
 - b. Werner would be required to do the analysis
- Strong representation of Gulf of Maine developers

2. Availability of data

- Secured Letter of Support from an individual at NOAA- looking for additional details on how data access and analysis will occur
 1. Proposed approach seems to rely on access to federal data
- Dr. Guilfoos will not be able to obtain the data on his own- indicates a possible misunderstanding of how the data access and analysis process works

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Karp Strategies

DATE: 2/14/2025

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Governor's Energy Office

Name of RFA Coordinator: Meghan Suslovic

Names of Evaluators: Doug Christel, Kiara Acevedo Martinez, Meghan Suslovic, Erin Wilkinson

<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	21
Proposed Scope of Work	40	23
Cost Proposal	25	17
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	2
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>63</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Karp Strategies

DATE: 2/14/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Organization Qualifications and Experience**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	21

Evaluation Team Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- Karp Strategies is an equity driven WBE/DBE/SBE-certified urban strategy consultancy with an emphasis on community and economic development planning, community and stakeholder engagement, and real estate and urban planning strategy. Karp Strategies' work is focused throughout New York, the Mid-Atlantic, and New England and has a strong emphasis on public/community engagement.
- Karp has worked on baseline socioeconomic data for Maine communities, Maine workforce development, and Boston Fish Pier
- Reference projects lean more on urban planning experience and less on the social, cultural, and operational elements of the fishing community.
 1. Urban planning helps understand community impacts, but the linkage with the fishing industry is integral to the success of this project at large.
- Project team has experience with urban development and planning with previous engagement on renewable energy projects, but familiarity with fisheries data and assessing economic impacts to fisheries is limited other than the baseline socioeconomic data inventory project.
 1. Project 1: Maine Governor's Energy Office (GEO)
 - a. Karp Strategies was selected through a competitive award to collect existing data on Maine's fishing communities and identify best practices to inform future impact analyses of offshore wind development
 - b. Methodology included research and targeted stakeholder outreach that resulted in a socioeconomic data inventory
 - c. Karp brought a lot of good census and community-level data that can be augmented by the subcontractors

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Karp Strategies

DATE: 2/14/2025

2. Project 2: Center for Economic Growth, Advance Albany County Alliance, Port of Albany & Carver Companies
 - a. Karp was commissioned to quantify the potential effects of various projects on job creation and the offshore wind supply chain in Upstate New York
 - b. Scope included conducting an economic impact assessment that was designed to objectively present the cumulative impact of the projects and a comparative assessment to understand the tradeoffs of using the port for various uses
 - c. Demonstrates ability to complete an economic impact assessment while working with a range of stakeholders
3. Project 3: HDR (Prime)
 - a. Karp Strategies conducted a comprehensive literature review of over 20 reports and documentation relevant to six offshore wind projects under development at the time. For each project, the team examined impact-mitigation measures within disadvantaged communities by reviewing development proposals.
 - b. Project demonstrates ability to conduct stakeholder engagement and desktop research but doesn't highlight familiarity with fisheries specific data
2. Subcontractors
 - Subcontractor 1: Dr. Alison Bates, Colby College
 1. Dr. Bates' research is focused on public perceptions and attitudes towards offshore wind, and she has conducted place-based studies of fishing communities in Maine with local partners.
 2. Plan to work with two student researchers to provide key support on stakeholder engagement and socio-cultural analyses, specifically co-creating the stakeholder engagement strategy, leading on-the-ground engagement, and providing strong support or data gathering and sociocultural analysis
 3. Dr. Bates and her students are Maine-based and her lab has a strong history of conducting offshore wind research, including for previous Consortium-funded work
 4. Collaboration with Colby College will enhance stakeholder engagement and socio-cultural analysis
 - Subcontractor 2: Dr. Charles Colgan, Middlebury College, Center for the Blue Economy (CBE)

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Karp Strategies

DATE: 2/14/2025

1. Dr. Charles Colgan is the director of the CBE and serves as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Ocean and Coastal Economics and has many ties to Maine
2. Dr. Colgan is familiar with fisheries data and could conduct broad analysis of fishery impacts
3. Dr. Colgan and his team will lead the spatial and fisheries-specific data analysis of the Economic Impact Assessment (EIA) and provide expert advisory across other tasks
 - a. Likely can't access confidential data -- analysis would need to be done by NOAA staff
3. Organizational Chart
 - Organizational chart is somewhat light on details. It is unclear who will be performing what tasks and to what end
 - Description of the student researchers' expertise would be useful to include
 - Concern about the distribution of work between Karp and the subcontractors
 1. Subcontractors appear to be doing a lot of the tasks
4. Litigation (if applicable)
 - There is no litigation current or closed against any members of the Consultant Team within the past five years.
5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Complete

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Karp Strategies

DATE: 2/14/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Proposed Scope of Work**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Proposed Scope of Work	40	23

Evaluation Team Comments:

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Objectives

- Identify key objectives as linking offshore activity to onshore communities, securing critical federal data, combining sociocultural and economic factors into one comprehensive analysis, and building consensus and acceptance of project outcomes
- Emphasizes that team is well prepared to carry out the tasks given their work on the baseline socioeconomic data inventory

2. Task 1: Project Initiation

- Plan to re-review data inventory and add any recent literature published since fall 2024 and develop initial stakeholder list and list of ongoing relevant research efforts
- This is well described, with discrete activities listed, duration anticipated, and deliverables articulated.
- Additional detail about the intent to outline the scope and composition of preliminary stakeholder list would be helpful, but perhaps that is part of Task 2 instead.

3. Task 2: Stakeholder Engagement Plan

- Plan to host a stakeholder mapping workshop that identifies key stakeholders and their level involvement throughout the project. Includes the creation of a Project Review Committee (PRC) with a note that the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) would play a large role in managing it
 1. More clear expectations around GEO's facilitation of PRC would be helpful as that could be a large task by itself.
 2. What is the PRC's level of involvement and influence in the project?

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Karp Strategies

DATE: 2/14/2025

- Clarity on metrics used to identify stakeholders to engage would be helpful. For fishery stakeholders, composition could be biased based on familiarity with project proponents and skewed such that it is not representative of the geographic scope of impacted communities or operational scope for affected fisheries.
 - Routine and targeted engagement with GEO and the Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium Advisory Board (AB) is encouraging and helpful to ensure the project remains on task
4. Task 3: Methodology development
- CBE proposed to lead the EIA and Karp and Colby will lead the Socio-Cultural Assessment (SCA)
 - Identify first step as developing a working definition of “Fishing-Dependent Communities” and that the definition is likely to evolve based on results of Tasks 3-4
 1. The definition can be informed by available data that identify ports that could be affected by historic fishing operations that overlap with existing leases and be supplemented with community composition and other data to identify broader secondary and tertiary effects that may expand the definition of fishing-dependent communities. Seems early on in the project to dedicate this much time to a definition when there’s a more comprehensive assessment as part of Task 5
 - More detail is needed to define the scenarios that could be developed. It would be helpful to consider a range of scenarios that evaluate a bounded range of relevant project elements.
 - Decision models are not well defined. More detail about the decision models to be developed to inform the spatial interaction component of the EIA is needed. For example, what factors will inform that decision model?
 1. What decision models is Dr. Colgan going to develop, and how do these differ from the ones that already exist?
 - To be effective, trip-level fishery data is needed, as aggregated data or data based on statistical area do not likely have sufficient spatial resolution to accurately evaluate spatial interactions.
5. Task 4: Complete Assessments
- EIA will be completed through data collection and then analysis. Analysis will include the direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts of the projected offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine (not only capturing the change in fishing activity but how offshore wind activity

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Karp Strategies

DATE: 2/14/2025

- may create new jobs and economic value). Results will be incorporated into the SCA to inform which communities should be focused on
- SCA will also go through data collection and then analysis. Project team will fill identified data gaps through outreach with stakeholders. Planning to conduct 10-15 interviews in 2 communities
 1. Small sample size, although in-depth for those two
 2. Analysis proposed to analyze interviews are very accurate and relevant
- Access to confidential data is necessary to fulfill the objectives of this project. However, as noted in the proposal, that is predicated on coordinating with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) or Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) staff, who would be responsible for conducting the analysis of such data. Relying only on DMR data (i.e., state permitted vessels) would prevent proponents from conducting the analysis of fishery impacts from floating offshore wind projects in federal waters.
 1. DMR data is aggregated, and use of this data will not allow for same level of analysis.
- The analysis outlined in Task 4A should evaluate both job and economic value creation and loss at the community level.
- 6. Task 5: Synthesizing Impact on Fishing-Dependent Communities
 - Very limited details provided in this task
 - Plans to synthesize outputs of EIA and SCA
 - Plans to review results with project committee to validate results
 - Key deliverable: Results Report will contribute to the Task 4 report.
 1. How does this differ from the report from Task 6?
- 7. Task 6: Final deliverables
 - Final deliverables include a final report and presentation to the AB. The final report proposed does not include a description of the methodology employed.
 1. A more thorough description of the methods used for each component should also be considered along with the proposed overview report to enhance public understanding of the methods.
 2. If there are plans to address the methodology, it is important that this description is in-depth so that this work could be replicated in other contexts.
 - a. ~12-15 pages doesn't seem long enough to adequately capture the methodology
 - Generally meets the requirements of the RFA.
- 8. Implementation – Work Plan

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Karp Strategies

DATE: 2/14/2025

- Included Gantt chart
- Proposed project timeline is 11 months, which seems ambitious.
Proposed February start date is unrealistic.
 1. Will a delayed start time impact the use of the IMPLAN software?
(see budget cost sharing section)

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Karp Strategies

DATE: 2/14/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Cost Proposal**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Cost Proposal	25	17

Evaluation Team Comments:

III. Cost Proposal

1. Total request is \$399,283, coming in slightly under-budget.
2. Proposal includes a budget narrative and assumptions per task and notes that there could be some shifting of budget between tasks.
3. Dr. Bates' role in the project seems to require more hours than are listed. Dr. Bates' student researchers also don't have many hours listed.
4. There is a fair amount of transparency around subcontractors' hours, but Karp's hours are listed blanketly. More detail around breakdown of hours and individuals dedicated to each task would be helpful.
5. Expenses for community compensation and a risk model are not described. More information is needed to evaluate whether these expenses are reasonable.
6. Overall, the costs per hour for primary participants seem high, while hourly costs for researchers and students seem more reasonable.
7. Cost of literature review seems unnecessarily high. The team should benefit from having conducted the literature review during the baseline socioeconomic inventory project.
8. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - Combined in-kind cost share is \$34,600
 - In-kind contributions by Dr. Bates and Colby College- assume this is for hours? Equipment? Further details aren't provided.
 - IMPLAN subscription for Maine is included in the cost share plan, but with the caveat that it must be used in 2025.
 1. This may be contributing to the accelerated timeline.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Karp Strategies

DATE: 2/14/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Partnerships and Letters of Support**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	2

Evaluation Team Comments:

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations

- Letter of Commitment included from Colby College, but not from Middlebury College (both subcontractors)
- No other Letters of Support. Including these, especially from stakeholders, would have enhanced this section.

2. Availability of data

- Cannot perform this work as described based on state/public data and applicant does not have a letter from NOAA
- Dr. Colgan does not have access to confidential data- indicates a possible misunderstanding of how the data access and analysis process works
- The NOAA individual gaining access to confidential data will have to perform the analysis
- Proposes to use NOAA's Environmental Justice (EJ) tools. Since the time the application was submitted, the federal government has removed the public-facing webpage to access these tools.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Lynker

DATE: 2/26/2025

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Governor's Energy Office

Name of RFA Coordinator: Meghan Suslovic

Names of Evaluators: Doug Christel, Kiara Acevedo Martinez, Meghan Suslovic, Erin Wilkinson

<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	21
Proposed Scope of Work	40	22
Cost Proposal	25	19
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	1
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>63</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Lynker

DATE: 2/26/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Organization Qualifications and Experience**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	21

Evaluation Team Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- Lynker is a company that has over 15 years of experience working with government, industry, and non-profits on projects related to ocean, coastal, and fisheries science and management. Lynker has worked with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) fisheries and ocean science and management teams and have more recently started working with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on East and West Coast fisheries related projects
 - 1. Unsure of relevance of work with NOAA
- Proposed project team biographies are included and demonstrate strong, relevant expertise. Staff seems to have a wide range of knowledge and demonstrate relevant expertise needed to carry out the project.
- The team is familiar with the socioeconomic data, but do they have experience performing the analysis?
 - 1. The quantitative fisheries analysis expert identified on the team might be equipped to perform the analysis, but more detail around his role would be helpful.
- The reference projects demonstrate relevant fisheries experience, but unsure of how it translates to socioeconomic work. More socioeconomic expertise might be helpful.
 - 1. Project 1: Port Infrastructure Needs of Commercial and Recreational Fisheries Along the U.S. West Coast
 - a. Lynker is serving as a subcontractor on a BOEM project to document existing port infrastructure and services that serve the commercial and recreational fishing communities along the West Coast
 - b. Lynker's specific scope includes the social science methodology and stakeholder engagement, implementing

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Lynker

DATE: 2/26/2025

- strategies to involve stakeholders from the fishing industries, ensuring effective communication and participation, and includes site visits to 10 ports
- c. Demonstrates stakeholder engagement experience
- 2. Project 2: Fishing Industry Spatial Needs Analysis – Mid Atlantic Bight
 - a. Lynker is working with BOEM and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) to assess the spatial needs of commercial shellfish dredge fisheries
 - b. Lynker is specifically responsible for project management and coordination of all deliverables, including executing the Project Management Plan and the Data Management Plan
 - c. Demonstrates strong project management capabilities. However, a subcontractor to Lynker is conducting the quantitative analysis, so this project does not highlight Lynker's analysis expertise.
- 3. Project 3: Data Collection, Analysis and Support Services
 - a. Lynker provides data collection, analysis, and support services to NOAA's Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
 - b. Specifically, this project involves accessing and working with confidential federal fisheries landings and permit data and conducting data audits and ensuring compliance with federal data handling standards
 - c. Demonstrates familiarity with and prior access to confidential federal fisheries data
- 2. Subcontractors
 - 1. N/A
- 3. Organizational Chart
 - Included in proposal
 - Outlines roles of key team members
 - Proposed lead Principal Investigator (PI) is not currently a Lynker employee
 - Proposal mentions plans to hire additional Maine-based staff. Is there a contingency plan if there aren't qualified applicants for these positions?
- 4. Litigation (if applicable)
 - Lynker Corporation confirms that there are no current or past litigation cases within the last years (5) years in which the company has been named. Furthermore, Lynker Corporation has not paid any claimants as

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Lynker

DATE: 2/26/2025

part of a settlement or by decree during this period. As such, there are no entities, complaints, accusations, amounts, or outcomes to report.

5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)

- Included

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Lynker

DATE: 2/26/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Proposed Scope of Work**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Proposed Scope of Work	40	22

Evaluation Team Comments:

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Objectives

- Proposes to develop a multi-dimensional indicator of fishery and community vulnerability to potential and actual impacts from regional offshore wind development activities that can be used for baseline information collection, and for monitoring thereafter
- Proposal describes how the ‘off-the-shelf’ approaches are lacking, but did not provide compelling arguments of how their proposed methodologies will be more useful
- Provides a working hypothesis that the most direct, measurable economic impacts of floating offshore wind (FOW) will be felt in fishing communities that are geographically closest to FOW installations
- Critiqued NOAA’s existing Community Social Vulnerability Indicator (CSV) tool, suggesting that that the CSV should be adapted in order to be applied to the topic of offshore wind. Does the new indicator they propose help solve this gap?
 1. The federal government has removed the public-facing webpage for the CSV tool. Lynker may not have access to this tool.
- Heavy lean on sociocultural aspects, but proposal could have benefitted from a heavier focus on socio-economic aspects. How will they add social data into an economic assessment? This has been a longstanding challenge that will persist in this project without clear description of how they plan to merge the two.
- Overall, met baseline requirements for RFA, but lacking details.

2. Task 1: Review Indicators and Recommendations

- Key deliverables include a concise but comprehensive summary report of indicators and recommendations for the application of the indicators

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Lynker

DATE: 2/26/2025

- Suggested they would create a new indicator, but did not describe the indicator. If creating a new indicator, applicant must qualitatively assess how the indicator will be scored or ranked. This will require reliance on existing data. More details would be helpful.
3. Task 2: Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Proposes to identify key stakeholders and invite them to participate (either virtually or in-person). Planning to use an approved discussion guide for interviews collecting economic assessment data and an approved interview guide for semi-structured ethnographic interviews. Will create a Project Advisory Committee (PAC) consisting of members not from the communities selected for ethnographic study to avoid conflicts of interest and conflated interpretations of data gathered.
 - Plans to create PAC at this point in the project timeline, but still uncertain which communities would be studied.
 - Unclear when the stakeholders would be engaged and what results would be presented for them to evaluate. The proposal implies this will be an iterative process, but it is unclear at what stage and under what context that engagement would occur. Clarity around this would be helpful.
 - How do they plan to identify PAC members and key stakeholders that they plan to interview?
 - Propose to upload data to repositories, but currently no repository exists for socioeconomic data.
4. Task 3: Adapt and Define Assessment Methodologies
- Framework for the economic and social assessments will be based on Social Vulnerability Analysis, a framework that NOAA has used to explore the social and economic well-being of coastal/fishing communities.
 - Proposes to use two economic indicators, commercial fishing reliance and poverty, for the initial assessment of community vulnerability and then factor in projects for economic revitalization.
 - Sociocultural impact assessment will be part of proposed Phase 2. Propose to collect off-site data (newspapers, social media, etc). to prepare for onsite visits, fill missing gaps as necessary, and contributing to community identify profiles (see Task 5) and collect on-site qualitative data

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Lynker

DATE: 2/26/2025

- Literature cited was generally more than 10 years old– somewhat outdated
- More description around conceptual and methodological framework that is referenced in this task would be useful
- Access to data – are they planning to access confidential data? Not explicitly addressed in the proposal.
 1. Because applicant had access with prior projects, is there is an assumption that they will be granted access to data for this project?
- Unclear how the collective identities would be collected. More detail around how these identities will be developed would be helpful.
 1. More detail listed in Task 4.1, but not as detailed as preferred

5. Task 4: Conduct Assessments

- Economic assessment will be conducted as part of Phase 1 and use existing sources to compile and analyze comprehensive economic data on all Maine coastal and fishing communities with data available. Assessment will result in a draft economic impact assessment report that identifies the communities to focus on for Phase 2
- Phase 2 will result in new data and include the sociocultural impact report, which will provide qualitative analysis and actionable insights into the social and cultural effects of offshore wind development
- Economic assessments might produce more perceptions than anything
- Many of the research assistants tasked with data collection have yet to be identified

6. Task 5: Identify Fishing Communities

- Key deliverables include a Community Impacts Report that could be expanded geographically or longitudinally with future research:
 1. Economic Impact Profile- summarize and narrate current status of each community's economy
 2. Community Identify Profiles- based on qualitative text analysis to offer a concise, high-level socio-cultural and historical snapshot of each community
 3. Stakeholder Perspectives on offshore wind and Socio-cultural Vulnerability- based on field research and include accounts of stakeholders' lived experiences, perceptions, and attitudes regarding community vulnerability
- No sense of scale or sample size. If trying to develop community identity profiles, will want to get decent representation of those communities

7. Task 6: Final Report and Communication Products

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Lynker

DATE: 2/26/2025

- Key deliverables include a final report that encapsulates key findings, the methodology, and recommendations for future work and a presentation
8. Implementation – Work Plan
- Gantt chart included
 - Proposed project timeline of ~1 year
 - No community or stakeholder outreach done to draft this application, but proposal outlines ambitious plans to develop deep, trusting relationships with stakeholders in a short timeframe
 1. Did not identify organizations they had in mind, but later referenced alignment with the Regional Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) and the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC). Do they have existing relationships with any of these groups?

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Lynker

DATE: 2/26/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Cost Proposal**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Cost Proposal	25	19

Evaluation Team Comments:

III. Cost Proposal

1. Total requested= \$371,297
2. Falls below the max budget
3. Reasonable fringe benefit rate
4. Helpful that the budget costs are often broken down by staff member
5. Hourly wage seems high for “Other Labor” of research assistants, but this cost includes fringe benefits
6. Fair amount set aside for stakeholder meetings and logistics, but failed to include details about what these costs will go towards. Significant amount of money for no explanation around possible scenarios.
7. Estimate travel costs seem high (~\$50,000)
 - If hiring Maine-based staff, travel cost ideally shouldn’t be as high
8. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - \$37,356 offered as in-kind match
 - Offering two staff members’ time as match (~240 hours)

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: Lynker

DATE: 2/26/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Partnerships and Letters of Support**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	1

Evaluation Team Comments:

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations

- None included, but provided an explanation explaining their concern that establishing premature partnerships and collaborations could lead to bias in the project

1. While this thinking is appreciated, it seems like a misperception of the level of risk

- Without including Letters of Support, it would have been useful to see more thinking behind who or what type of collaborator they might try to bring on.

2. Availability of data

- Appears to presume that there is access to the data necessary for this project based on previous activities.
- Doesn't explicitly address how federal data will be accessed
- Since the application's submission, the federal government has removed the public-facing webpage for the CSV tool that Lynker proposes to utilize.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: SWCA

DATE: 2/26/2025

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Governor's Energy Office

Name of RFA Coordinator: Meghan Suslovic

Names of Evaluators: Doug Christel, Kiara Acevedo Martinez, Meghan Suslovic, Erin Wilkinson

<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	22
Proposed Scope of Work	40	23
Cost Proposal	25	16
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	4
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>65</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: SWCA

DATE: 2/26/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Organization Qualifications and Experience**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	22

Evaluation Team Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- SWCA is a consultancy that has economists, social scientists, marine biologists, archaeologists, ethnographers, fisheries experts, ecologists, and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) specialists on staff. SWCA has offices around the country, including in Portland, Maine and Boston and Amherst, Massachusetts. Staff have managed and/or contributed to hundreds of socioeconomic evaluations, fisheries impact assessments, and environmental impact assessments, including work for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
- SWCA has worked on offshore wind related projects for over a decade and are well versed in the intricacies and impacts of offshore wind development
- Indicated they helped the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) develop Northeast Fisheries Regulations, but unclear how much effort they put into this.
- Project 1: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
 1. SWCA is supporting BOEM in their update to the 2016 Port Modification Study that evaluates all existing Atlantic ports capable of supporting present and future offshore wind development, including the proposed port on Sears Island
 2. The scope specifically includes evaluating the direct and indirect impacts of buildout across resources like air quality, cultural resources, ecological resources, socioeconomic resources and environmental justice communities
 3. Demonstrates ability to evaluate social and cultural resources
- Project 2: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: SWCA

DATE: 2/26/2025

1. SWCA is serving as the third party NEPA consultant and preparing the environmental impact statement for an offshore wind farm on the East Coast
 - a. What environmental impact statements (EISs) did they write? These vary in quality, and it would be helpful to know which ones they put together
 2. The scope involved preparing the Project Management Plan, FAST-41 Coordinated Project Plan, and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BOEM and other federal and state agencies and Tribes. Ongoing work includes the NOAA Fisheries Biological Assessment and the Essential Fish Habitat Assessment
 3. The social science team is currently evaluating potential impacts to socioeconomic resources, the region's commercial and recreational fishing sector, among others. The analysis involves accessing Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC) data and confidential fisheries landings and permit data
 - a. Did SWCA access confidential fisheries data in this project? Access to confidential data would have been granted to BOEM, as contractors don't receive access to confidential data.
- Project 3: Grand Isle LNG Holding Company
 1. SWCA led the preparation of Grand Isle's Deepwater Port License Application
 2. Evaluation included impacts on benthic habitats, water quality, marine mammals, commercially and recreationally pursued fish and shellfish resources, and cultural resources
 3. Indicates that they accessed confidential data, but unclear how they gained access to Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data?
2. Subcontractors
 - Subcontractor 1: Dr. George Parsons
 1. Dr. Parsons is a professor at the University of Delaware with a specialization in environmental economics
 2. He has published numerous articles on the impacts of offshore wind on the East Coast
 3. He will serve as an advisor and senior external reviewer on the project
 4. Qualified subcontractor
 5. Concerns that Dr. Parsons will be the only project evaluator
 3. Organizational Chart
 - Included in proposal

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: SWCA

DATE: 2/26/2025

- Includes short biographies of the proposed project team
 - Project team seems qualified, although unclear who is local to the Gulf of Maine or has Gulf of Maine-specific experience
 - Identified what each individual's role will be within the project
 - Two individuals will be performing public outreach – are they performing the stakeholder engagement piece? Will they be providing oversight?
4. Litigation (if applicable)
- Note in the Responsible Applicant Certification form that SWCA was issued a termination letter from a town in Colorado
 - Includes a list of all current or closed cases within the past 5 years (4 of them)
5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
- Included

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: SWCA

DATE: 2/26/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Proposed Scope of Work**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Proposed Scope of Work	40	23

Evaluation Team Comments:

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Objectives

- Key objective is to write a report that characterizes the socioeconomic impacts of offshore wind development on Maine's fishing sector, identifies the onshore communities most likely to be impacted by planned offshore wind development, and provides a clear and concise analysis that can serve as a foundation for future assessments
- Application emphasizes communication, project control, cost control, document management, quality assurance/ quality control (QA/QC), and schedule adherence
- More details around methodologies and budget would be helpful
- The federal government has since removed the public-facing webpages that host the Community Social Vulnerability Indicators (CSVI) tool and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Justice (EJ) Screen tool

2. Task 1: Review Indicators, Recommendations, and Related Activities

- Plan to complete a thorough review of relevant reports and publications to identify data, methods, and approaches as they relate to the economic and sociocultural assessments
- Review will then inform the draft assessment methodologies and be submitted to the Governor's Energy Office (GEO)
- Good awareness of more recent literature

3. Task 2: Develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan

- The Stakeholder Engagement Plan will describe the approach to stakeholder identification/mapping, stakeholder issues analysis, direct outreach to key stakeholders, open houses, and virtual communication
- No information on the scale of stakeholder engagement. Unclear how many stakeholders will be involved/contacted.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: SWCA

DATE: 2/26/2025

- Proposal mentions having open houses but doesn't provide detail on the structure and content of open houses.
 - 1. If hoping to receive input from stakeholders, it would be beneficial to run open houses in the format of a workshop so there's a structured way for stakeholders to provide input
 - Mention virtual communication – people can provide comments online
 - 1. How will they filter for stakeholder sampling that they want to target?
4. Task 3: Define and Adapt Assessment Methodologies
- For economic assessment, plan to develop IMPLAN model inputs, identify and characterize fishing-dependent communities, estimate economic changes for individual fishing-dependent communities, and then identify the most economically vulnerable fishing-dependent communities (assume 3 communities in the budget)
 - IMPLAN model requires data for changes in commercial fishing revenues brought about by offshore wind development, expenditures related to offshore wind development, information on the spatial distribution of workers in the commercial fishing industry, and information on the expected spatial distribution of workers involved in the construction and operation of offshore wind
 - Following the economic assessment, the sociocultural assessment will consist of identifying and recruiting community members to participate in semi-structured interviews, develop the interview approach, and then develop a plan for compiling sociocultural information
 - Proposal doesn't identify how they will inform the data clusters needed for using IMPLAN, specifically the estimated changes to fishing revenue and the costs and expenditures for project development such as mooring, platform types, spacing, etc.
 - It would be helpful to use a site choice model or some other quantitative metric to evaluate changes in fishery behavior for the IMPLAN model instead of using professional judgement. This has the potential to be an 'off-the-shelf' analysis with default assumptions. There are still uncertainties around technology types expected to be used in the Gulf of Maine, and these details are fundamental to understanding impacts to fishing communities and shoreside impacts.
5. Task 4: Conduct Economics and Socio-Cultural Assessments
- Baseline economic impact assessment will be organized and ranked tabularly with each row being a community and each column corresponding to an attribute of that community (ex vulnerability,

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: SWCA

DATE: 2/26/2025

- attributes, annual value of baseline commercial fishing activity, net impact of offshore wind development on economic measures, etc.)
 - Using the methodologies outlined in Task 3, output of sociocultural assessment will be summarized in a 2-4 page description of the communities most likely to be impacted
 - Outputs of economic assessment will be organized in a table – is this the only output? If so, it would be helpful to provide more context and depth in that area. What are the vulnerability attributes that will be included in the table?
 - Unclear what the specific objectives of this task are. Section is overall light on details.
6. Task 5: Identify Fishing-Dependent Communities and their Vulnerability to Floating Offshore Wind
- Task 4 results will be reviewed by GEO and then used to create maps that identify fishing-dependent communities in Maine including their anticipated net economic impacts in those communities and an integrated measure of each community's vulnerability to offshore wind development
 - Only one round of comments- what, if any, are the proposed iterative feedback loops?
7. Task 6: Final Report and Communication Products
- Key deliverables include a final report designed for general audiences and a series of appendices with more technical detail. Draft report will be available for public comment and then a presentation will be developed
 - Transparency of response matrix/ public comment database
 1. Public comments feed into the report, but what is the utility of transparency in this element of the project?
 2. How much effort will be put into the website and simplifying details related to complex methodologies to inform public comments?
8. Implementation – Work Plan
- Gantt chart included
 - Anticipated project timeline of 1 year
 1. Ambitious timeline
 - Overlap between tasks 1, 2, and 3. How much information from Tasks 1 and 2 is informing Task 3? How iterative is this process?

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: SWCA

DATE: 2/26/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Cost Proposal**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Cost Proposal	25	16

Evaluation Team Comments:

III. Cost Proposal

1. Total requested= \$395,070
2. Falls just below the max budget
3. Most of the cost goes toward salaries
4. Budget assumptions note that additional effort and associated cost may be necessary and that they would renegotiate with the client
 - Indicates lack of confidence in budget estimates
5. Blanket markups on expenses and subcontractors without justification
 - These should be a sufficient buffer to cover the potential contingencies referenced above
6. No fringe benefit costs explicitly referenced – are they integrated into the very high hourly cost rate of ~\$450/ hour? Even if factored in, the rate is still over \$200/ hour.
7. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - Proposed in-kind cost share of \$10,979 through reduced rates
 - United States General Services Administration (GSA) rates are not appropriate as this is not a federal contract
 1. In-kind contribution doesn't seem applicable

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 1

BIDDER: SWCA

DATE: 2/26/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Partnerships and Letters of Support**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	4

Evaluation Team Comments:

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations

- Letters of Commitment:

- 1. Dr. George Parsons

- No Letters of Support

- Did not identify communities they plan to engage with

2. Availability of data

- SWCA staff, despite past experience, will not likely be able to access confidential fisheries data for this proposal without permission from individual vessel owners/operators

- Doesn't explicitly address how federal data will be accessed

- While available at the time of application submission, the federal government has since removed the public-facing webpages that host the CSV tool and the EPA's EJ Screen tool

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: Oceantic Network

DATE: 2/5/2025

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Governor's Energy Office

Name of RFA Coordinator: Meghan Suslovic

Names of Evaluators: Nathan Lubega, Erin Summers, Stephanie Watson

<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	16
Proposed Scope of Work	40	23
Cost Proposal	25	20
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	6
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>65</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: Oceantic Network

DATE: 2/5/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Organization Qualifications and Experience**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	16

Evaluation Team Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- The Oceantic Network (Oceantic) is a nonprofit trade organization focused on ocean renewable energy and specializes in education and coordination. Oceantic is headquartered in Maryland with staff members based in Maine. Oceantic maintains a market dashboard and supply chain data base with key data about the US offshore wind (OSW) industry.
- Oceantic relies on network of collaborators
- Concern around Oceantic's expertise and their ability to complete this work, especially with limited staff to carry out tasks. To a large extent, they propose to use their collaborative relationships.
- Most of the relevant project experience for the application stems from Worley (listed as subcontractor), but Worley is only responsible for small subset of work (Task 1). Part of Tasks 2-6 include stakeholder engagement, which seem relevant to Worley's expertise.
 1. Project 1: Planning of Federal Agency Workshops for Offshore Wind Environmental Data Strategy (in partnership with NREL)
 - Planning and facilitating an upcoming workshop to develop an OSW environmental data strategy
 - Speaks to their ability to engage with stakeholders
 2. Project 2: Evaluating Technology Gaps to Monitor Impacts to Marine Mammals and Birds from OSW (by subcontractor Worley)
 - Convened workshops of appropriate stakeholders
 - Preparing reports considering monitoring technology projects around marine mammals and offshore wind facilities

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: Oceantic Network

DATE: 2/5/2025

- Speaks to Worley's expertise and experience to perform these tasks
- 3. Project 3: Chairing a Technical Working Group for Technology and Data Innovation for OSW Monitoring Guidance Development with the California National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (by subcontractor Worley)
 - Related to entanglement risks and not just monitoring technologies
 - Demonstrates an ability to convene stakeholders
- 2. Subcontractors
 - Subcontractor 1: Worley Consulting
 - 1. Worley Consulting has marine species expertise and significant experience with OSW impact assessments and development of mitigation and monitoring technologies.
 - 2. Other individuals from Worley demonstrate experience in OSW permitting, including efforts of OSW permitting demonstrations in the Gulf of Maine.
 - 3. Experience in assessment of entanglement with OSW as well as aquaculture and oil and gas infrastructure.
 - 4. Stated experience in fisheries engagement, but did not provide detailed examples of this work.
- 3. Organizational Chart
 - The team seems a bit thin with overlap of multiple roles.
 - Did not identify team members responsible for fisheries outreach.
 - Overall, Worley seems qualified.
 - One team member was identified as a "Cable Specialist," but proposal did not provide clear explanation of this role and relevant expertise.
 - Organizational chart lacks a strong description of individuals who will be carrying out planned tasks.
- 4. Litigation (if applicable)
 - N/A
- 5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Complete

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: Oceantic Network

DATE: 2/5/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Proposed Scope of Work**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Proposed Scope of Work	40	23

Evaluation Team Comments:

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Task 1: Literature Review

- Task to be led by Worley who will engage experts to provide data and identify data gaps.
- Proposal lays out a reasonable overall approach with a good list of resources and experts to consult.
- Strong, detailed overview of task with clear plans to:
 1. Access and utilize data sources
 2. Engage with permitting and planning groups

2. Task 2: Stakeholder Engagement Plan

- Reasonable stakeholder engagement plan. However, proposers seem to be relying heavily on the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) to connect with stakeholders.
 1. Planning to utilize their contacts to learn who to engage and how to engage them.
- Mention of honoraria
 1. Unsure if we can support honoraria except for those not already compensated for their time to engage on this topic.
 2. Unsure who this might apply to.
- Did not include a separate process for including feedback; rather, more heavily focused on data gathering and deliverables.
 1. Important to include a mechanism for incorporating feedback from fishermen about fisheries data.

3. Task 3: Desktop Risk Assessment

- Proposes to develop a probability estimate of entanglement by each fishing gear type based on current and predicted prevalence of fishing

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: Oceanic Network

DATE: 2/5/2025

- gear, gear loss rate, mooring types, annual behavior patterns, and anticipated configurations of the moorings for the floating offshore wind infrastructure
- Question around the potential to use the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Simulation Model
 1. The simulator is not a public model, so support from BelleQuant will be necessary to apply the scenario. Support from BelleQuant wasn't specifically outlined in the application, but BelleQuant did provide a Letter of Support.
 2. Some funds are allocated to BelleQuant in the budget under Task 3
- Proposal identified physical parameters and biological parameters for marine mammals, but left out the data streams that are more fishery-related.
 1. Proposal notes the intention to estimate entanglement by fishing gear type, but lacks detail about what fishing gear types they plan to use.
- 4. Task 4: Monitoring Approaches and Technologies
 - Proposes a regulatory review, technology exploration, recommendations and best practices, virtual workshop and focus groups, and to build on existing efforts and planned technology assessments.
 1. Details around how they plan to conduct this work are limited.
 - Plans to review other approved Construction and Operations Plans (COPs)
 - Efforts seem to build on what others have done – what is unique about this proposal?
 - How do you monitor the OSW infrastructure for this entanglement risk if it's accumulating gear? This is different than monitoring for marine mammals in the area.
- 5. Task 5: Retrieval
 - Proposes a combination of literature and technical documentation review workshop and focus groups and interviews through stakeholder engagement plan. Limited details provided.
 - Reads very similar to the approach for Task 4, but with slightly different focus. Overall, could have more clearly articulated delineations between these tasks.
 - Would have benefited from a more solid demonstration of retrieval plan.
- 6. Task 6: Communication
 - Built in an external review into the budget.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: Oceantic Network

DATE: 2/5/2025

- Project Assumptions: Americans with Disabilities Act compliance is not included – what would adhering to these standards involve?
- Would have benefited from an ongoing deliverable about how they are assembling these Technical Working Groups (necessary to document these efforts).

7. Implementation – Work Plan

- Unclear who is completing Tasks 2-6. Concerns that the research team is limited in manpower. Do they have the team necessary to ensure deliverables?
- Would benefit from plans to collaborate with the Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium Advisory Board
- With emphasis on leveraging connections and collaborations, uncertain where/when some of the regional-specific findings will be identified (such as specifics related to fishing gear or plans to engage with local fishing community).

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: Oceantic Network

DATE: 2/5/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Cost Proposal**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Cost Proposal	25	20

Evaluation Team Comments:

III. Cost Proposal

- Proposal came in under-budget, and offered clear cost breakdown for each task and billable hours.
- Overall reasonable cost, but lacking clarity around roles and responsibilities of team members. Generic staff roles were listed, but no specification around who is responsible for these roles (Oceantic vs Worley).
- Would have benefited from clearer illustration of how overall budget aligns with scope of work.
- This section provides more clarity around Worley's role.
- Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - \$24,500 in-kind cost sharing offered by Worley and Oceantic, representing a 7.3% match contribution

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: Oceantic Network

DATE: 2/5/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Partnerships and Letters of Support**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	6

Evaluation Team Comments:

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations

- Strong list of Letters of Support from:

1. Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission
2. BelleQuant
3. California Marine Sanctuary Foundation
4. Equinor
5. Invenergy
6. Avangrid
7. NOWRDC
8. NREL
9. Diamond OSW
10. ROSA
11. RWSC

- Proposal would have benefited from inclusion of a fisheries organization.

2. Availability of data

- N/A

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: SWCA

DATE: 2/5/2025

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Governor's Energy Office

Name of RFA Coordinator: Meghan Suslovic

Names of Evaluators: Nathan Lubega, Erin Summers, Stephanie Watson

<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	17
Proposed Scope of Work	40	30
Cost Proposal	25	20
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	0
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>67</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: SWCA

DATE: 2/5/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Organization Qualifications and Experience**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	17

Evaluation Team Comments:

- I. Organization Qualifications and Experience
 1. Organization Overview/ Introduction
 - SWCA Environmental Consultants is a US consulting firm with 43 offices, including one in Portland, Maine. SWCA has served as a contractor to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on offshore wind (OSW), to OSW energy companies, and to oil and gas. SWCA has participated in permitting, due diligence studies, and various National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) regulations. SWCA demonstrates familiarity with permitting and compliance. SWCA also demonstrates regional knowledge around fishing industry-related engagement with stakeholders.
 1. Project 1: BOEM
 - a. SWCA acted as a third-party consultant for BOEM to develop the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and helped to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement, which is a big step in developing OSW leases. SWCA performed this work in the Atlantic, demonstrating regional experience.
 2. Project 2: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
 - a. Provided technical guidance and federal compliance review to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) on large-scale conservation projects, demonstrating their expertise with compliance and conservation.
 3. Project 3: New England Regional Office of the National Marine Fisheries Service
 - a. Collaborated with New England Regional Office of National Fisheries Service on alternative groundfish regulations, demonstrating knowledge of fisheries in the northeast region.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: SWCA

DATE: 2/5/2025

i. This office should be referenced as GARFO.

2. Subcontractors
 - N/A
3. Organizational Chart
 - Table provided staff name, role, education, and experience.
 - Team includes expertise in wildlife, economics, marine biology. Key capabilities include subject matter experts, technical reporting, and project management.
 - Team of 5 -- could benefit from another partner with additional expertise
4. Litigation (if applicable)
 - Noted the Termination Letter for a previous project with a municipality in Colorado.
 - Questions related to the legal and ethical responsibilities of the applicant, especially if planning to perform all work in-house. Could benefit from additional oversight.
5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Complete

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: SWCA

DATE: 2/5/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Proposed Scope of Work**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Proposed Scope of Work	40	30

Evaluation Team Comments:

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Task 1: Literature Review

- Overall, strong level of detail and understanding of this task.
- Proposes to perform a literature review, including specific ways in which they plan to carry this out.
 - 1. Indicates use of primary and secondary sources as part of data collection.
- Includes specific data sets that they plan to utilize.
- Ties in reports to oil and gas sector.
- Discusses specific species and migration patterns to develop mooring design.
- Proposes to develop a risk assessment model and discussed key elements of that model.
 - 1. Strong risk assessment metrics
- Data gap and recommendations section include details about how they would categorize the data gaps, and how they would work through identifying recommendations and best parties to implement recommendations.
- Indicates strong grasp of sources in the region, but includes technology that is used in water depths that are deeper than the Gulf of Maine (GoM).

2. Task 2: Stakeholder Engagement Plan

- Vague details – would benefit from identifying national or regional groups that they plan to collaborate with and particular stakeholder groups they plan to engage.
- Issue analysis to guide messaging approach is useful.
- Where are they incorporating feedback from these avenues in the other direction?

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: SWCA

DATE: 2/5/2025

- What are the deliverables for this task?
- 3. Task 3: Desktop Risk Assessment
 - Demonstrates ability to identify specific species and data models.
 - Provides specific details pertaining to the way they plan on performing the risk assessment. Plans to utilize public and private data as well as use of the BOEM model. Proposal recommended adjustments to accommodate for Maine-specific species.
 - Robust deliverables:
 1. Probability estimates of entanglement risks by gear type
 2. Analysis of how infrastructure influences marine life distribution and susceptibility to entanglement
 3. Evaluation of ghost gear risks associated with secondary entanglement
 4. Recommendations for adapting BOEM's entanglement model to Gulf of Maine conditions
 - a. Is there a proprietary aspect to this? How does SWCA plan to provide recommendations for the adaptation?
- 4. Task 4: Monitoring Approaches and Technologies
 - Lacking strong details
 - Review of existing various projects would have strengthened this section.
- 5. Task 5: Retrieval Approaches and Technologies
 - Proposes to evaluate existing technologies and perform a gap analysis of retrievable technologies.
 - Identifies deliverables in the form of a report summarizing retrieval technologies and their potential effectiveness in mitigating entanglement risk.
 - Includes a gap analysis for technology like efficiencies operating costs, access, etc.
 - Proposes to build on existing ghost gear programs to perform this analysis.
- 6. Task 6: Final Report and Communications Products
 - Final deliverables include a standard report and presentation.
- 7. Implementation – Work Plan
 - Detailed Gantt chart
 - Proposed timeline seems ambitious, especially for a team of 5 with no collaborators or subcontractors.
 - Stakeholder outreach should be robust, which requires lengthier time commitment.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: SWCA

DATE: 2/5/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Cost Proposal**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Cost Proposal	25	20

Evaluation Team Comments:

III. Cost Proposal

- Budget lists several generic positions. This section could have benefited from directly naming individuals and their relevant experience to complete each task for billable hours.
- Very few people listed on the project team, but 10 positions listed in the budget. This section could benefit from information specifying who is carrying out the work.
- 3% Communication fee may not be an appropriate use of public funds.
- Project comes in under budget, but concern that this limits the breadth or robustness of work.
 - Budget either has the potential to balloon, or some work might not be completed.
 - Robust stakeholder engagement could cost more than what is proposed.
- Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - In-kind contribution of \$15,500, representing a 7.2% match

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: SWCA

DATE: 2/5/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Partnerships and Letters of Support**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	0

Evaluation Team Comments:

- IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support
1. Partnerships/ collaborations
 - Did not include any Letters of Support.
 2. Availability of data
 - N/A

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: University of Maine

DATE: 2/6/2025

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Governor's Energy Office

Name of RFA Coordinator: Meghan Suslovic

Names of Evaluators: Nathan Lubega, Erin Summers, Stephanie Watson

<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	16
Proposed Scope of Work	40	30
Cost Proposal	25	24
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	5
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>75</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: University of Maine

DATE: 2/6/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Organization Qualifications and Experience**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	16

Evaluation Team Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- The University of Maine (UMaine) Advanced Structures and Composites Center (ASCC) is a globally recognized leader in materials and advanced manufacturing and engineering of composites. Their expertise includes floating offshore wind (OSW), and they employ over 300 faculty, staff and students. The ASCC has spun off 5 companies and developed more than 200 patents. They demonstrate significant research background and facilities relevant to the topic.
- In addition to the team from UMaine, a Consulting Team (to be determined) is listed but not identified or referenced elsewhere.
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is identified as performing tasks within this research, but they are not listed in the organizational chart or budget.
 - Is TNC part of the Consulting Team?
- Senior personnel are knowledgeable and connected regionally, with specific expertise in these issues and data sources.
- Unclear delineation between tasks designated for senior personnel versus student workers.
 1. Project 1: Developing Taut Synthetic Mooring System for OSW Infrastructure
 - a. Part of design load cases of this project include preliminary entanglement analysis which is applicable to this proposal.
 2. Project 2: Scale Demo Project for Platform Concept using Semi-Taut Mooring System
 - a. Involvement in the design in the mooring system, which could have relevance to this work
 - b. Demonstrates their ability to identify entanglement risk is dependent on the types of OSW infrastructure and associated mooring systems.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: University of Maine

DATE: 2/6/2025

3. Project 3: Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC)
 1. Risk framework for assessing the likelihood of structural failure of OSW monopiles and towers with hurricanes, winds, and waves. Could use this as a framework for other types of risk assessment.
 2. Demonstrates an understanding of interactions between infrastructure and the environment itself.
2. Subcontractors
 - TNC is listed to perform multiple tasks in this project, but they are not identified as subcontractors in the budget or the organizational chart. Do they instead represent the third-party consultant listed in the organizational chart?
 - If TNC is the subcontractor, does their staff have the necessary expertise to perform this work?
 - Is TNC providing in-kind services?
 - Overall, would benefit from more clarity around TNC's role.
3. Organizational Chart
 - Included a table with 4 teams, each with an identified senior lead (with the exception of the 'TBD Consulting Team').
 1. Table includes list of task involvement per team.
 - Unclear who the lead Principal Investigator will be.
 - Stakeholder engagement tasks: two professors are responsible for these tasks in addition to other obligations. Do they have the bandwidth and expertise to perform this work?
 - Would be useful to know who third party consultant is – are they qualified to perform this work?
 - Discrepancy between the budget or organizational chart: more people listed in the budget than in the chart.
4. Litigation (if applicable)
 - About 22 complaints, 7 of which are pending
 - Recognition that these complaints are against the entire UMaine system, and not against the ASCC specifically.
5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Complete

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: University of Maine

DATE: 2/6/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Proposed Scope of Work**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Proposed Scope of Work	40	30

Evaluation Team Comments:

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Task 1: Literature Review

- UMaine will assess publicly available data on derelict fishing gear types, quantities, and geographical distributions for the Gulf of Maine. Maps of fishing activities and likely distribution of derelict gear will be made, and statistical estimates of quantities of gear will be developed.
- Proposes a literature review of publicly available data including, but not limited to: types, sizes, and geographical distributions of fishing gear in the Gulf of Maine, estimates for annual gear loss rates for each of the above gear types behavior of gear in the water column in the event of a loss, type, size, range and geographical distribution of marine wildlife, metocean forcing factors such as currents, wind, and waves that act to move derelict gear, and the type, size, and layout of typical floating turbine (FOWT) mooring systems and dynamic cables.
- Proposal includes region-specific datasets and partner agencies for obtaining information.
- Plans to partner with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) on this task to compile data from the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries. TNC is listed in this task but not in the organizational chart or listed as a team member or subcontractor.
- Plans to upload data to an online repository through Github and make data available through the Regional Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA), the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC), and FishFORWRD. Limited details around how gaps will be identified for the data gaps analysis.

2. Task 2: Stakeholder Engagement

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: University of Maine

DATE: 2/6/2025

- Plan includes fishing industry members from Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, as well as the NOAA, Maine DMR, and developers.
 - Proposes to work with TNC in Maine to hold meetings with stakeholders and developers (but did not identify Invenergy specifically).
 1. Several stakeholder engagement meetings listed –
 - a. Clear and robust stakeholder engagement plan
 - b. Unclear who will be performing this work
 - c. Unclear how this fits into the budget
 2. Due to their previous work with OSW development and research in the Gulf of Maine, they have experience working with the fishing industry and other stakeholders on similar issues and demonstrate an understanding of regional issues (i.e. right whales and potential difficulty engaging this community)
 - Identifies a specific goal to focus on stakeholder engagement with the fishing industry to test their assumptions and gain insight from fishing industry
 1. Clear plan to gain feedback from fishing industry.
 2. Identifies fishermen as subject matter experts on lost gear and how it might behave.
 - Plan to conduct stakeholder engagement throughout various stages of the project to provide updates on research progress and demonstrate how feedback is shaping risk assessment work.
 - Proposal mentions working with the Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium to provide updates and receive guidance on appropriate stakeholders to include.
3. Task 3: Desktop Risk Assessment
- Identifies three risk metrics that will be aggregated to perform risk assessment: global-scale derelict gear movement based on Gulf of Maine currents, turbine-scale likelihoods of derelict gear ensnaring on FOWT equipment, and seasonal likelihood of marine life entering Wind Energy Areas (WEAs).
 - Proposes to include movement of ghost gear in Gulf of Maine, turbine scale likelihoods of derelict gear entanglement, and seasonal likelihood of marine life entering the WEA into a probability estimate.
 - Decision Support Tool (DST) appears muddled – use of outputs of the DST is not accurate. Good elements of this section, but further discussion may help to provide important clarification points, specifically around:

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: University of Maine

DATE: 2/6/2025

1. Erroneous assumption that DST will provide entanglement rate. DST output is a unitless, relative number that tells us about risk.
 2. DST is not publicly available at this time, and the proposal does not indicate any intended collaboration with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- RFA asks for description of how assessment can inform adaptations of the BOEM Simulator Model, but this was not addressed in this response.
4. Task 4: Monitoring Approaches and Technology
 - Proposes a technology review for monitoring fishing gear in secondary entanglement.
 - Will apply a ranking system to these technologies to give a relatively low, medium, high monitoring activity ranking that would incorporate cost, compatibility, etc.
 - Difficult to discern the difference between this Task and Task 5.
 1. Deliverable was not mentioned here, but rather in Task 5.
 - Could benefit from more discussion around the regulatory review that was specified in the RFA.
 1. Offers specifics around how monitoring would be performed, but not how it would be used.
5. Task 5: Retrieval Approaches and Technology
 - Proposes a review of best practices with summary report deliverable.
 - Task could use more detail.
 - Gaps analysis would have been important to include here.
6. Task 6: Communication
 - Proposes monthly communication on project progress and updates with the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) and the Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium.
 - Proposes sharing data through GitHub repository.
7. Implementation – Work Plan
 - Some dates in the schedule feel arbitrary and don't necessarily illustrate the variability of tasks and subtasks.
 - Length allocated to the overall project is robust.
 - Very detailed task chart with timeline attached.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: University of Maine

DATE: 2/6/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Cost Proposal**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Cost Proposal	25	24

Evaluation Team Comments:

III. Cost Proposal

1. Includes a solid level of budget narrative, especially cost per person per hour as well as indirect benefits.
2. 'Consultant TBD' was not included in budget.
3. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - Proposes \$76,446 in cost-share, representing a 29% of match
 1. Cost share is in cash (not in-kind)
 - Cost is generally low, coming in significantly under-budget and with a higher match.
 1. May be of value to state/public funds

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: University of Maine

DATE: 2/6/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Partnerships and Letters of Support**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	5

Evaluation Team Comments:

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations

- Letters of Support from:
 1. The Nature Conservancy (Letter of Commitment?)
 2. Diamond Offshore Wind
 3. Avangrid
- Letters could represent more variety to illustrate the stakeholder groups they intend to engage
 1. Particularly more focus on fisheries groups

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: Xodus Group

DATE: 2/6/2025

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Governor's Energy Office

Name of RFA Coordinator: Meghan Suslovic

Names of Evaluators: Nathan Lubega, Erin Summers, Stephanie Watson

<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	24
Proposed Scope of Work	40	25
Cost Proposal	25	10
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	6
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>65</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: Xodus Group

DATE: 2/6/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Organization Qualifications and Experience**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	24

Evaluation Team Comments:

- I. Organization Qualifications and Experience
 1. Organization Overview/ Introduction
 - Xodus Group is an international offshore energy consultant offering technical, environmental, and engineering support for offshore wind (OSW) marine energy and oil and gas. Xodus Group has experience supporting different OSW markets in Scotland and in Maine. They have received Department of Energy (DOE) funding and have worked with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Maine Governor’s Energy Office (GEO), and Maine International Trade Center.
 - Team members include experts in renewables, fisheries, ocean engineering, and risk assessment. Xodus is an ISO 9,001 (certification for quality management).
 1. Project 1: Assessing Feasibility of Floating Offshore Wind (FOSW) and Aquaculture Co-location: Technical, Environmental, and Social Challenges and Opportunities
 - a. Will perform a feasibility analysis investigating the potential for FOSW with aquaculture in Maine with DOE (provisionally awarded, not yet executed)
 - b. Project was proposed for Maine with Maine partners
 2. Project 2: Underwater Noise Mitigation Conflict Resolution
 - a. Developing a framework to facilitate improved cross-sector coordination to manage underwater noise disturbance to harbor seals with the Offshore Wind Industry Council.
 - b. Indicates knowledge around conflict resolution and broadly minimizing risk between industry and protected species.
 3. Project 3: Noise Abatement Feasibility Report for Dogger Bank Wind Farm

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: Xodus Group

DATE: 2/6/2025

- a. Implementing underwater noise abatement systems for piling operations with Dogger Bank Wind Farm.
 - b. Dogger Bank is fixed bottom. This technology is not applicable to Gulf of Maine because there won't be piling operations.
 - i. Different noises come from different types of construction work, and these different noises have different decibels. These decibels and frequencies ranges are what have affects on marine mammals.
 - c. Demonstrates experience working on OSW and potential interactions with marine mammals, but not necessarily as applicable to the Gulf of Maine (GoM).
2. Subcontractors
 - Kelson Marine Co.
 1. Maine-based engineering firm with fisheries, aquaculture, and ocean energy expertise. Will provide the desktop risk assessment with BelleQuant.
 - BelleQuant Engineering, PLLC
 1. Developer and owner of NOAA/BOEM Entanglement Simulator
 2. Very strong expertise in simulations and dynamics of marine mammal locomotion and marine turbine analysis.
3. Organizational Chart
 - Complete and detailed with clear delineation between roles and tasks.
 - Includes Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium Advisory Board.
 - Unclear of the extent of Xodus' involvement in Maine and how this might impact their ability to carry out stakeholder engagement.
 - Who on the team has strong expertise in stakeholder engagement in Maine?
4. Litigation (if applicable)
 - N/A
5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Complete

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: Xodus Group

DATE: 2/6/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Proposed Scope of Work**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Proposed Scope of Work	40	25

Evaluation Team Comments:

- I. Proposed Scope of Work
 1. Task 1: Literature Review
 - Straightforward literature review and state of the science report with chapters on data gaps and recommendations.
 - Literature review includes both peer reviewed and grey literature.
 - Provides visualizations of available data to help inform understanding of concentrations of ghost gear and other marine debris.
 - Limited discussion around process of identifying data gaps.
 - Details on entanglement risk review would strengthen this task.
 2. Task 2: Stakeholder Engagement
 - Long list of focal areas and stakeholder groups.
 - Discussion of engagement plan which details their methodology outreach process and plans to incorporate stakeholder feedback and data.
 - Plans to incorporate local ecological knowledge (LEK) related to gear loss and recovery of lost gear.
 - Who is performing this work? Will there be a commercial fisheries specialist on the team? If so, do they have experience speaking with developers and NGOs mentioned. Are they on the ground in Maine?
 3. Task 3: Desktop Risk Assessment
 - Helpful graphs and visualizations
 - Task is clear in terms of metrics and the level of detail of information they're hoping to review and include in the report.
 - Detailed methodology
 - Clear distinction between tasks and personnel responsible for each task.
 - Thorough and detailed, especially around inclusion of oceanographic monitoring.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: Xodus Group

DATE: 2/6/2025

1. Fewer specifics are provided on the marine mammal aspect and how that would be incorporated into the risk assessment.
 - Clear flow of outputs
4. Task 4: Monitoring Approaches and Technology
 - A bit vague with limited details
 - Standard language around monitoring approaches and industry support and networks
 - No discussion of how this approach feeds into regulatory environments with some federal agencies.
5. Task 5: Retrieval Approaches and Technology
 - Generally light on detail
 - Acknowledges social and cultural considerations of utilizing different retrieval technologies in the Gulf of Maine, an important consideration to include.
 1. Includes a nod to prevalence of rope-based fisheries.
6. Task 6: Communication
 - Standard approach
7. Implementation – Work Plan
 - No schedule included, only Gantt chart that indicates rough estimates of accomplished tasks and deliverables.
 - Could have included more detailed breakdown of each task- particularly Tasks 4, 5, and 6 are lacking
 - Proposed work seems rushed (estimated 10 months).
 1. Limits robust stakeholder process, especially considering seasonal variations around fishing activity.
 - Could benefit from more detailed timeline and stakeholder engagement plan.
 - Tasks 4 and 5 are same length as Task 3 -- does this indicate how many people are working on these tasks?

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: Xodus Group

DATE: 2/6/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Cost Proposal**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Cost Proposal	25	10

Evaluation Team Comments:

III. Cost Proposal

- Allocated very limited time to Tasks 1, 4 & 5.
- Proposed costs for tasks weren't detailed, especially in terms of labor categories (who's doing what, how many hours allocated).
- Need more clarity around distribution of work and cost related to that work.
 1. Ex. Task 3 as proposed would be very robust, but how does this feed into other tasks with equal levels of robustness?
- Task 6 lists \$25,000 in-house software for back-office support. Is this software necessary? May not be the best use of public funds.
- Are "Assessment quality control and closeout costs" overhead costs?
- Came in near the top of the budget range.
- Some costs feel unnecessarily high in some places and low in others.
- 2. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - Proposes \$48,673 of in-kind support, representing a 13.9% match
 1. This is billed as a discount. Is a discount the same as in-kind support?

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 2

BIDDER: Xodus Group

DATE: 2/6/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Partnerships and Letters of Support**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	6

Evaluation Team Comments:

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations

- Provides Letters of Commitment from subcontractors:
 1. Kelson Marine
 2. BelleQuant
- Provides Letters of Support from:
 1. Diamond Offshore Wind
 2. NOWRDC
 3. Boston University
 4. Seaway 7
- Strong list, but could have benefitted from inclusion of fisheries groups given proposed stakeholder plan.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: 2/11/2025

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Governor's Energy Office

Name of RFA Coordinator: Meghan Suslovic

Names of Evaluators: Zara Dowling, Sarah Haggerty, John Perry, Meghan Suslovic

<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	26
Proposed Scope of Work	40	33
Cost Proposal	25	23
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	7
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>89</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: 2/11/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Organization Qualifications and Experience**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	26

Evaluation Team Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) is a Maine-based nonprofit ecological research group that has been conducting bat research for 20 years and working in the Gulf of Maine for over 25 years.
- BRI staff have significant experience conducting bat acoustic research, both on- and offshore and including on buoys, boats, and offshore wind turbines.
- BRI has demonstrated experience following US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Survey guidelines.
- BRI has familiarity with local, regional, and national contacts relevant to the proposed work.
- They have experience managing large-scale projects to support offshore wind (OSW) decision making.
- BRI has worked with the University of Maine (UMaine) to deploy bat acoustic detector on their 1/8 scale project off of Castine and they have also worked with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). The group has also worked on Vineyard Wind, an example of their experience on commercial-scale work.

1. Project 1: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW)

- a. Conducted bat acoustic monitoring in the Gulf of Maine between July through October 2024 with analysis focused on how bat activity varied spatially and temporally.
- b. Deployed detectors and microphones on five islands, two coastal sites, and three vessels. Analyzed the data received to scale bat activity both temporally and spatially in the Gulf of Maine as well as relative to the BOEM lease areas.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: 2/11/2025

- c. Scope appears relevant to this proposal.
2. Project 2: Project Wildlife and Offshore Wind
 - a. Worked with Project Wildlife and Offshore Wind (WOW) to deploy passive acoustic detectors, operational turbines on buoys, vessels, islands, and coastal sites in New England and the New York Bight to identify relevant factors in bat activity around turbines. Project is currently in-progress.
 - b. Work seems very relevant to this RFA.
3. Project 3: Environmental Design and Research
 - a. BRI supported opportunistic pre-construction boat-based acoustic bat surveys of a BOEM lease area in 2020 and 2021.
 - b. This project is also relevant to the RFA.
2. Subcontractors
 - Subcontractor 1: Bat Conservation International (BCI)
 1. BCI is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of bat species and producing science-based solutions for bat conservation globally. Expertise is relevant to this proposed work.
 2. BCI will provide technical support for buoy detector deployments, peer review of a subset of potential calls, and general advisory support. Clear description of their role in this work provided.
 3. Subcontractor involvement makes sense given proposed scope of work.
 - Subcontractor 2: Maine Coast Fishermen's Association (MCFA)
 1. MCFA is a commercial fishing industry nonprofit organization, meaning BRI plans to partner directly with fishing-based organization.
 2. MCFA's expertise will help to identify available fishing vessels with routes most valuable for data collection.
 3. Subcontractor involvement makes sense given proposed scope of work.
3. Organizational Chart
 - Included in application
 - Detailed with staff members named by role and organization
 - Includes 8 collaborators that will serve as detector host, demonstrating good relationship with collaborators.
 - Project involves large team, but no details about how project will be managed to navigate the handoffs. How will this be coordinated? (For example, if the state has questions, will the individuals responsible for project communication be equipped to answer these questions?)
4. Litigation (if applicable)

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: 2/11/2025

- Provided statement that says no current litigation or cases that have closed within the last 5 years in which the applicant paid the claimant either as part of a settlement or by decree to report.
 - No recent lawsuits in the last 5 years.
5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
- Complete

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: 2/11/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Proposed Scope of Work**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Proposed Scope of Work	40	33

Evaluation Team Comments:

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Objectives

- Proposes to conduct multifaceted acoustic monitoring and analysis efforts to understand bat occurrence in the GoM.
- Objectives are well-aligned with the RFA.
- Timeline for deployment for acoustic detectors in spring 2025 seems ambitious. Are there plans to incorporate feedback? How much flexibility is built into the timeline?
- Applicant has identified project partners and site hosts which could allow for a timely project kick-off.

2. Task 1: Develop Study Plan

- Proposes to develop a study plan built on the 2024 surveys.
- Proposed scope of work of this task is clearly described and meets the requirements of the RFA.
- Applicant does not include plans to present the draft plans to Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC) (only specified referencing the recommendations).
- Did not reference the OSW bat monitoring guidance recommendations.

3. Task 2: Collect Data

- Proposes a 2025 and 2026 campaign (excepting winter seasons) to target 8 bat species found in Maine. Plans include a map of proposed sites on 6 vessels, 6 buoys, the University of Maine's floating offshore wind turbine, and 13 on islands and inland locations. Site access is confirmed at 19 of the potential deployment sites.
- Plans identify sites and project partners. Many components of this section are fleshed out and clearly described. Contractor is established to assist with vessel deployment.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: 2/11/2025

- Because vessel routes haven't been determined, it is difficult to describe how much of the GoM will be monitored acoustically.
 1. What vessels will be used? What areas will be covered? Difficult to evaluate with lack of detail.
 - No indication of what will be considered adequate sample size. Limited clarity on if this sample size will be enough to perform the proposed analysis.
 - Proposal doesn't include redundancy of deploying more than one detector at one location (per recommendation of OSW bat monitoring guidance).
 - Proposal doesn't include changing out microphones which might be necessary given the marine environment.
 - Project does include 24-hour monitoring which is appropriate.
4. Task 3: Data Processing and Analysis
- Plan to process data through Kaleidoscope Pro and SonoBat, and manually vetting the data using two types of metrics.
 - Data will be processed and analyzed using rigorous Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) process allowing a standardized comparison of bat occurrence between different areas and over time.
 - Statistical approach will include input from the Governor's Energy Office (GEO), USFWS, and BCI.
 - Main steps of data processing and analysis are clearly laid out.
 - Proposal did not include analysis of all bat passes or bat activity. This information would be useful. Important to use as much data as possible. No mention of using all calls collectively, potentially leading to lost data.
 - Environmental covariates to be used are to be determined.
 - Some concerns that bats might follow ocean vessels which could bias the data/ results. No mention of plans to address this concern.
 - Mentions incorporation of 2024 data into the analysis, although all applicants will have access to this data as it will be made public.
 - Weather data will be sourced from buoys and weather stations.
5. Task 4: Reporting
- Plans to combine data from this project with the 2024 MDIFW data to develop a technical report, outreach materials, and at least one peer-reviewed paper.
 - Overview of reporting and communication is in-line with RFA. Interim report allows opportunity for review.
 - Task 4 does not discuss submission to the North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat), but it is mentioned elsewhere in Task 3.1.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: 2/11/2025

- Plans to give presentations to GEO, MDIFW, and the Maine Offshore Wind Consortium Advisory Board, aligning with the RFA's requirements.
6. Implementation – Work Plan
- Proposal includes a relatively high-level Gantt chart by quarter that factors in unfavorable weather conditions.
 - Spring 2025 campaign seems ambitious.
 - Considering fishing vessels: are there good routes; will they be out overnight?
 1. Will likely be building on existing relationships to perform this work.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: 2/11/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Cost Proposal**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Cost Proposal	25	23

Evaluation Team Comments:

III. Cost Proposal

1. Proposed budget is \$399,997
 - Essentially maximum amount allowable, but proposed plans are very thorough
2. Provides breakdown by task and role. Includes assumptions and how cost-share breaks out per task
3. Very detailed budget table making it clear how the funds will be spent
4. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - Proposed cost share of \$151,801
 - Cost share is generously calculated and not as specific to this project as it could be.
 1. Unsure if Project WOW should be considered as cost share at this level. Can see its relevance, but unsure if this constitutes cost share.
 - Cost share indicates the level of partnership and collaboration with partners and subcontractors.
 1. Leveraging relationships to leverage funds

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: 2/11/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Partnerships and Letters of Support**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	7

Evaluation Team Comments:

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations

- Letters of Commitment:

1. Bat Conservation International
2. Maine Coast Fishermen's Association

- Letters of Support:

1. US Fish and Wildlife Service
2. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
3. Canada Wildlife Service
4. Wildlife Acoustics
5. Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems
6. College of the Atlantic
7. National Audubon Society
8. US Fish and Wildlife Service, Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge
9. Shoals Marine Lab
10. University of Maine
11. Captain Robby Roberge

- Includes a lot of Letters of Support from a diverse set of stakeholders

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Stantec

DATE: 2/11/2025 & 2/14/2025

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Governor's Energy Office

Name of RFA Coordinator: Meghan Suslovic

Names of Evaluators: Zara Dowling, Sarah Haggerty, John Perry, Meghan Suslovic

<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	23
Proposed Scope of Work	40	30
Cost Proposal	25	18
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	5
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>76</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Stantec

DATE: 2/11/2025 & 2/14/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Organization Qualifications and Experience**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	23

Evaluation Team Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- Stantec is a global company that focuses on sustainable engineering, architecture, and environmental consulting. They have a staff of over 250 wildlife biologists that have conducted thousands of surveys targeting a variety of species.
- Stantec demonstrates specific experience in Maine and in offshore environments.
- Project leads have ample experience of bat monitoring experience and working offshore, and data scientists have experience with processing bat thermal videos.
- Stantec demonstrates experience providing support for permitting offshore wind (OSW) projects.
- Has experience with radio telemetry studies and MOTUS.

1. Project 1: Long-Term Bat Monitoring on Islands, Offshore Structures, and Coastal Sites in the Gulf of Maine (GoM), Mid-Atlantic, and Great Lakes

- a. Setup acoustic bat detectors at 39 sites across the GoM, Mid-Atlantic, and Great Lakes from 2011 to 2014 and installed 5 MOTUS towers in the GoM.
- b. Project was a result of a Department of Energy (DOE) awarded grant to continue its offshore bird and bat study.
- c. Mention of precursor study which led into this long-term project
- d. Demonstrates their ability to design and manage a multiyear survey effort that included the GoM.
- e. Project seems relevant and demonstrates relevant experience.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Stantec

DATE: 2/11/2025 & 2/14/2025

- f. This project laid the foundation for offshore bat surveys in the GoM.
- Project 2: Multi-Year Regional Bat Activity Assessment on the West Coast
 - 1. Will be partnering with multiple entities to conduct a multi-year regional assessment of bat activity off the coast of California and Washington to provide a baseline data set to guide OSW development
 - 2. Involves acoustic detectors on coastal sites, islands, buoys, autonomous vessels, and ships of opportunity.
 - 3. Unclear what role Stantec plays
 - 4. Awarded the bid, but project pending
 - a. Planning phase complete, haven't deployed yet
 - 5. Project seems relevant to this RFA
- Project 3: South Fork Wind Farm
 - 1. Stantec acted as the lead regulatory permitting and technical consultant and supported the preparation of technical studies and sections Construction and Operations Plan (COP). Specific to the COP, Stantec performed the assessment of potential impacts to avian and bat species, including project specific field surveys.
 - 2. More relevant to regulations and permitting.
- 2. Subcontractors
 - Subcontractor 1: Woods Hole Group
 - 1. Woods Hole Group is an environmental services company with expertise in satellite telemetry products and services.
 - 2. Woods Hole Group will be responsible for analyzing reconstructed climate data and validation against satellite imagery.
 - 3. Woods Hole Group demonstrates relevant expertise to carry out their role in the project.
 - 4. Conducts computer modelling of ocean and coastal processes for remote data sensing processes.
 - 5. Stantec is currently working with Woods Hole Group on a West Coast project, demonstrating an existing working relationship.
 - Subcontractor 2: Wildlife Imaging Systems
 - 1. Wildlife Imaging Systems develops advanced computer decision and machine software for wildlife professionals.
 - 2. Wildlife Imaging Systems will be responsible for processing and analysis of thermal video data.
 - 3. Unclear qualifications and role in the project.
- 3. Organizational Chart
 - Organizational chart is included, but provides limited details.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Stantec

DATE: 2/11/2025 & 2/14/2025

- Role of staff and subcontractor is relatively clear, but amount of time is not as clear.
- No differentiation between roles outside of the Principal Investigator.
- Lack of clarity around junior level scientists
 1. Do the junior level field scientists have the necessary relevant experience?
- 4. Litigation (if applicable)
 - As a global company, it is unsurprising that there are pending litigations, but details are vague.
 - No unsatisfied judgements or arbitration awards outstanding.
- 5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Complete

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Stantec

DATE: 2/11/2025 & 2/14/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Proposed Scope of Work**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Proposed Scope of Work	40	30

Evaluation Team Comments:

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Objectives

- Proposers recognize that measuring spatial and variation of bat abundance offshore is not feasible without larger budget, so their high-level proposal is to use acoustic data from the limited available sites and characterize weather conditions associated with bat presence offshore.
- Plan to combine previous data with new acoustic data to create long-term baseline dataset to evaluate potential cost and effectiveness of risk reduction measures to reduce risks to bats from OSW.
- Broad objectives of project are aligned with the RFA, and in particular, acoustic monitoring is especially in-line with the RFA.
- Use of thermal monitoring is interesting and would provide useful behavioral context, but doesn't clearly indicate how that would contribute to an understanding of bat presence and seasonal abundance.
 1. No explanation of how this relates to the RFA.
- In each task, the general scope of work and deliverables are clearly laid out, but a specific timeline is not laid out in detail.
- Overall, this is an interesting project that would provide useful data but doesn't as closely align with the RFA objectives, specifically related to understanding bat presence and seasonal abundance.

2. Task 1: Study Plan

- Stantec will facilitate a kickoff meeting with the Governor's Energy Office (GEO), the Offshore Wind Research Consortium Advisory Board, and Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW).
- Plans to prioritize offshore sites including buoys, ships, and other platforms of opportunity.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Stantec

DATE: 2/11/2025 & 2/14/2025

- Will attempt to resurvey locations from the previous MDIFW acoustic survey work or other sites identified by MDIFW.
- Subset of up to 10 sites will be selected for thermal video monitoring with priority given to sites where high levels of bat activity are expected.
- Clearly described and meets requirements of RFA.
- Doesn't include timeline for drafting and finalizing the study plan.
- Don't include presenting draft plan to the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC) Bat Working Group.

3. Task 2: Data Collection

- Proposal includes deployment of up to 30 stationary acoustic monitoring sites and 10 thermal sites.
- Proposal doesn't include monitor redundancy
 - 1. Deploying more than 1 detector at a location given the offshore environment or accessibility of some sites
- Proposal doesn't include changing out microphones or 24-hour monitoring, which would seem appropriate.
- Proposal doesn't include monitoring outside of late summer/fall migration season.
 - 1. Proposal indicates that monitoring will be through October 2025 and/or 2026. Is this a 1-year survey or 2-year survey effort?
 - 2. Does budget account for "and" component?
- Planning to (when possible) collect weather data and supplementing with satellite data.
- Will identify environmental conditions using climate reconstructions from satellite weather observations.

4. Task 3: Data Processing and Analysis

- Proposing to use Kaleidoscope Pro software and settings prescribed in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) guidelines.
- The main steps of data processing and analysis are clearly laid out, but more detail on how thermal data will be used would be useful.
 - 1. How will this help understand seasonal distributions?
- Plan to extrapolate frequency of high-risk conditions and cost/benefit of minimization efforts.
- Proposal assumes there is not a meaningful geographical component to bat distributions and that occurrence is related to weather conditions.
- Proposal doesn't address whether weather conditions over a time scale will be figured into analysis.

5. Task 4: Final Report and Communication Products

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Stantec

DATE: 2/11/2025 & 2/14/2025

- Will prepare a final technical report, including 1-2 page summaries of results from each survey site to provide to owners or managers of each site. Will also provide draft manuscript suitable for submission to a peer reviewed journal and submission of data to the North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat).
 1. No narrative of presentation to Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium Advisory Board.
 2. Draft manuscript is mentioned in narrative but is not listed in deliverables/ milestones.
 - Will incorporate the reanalysis of data collected from the 2009-2014 effort and any data previously collected by MDIFW from the Fall 2024 study.
 - The overview of reporting and communication is in-line with the RFA.
 - In addition to bat data, an environmental dataset will be produced.
 - Monthly emails, but no interim report planned
6. Implementation – Work Plan
- No consolidated Gantt chart included
 1. Each task includes milestones, but with inconsistent details around expected timing (ex. no timeline associated with Task 4).

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Stantec

DATE: 2/11/2025 & 2/14/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Cost Proposal**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Cost Proposal	25	18

Evaluation Team Comments:

III. Cost Proposal

1. Proposed budget is \$368,964
 - Falls under the max budget
2. At least \$190,000 is allocated for things unrelated to bat acoustics (less than half the budget is for bat acoustics)
 - However, video component does begin to answer the question of seasonal abundance.
3. Budget narrative includes a few assumptions, but otherwise doesn't provide insight into the budget table.
 - Unclear which staff are responsible for which task and how many hours each staff member will require to carry out each task.
4. Unclear if they're performing 1 or 2 years of survey work.
5. Did not include budget (or scope) for vessel time due to their high cost and the uncertainty of collecting meaningful data.
6. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - \$96,000 in cost-share in the form of equipment, including \$36,000 for acoustic detectors

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Stantec

DATE: 2/11/2025 & 2/14/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Partnerships and Letters of Support**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	5

Evaluation Team Comments:

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations

- Letters of Commitment:
 1. Woods Hole Group
 2. Wildlife Imaging Systems
- Letters of Support:
 1. US Fish and Wildlife Services, Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge
 2. Maine Coast Heritage Trust
- Letters demonstrate that they've been in touch with select number of host sites.
- Not a huge diversity of letters

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Tetra Tech

DATE: 2/14/2025

SUMMARY PAGE

Department Name: Governor's Energy Office

Name of RFA Coordinator: Meghan Suslovic

Names of Evaluators: Zara Dowling, Sarah Haggerty, John Perry, Meghan Suslovic

<u>Scoring Sections</u>	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	22
Proposed Scope of Work	40	31
Cost Proposal	25	20
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	1
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>74</u>

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Tetra Tech

DATE: 2/14/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Organization Qualifications and Experience**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Organization Qualifications and Experience	28	22

Evaluation Team Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- Tetra Tech is a global provider of consulting and engineering services focused on water, environment, sustainable infrastructure, renewable energy, and international development.
- Tetra Tech recently acquired RPSGroup which has floating offshore wind experience and physical oceanography experience.
- The organization overall has ample experience with conducting bat acoustic monitoring in Maine and offshore environments.
- The specific expertise of Tetra Tech staff involved in the project is not described.
- Tetra Tech's Bat Program was founded in Portland, Maine in 2008 and has since supported over 350 projects.

1. Project 1: Dominion Energy Services

- a. Tetra Tech was contracted to conduct an offshore and onshore baseline bat acoustic survey on behalf of Dominion for their commercial scale offshore wind farm.
- b. They collected data for over 411 nights on 8 research and survey vessels, and they analyzed and presented the data in a technical report to support permitting activities.
- c. Demonstrate boots on the ground as opposed to simply writing permits.
- d. The project is relevant and demonstrates experience in survey work.

2. Project 2: Equinor's Empire Wind

- a. Contracted to provide numerous offshore bat monitoring services for the offshore wind (OSW) farm over 6 years. In 2024-2025, will support the procurement and installation of

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Tetra Tech

DATE: 2/14/2025

- bat monitoring equipment on turbines to comply with the Construction and Operations Plan (COP).
 - b. Demonstrates wide range of bat surveying
 - c. Project is relevant to the RFA.
- 3. Project 3: Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)
 - a. To perform a variety of support services to MassDOT to understand the impacts to an endangered bat species
 - b. Scope has included passive and active bat acoustic monitoring in accordance with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) guidelines.
 - c. Work not performed in offshore environment, but demonstrates their ability to handle widespread bat monitoring.
 - d. Project is relevant and demonstrates working relationship with a state agency.
- 2. Subcontractors
 - Subcontractor 1: Cody Gillis
 - 1. Contracted Blue Water Vessel that will support the bat survey.
 - 2. Vessel will be equipped with acoustic gear and will run along transects in the Gulf of Maine (GoM).
 - 3. Limited details provided -- unsure if Gillis is Captain/ Owner. Clarification around his role would be useful.
 - Subcontractor 2: Dave Yates, Moonrise Ecological Services
 - 1. Will serve as third-party reviewer of acoustic data.
 - 2. Expertise is clearly described.
 - a. Qualified Indiana Bat Surveyor and holds Endangered Species Act permits for a number of species.
- 3. Organizational Chart
 - Small organizational chart for a project of this magnitude and geographic range.
 - 1. However, a smaller team could help with consistency throughout tasks and task hand-offs.
 - Clear details in how communication and decisions will flow up and down.
 - Portland, Maine biologist listed twice – what are their qualifications?
 - Expertise of various project staff is not described.
 - The roles of staff and subcontractors are relatively clear.
- 4. Litigation (if applicable)

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Tetra Tech

DATE: 2/14/2025

- In the normal course of business, Tetra Tech is subject to certain claims and lawsuits, but they don't expect any of these to have a material effect on their financial position or results.
5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
- Complete

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Tetra Tech

DATE: 2/14/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Proposed Scope of Work**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Proposed Scope of Work	40	31

Evaluation Team Comments:

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Objectives

- Clearly identified four research areas and questions that guide each approach to obtain data, including:
 1. Bat activity across a nearshore-to-offshore gradient using straight-line acoustic transects across the GoM
 2. Bat activity in OSW lease areas and surrounding areas using line-transect acoustic surveys
 3. Contemporary versus historical bat activity at buoys, islands, and coastal sites to understand how activity rates and species composition have changed over the past decade as the GoM has continued to warm
 4. Bat activity along ships-of-opportunity routes to increase spatiotemporal coverage of offshore bat sampling
- Overall objective is to survey the offshore environment systematically to understand bat activity patterns in the GoM and how those patterns vary spatiotemporally and in relation to weather conditions.
- Workplan is laid out in confusing manner – no sense of timeline until review of the Gantt chart.

2. Task 1: Study Plan

- Proposes 4 separate and unique methodologies to answer each of the above research questions, including:
 1. Larger transect across the Gulf of Maine
 2. Separate transect that are focused on 3 lease areas off of Cape Cod
 3. Deploying acoustic units at a subset of inland coastal sites, informed from previous study in terms of location (including buoys)

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Tetra Tech

DATE: 2/14/2025

4. Using vessels of opportunity and specifically the CAT Ferry and Eimskip Cargo Vessels to supplement offshore data
 - Proposes to use two detectors for redundancy.
 - Broad objectives are in-line with RFA.
 - Timeline for drafting and finalizing study plan is not explicitly provided until Task 2 and in the Gantt chart at the end.
 1. Anticipating study plan to be approved by end of June 2025.
 - Under Objective 4, notes only one line transect survey is proposed – appears to be an inadequate sample size given obvious variation from night to night.
 1. Weather conditions are very important for bat activity.
 - Didn't include presenting draft plan to the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC) Bat Working Group.
 - Supplemental ferry routes could provide interesting information, but the application acknowledges the bulk of the ferry transits occur during daylight hours.
 1. Nighttime routes are mostly specific to the Eimskip cargo vessels.
 - Transect lines are far apart, meaning there's no guarantee there will be a good amount of coverage. How meaningful will this data be?
3. Task 2: Data Collection
 - Anticipate beginning field mobilization in July 2025.
 1. The stationary detectors deployed from July to October 2025 and April through June 2026 and recording 14 hours of data per day, focused on the night hours.
 2. Transect data is collected August through September 2025.
 3. Opportunistic vessel data is collected July through October 2025 and April through June 2026, the latter only being Eimskip and not the CAT.
 - Two detectors will be installed on CAT Ferry as well as Eimskip Vessel.
 - Plans to only do 1-line transect is never clearly laid out in Task 2.
 1. Significant concerns as weather could alter this
 - Proposal identifies only a verbal agreement with the fishing vessel. Is there flexibility built into this plan should scheduling or other conflicts arise?
 - Did not define speed necessary to pick up bats nor anticipated a number of days/ nights this work would last.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Tetra Tech

DATE: 2/14/2025

- Project did not appear to describe monitoring schedule. Will vessel monitoring (transects) only occur at night? That would be appropriate.
 - Schedule of stationary acoustic monitoring should be 24/7 even though comparisons to historic data should focus on the same nighttime schedule that they used in the past study.
 - Proposal specifies that two detectors would be used to create redundancy in case of equipment failure.
 - Does not include changing out microphones which might be necessary given the marine conditions.
 - Includes one fall and one spring sampling of stationary sites.
4. Task 3: Data Processing and Analysis
- Proposes to process and analyze data in two batches: one for the 2025 survey period and one for the 2026 survey period.
 - Will analyze data using Kaleidescope Pro, and Moonrise Ecological Services will provide a third-party review.
 - Weather data will be sourced from offshore weather buoys and weather data stations.
 - Analysis will focus on modelling temporal variation across different time scales, modelling relationships between bat activity and environmental covariates (TBD) and spatial density mapping. This clearly aligns with the RFA objectives.
 - 1. Covariates and sources are not clearly identified.
 - Main steps of data processing and analysis are clearly laid out.
 - There are some concerns that bats might follow ocean vessels, and the proposal fails to address this potential bias.
5. Task 4: Final Report and Communication Products
- Proposes an interim report, a final report, a two-page summary, a presentation, and data uploaded to the North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat) and the RWSC portal.
 - Two-pager is targeted at broad public audience and will use high-impact visuals.
 - Useful that there's an interim report to provide funder feedback before final report.
 - Task includes many touch points.
 - 1. Lots of communication to discuss work and preliminary findings
6. Implementation – Work Plan
- Included a Gantt chart with fair amount of detail.
 - Seems like reasonable timeframes for each task.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Tetra Tech

DATE: 2/14/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Cost Proposal**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Cost Proposal	25	20

Evaluation Team Comments:

III. Cost Proposal

1. Proposed budget is \$318,981
 - Falls under the max budget
 - Seems a bit ambitious for the scope proposed
2. Narrative emphasizes Tetra Tech's approach to balance between multiple survey methodologies and survey coverage.
 - Narrative addresses each task
3. Budget could've accommodated two transects instead of one.
 - Why wasn't a second transect included?
4. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - Proposed cost share of \$12,000
 - Cost share is included, but is not clearly explained.
 1. Unclear if Dave Yates is a subcontractor receiving funding or is donating time under cost share.

**STATE OF MAINE
TEAM CONSENSUS EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project 3

BIDDER: Tetra Tech

DATE: 2/14/2025

**EVALUATION OF
Partnerships and Letters of Support**

	<u>Points Available</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Partnerships and Letters of Support	7	1

Evaluation Team Comments:

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations

- No Letter of Commitment from sub-contractor Dave Yates
- No Letter of Commitment from sub-contractor Cody Gillis
 - 1. Letters required from sub-contractors as per the RFA
- Includes a Letter of Support from Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS)
- Identifies entities like UMaine, Eimskip, and CAT Ferry, but proposal doesn't include any Letters of Support or Commitment from these entities

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: February 12, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Douglas Christel

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: NMFS GARFO

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. Organization qualifications and expertise
 - Awareness of issues, conducting work, assessing/working with confidential data, Regional Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) framework
 - All participants in this proposal, including both universities and sub-contractors, are well qualified, aware of relevant issues, and already engaged in applicable work.
2. Proposed Scope of Work
 - This proposal includes a good awareness of more recent research and documents that build on previous work and the inventory. The discrete references enhance this proposal and provide a good foundation for the socioeconomic impact assessment (SIA).
 - Task 1: Review indicators, recommendations, and related activities
 - Discrete references to foundational research papers enhanced awareness and capacity to advance this task efficiently and provide a good foundation for the SIA
 1. Also includes literature for Communities at Sea which would be beneficial to this study
 - Task 2: Create a stakeholder engagement plan
 - The composition of Project Advisory Committee (PAC) and prescribed duties are sound and appropriate in general, but it is unclear who is part of the Advisory Board and who are key appointees to represent the fishing industry. A description of participants and how they were selected and what criteria were used would enhance evaluations of the representativeness of the PAC.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: February 12, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Douglas Christel

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: NMFS GARFO

- Communication mechanisms with the PAC would be helpful to describe the feedback loop proposed unless it is limited to the two workshops. Step 3 should define what input is being solicited through the survey. Step 3's survey could be a means by which proponents solicit input on offshore wind development scenarios that will be used by future tasks for the actual economic and social impact assessments themselves or methodological approaches for either analysis, as a follow up to the Literacy Building Workshop 1 in Step 2, or both. If that is the case, it should be more explicitly described here. Step 3 could also solicit input on assumptions used in the assessments, as alluded to in the description of Step 4. Knowing stakeholder thoughts on preliminary assessment assumptions would help refine them before the assessments are conducted and improve the acceptance and robustness of assessment results.
- Step 3 should identify to whom the survey would be distributed, as "key fishing stakeholders and contacts" is undefined. Sample size and representativeness should be considered when determining who would receive this survey. Would it be distributed to state and federal permit holders based on landing in Maine, or would some other sampling frame be used?
- Task 3: Adapt and define assessment methodologies
 - What variables will be controlled in these scenarios? As the Consortium-funded coexistence study highlights, there are several variables that could change fisheries operations within and around these projects. It is unclear which elements will contribute to the range of scenarios.
- Task 4: Conduct Assessments
 - Plans to build off some of the work UMaine has been doing around social indicators in the lobster industry. What is the nexus between these two?
 - What is the justification for using the shift share method as opposed to the input/output model most often implemented in the offshore wind space?
- Task 5: Identify Fishing Communities
 - Unclear what metric will be used to evaluate

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: February 12, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Douglas Christel

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: NMFS GARFO

- References prioritization here and in other sections, but it's unclear what they're prioritizing
- Task 6: Final Report and Communication Products
 - Interim project deliverables will be consolidated into appendix in final report, engagement with ROSA, RWSC, and other regional entities.
 1. ROSA has not defined their role as reviewing projects yet. So far, they are only reviewing projects they fund and coordinate. Clarity on interactions and engagement with ROSA and RWSC would be helpful.
- 3. Cost Proposal
 - The GMRI fringe benefit rate and indirect cost rate are within the range used by other entities for similar work. For comparison, indirect costs for the University of Maine (UMaine) are lower, while those for the University of Rhode Island (URI) are higher. Overall, these costs are on the high side of ranges.
 - Justification is needed for the external review by PEER associates.
 - A description of what incentives will be offered to individuals who participate in interviews or surveys is needed to justify the cost. Similarly, the \$5,000 proposed for participant support costs to support workshop attendees needs more clarification to justify the expense and differentiate it from the incentives to participate in interviews.
 - Additional detail is needed to support the unspecified in-kind cost match from the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI).
 - The hourly rates seem high for most participants, but that may be because of the high fringe benefit rate and indirect costs.
- 4. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/Support
 - No Letters of Commitment from subcontractors
 - Letters of Support from:
 - Maine Coast Fishermen's Association
 - Invenergy
 - Avangrid
 - Samantha Werner, NOAA Fisheries
 - Availability of data
 - Dr. Guilfoos will not be able to obtain the data on his own

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: February 12, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Douglas Christel

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: NMFS GARFO

- Letter of Support from Samantha Werner at NOAA but it is unclear who specifically will be accessing the data and analyzing it

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: January 30, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Wilkinson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Department of Marine Resources

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

- I. Organization Qualifications and Experience
 1. Positive- The Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) has a number of staff and partners that have been working in the offshore wind space for some time. Experience working with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Managment (BOEM) and other organizations on the commercial leasing process. Some socioeconomic work as well. Definitely have relevant expertise
 2. Previous Projects: All three projects seem to demonstrate relevant experience. Nothing specifically really stood out but provided some good examples of different work GMRI has done in the past.
 - Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR)/Shellfish Advisory Council
 1. Looking at socioeconomic and other factors contributing to landings and process.
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC)
 1. Looking at impacts of environmental and human caused stressors, on the volatility of ex-vessel fish prices. Have so far done a preliminary analysis to compute price indicators for federally managed species.
 - BOEM/ Consensus Building Institute (CBI)
 1. Assisted with community meetings related to BOEM commercial leasing process. Contracted by BOEM in collaboration with CBI to do some of this work. Organized

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: January 30, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Wilkinson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Department of Marine Resources

many small port meetings to help facilitate meaningful
feedback on the draft wind energy areas (WEAs)

3. Subcontractor 1: The University of Maine (UMaine)
 - GMRI has worked with UMaine previously
 - Role in this project would be to supervise the student conducting ethnographic research to identify vulnerable communities and characterize the sociocultural impacts in those communities. University/ identified partner would bring a lot of relevant research experience to the project, but don't know who the graduate student is so hard to know exactly what this subcontractor role would look like.
4. Subcontractor 2: University of Rhode Island (URI)
 - Have worked with GMRI before
 - Role on the project will be to help design and implement choice experiments to understand the behavior and valuation of floating wind farms in the Gulf of Maine (GoM). They would bring previous experience and expertise to the team that would be a valuable contribution.
5. Organizational Chart
 - Seems reasonable with GMRI leading the project, but a lot of people will be involved.
6. Litigation (if applicable)
 - None
7. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Complete
- II. Proposed Scope of Work
 1. Objectives
 - In line with priorities identified in RFA. Proposal includes all the required pieces, and lays out a clear plan for their work
 2. Task 1: Review Indicators, recommendations, and related activities
 - Positive impression. Outlined plan intends to begin by reviewing existing data and best practices. Appears knowledgeable about what work has already been done in this space. Built in review with the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) after completing this first phase of the project.
 3. Task 2: Create Stakeholder Engagement Plan

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: January 30, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Wilkinson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Department of Marine Resources

- Plan to form a project advisory committee (PAC), develop communications toolkits for fishermen, hold socioeconomic assessment literacy workshops, and provide summaries of those. Built in review points with GEO
 - Formation of a PAC will have representation from a wide array of people- many of whom are already involved in the Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium or other offshore wind related groups
 - Not clear if the individuals listed have already agreed to participate or not.
 - Plan to develop survey aimed at capturing input from fishing stakeholders. How will they decide who to give the survey to? What will they do if they don't get sufficient number of responses?
4. Task 3: Adapt and define assessment methodologies
- Plan to tackle at least three of the limitations identified in the economic modeling and spatial assessment. Including: capturing competition spatial needs of offshore wind and fishing communities; local knowledge of fishermen; intersecting impacts of outside factors like climate change, workforce changes and regulatory changes
 - Incorporate behavioral scenarios and use an online survey to assess how fishing activities may change under different scenarios compared to the status quo. Plan to develop these scenarios based on recent GEO funded work and consultation with fishery stakeholders. Describe looking at 2-3 scenarios but unclear what exact things applicant is hoping to actually evaluate.
 - Plan to update and share development protocols and process after three milestones are completed.
 1. Positive impression of trying to incorporate existing work and information into the process
 - There are so many unknowns related to floating offshore wind, we don't know exactly how these systems will be deployed, etc.- so this could be a challenge.
5. Task 4: Socio-Cultural Assessment
- Additional details on the methods they are planning to use would be beneficial

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: January 30, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Wilkinson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Department of Marine Resources

- Graduate student will collect historical documents to gain a better understanding of communities' history, culture, identity, economy and social dynamics. Interviews with towns, harbor masters, business, fishing organizations, etc. The proposed archival and ethnographic research described above will directly support the validation and advancement of social indicators in the lobster fishery developed by Burnham et al, 2025
- Plan for an optional "subtask" including new data collection
 1. Overall seems like a lot of work and tasks identified to complete in 2 years.
 2. But work plan does meet the requirements of the RFA and would build off already existing work.
 3. Is this a new survey? Or the same as the one from Task 2
- 6. Task 5: Identify Fishing Communities
 - Report with findings from economic and socio-cultural assessments
 - Talk about criteria to help evaluate, but what will those be?
- 7. Task 6: Final Report and Communications Products
 - Deliverables= final report, slide deck
 - Meetings with GEO/DMR
 - Report appendix
 - Engagement with industry groups like the Regional Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) and the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC)
- 8. Implementation – Work Plan
 - Pretty ambitious
- III. Cost Proposal
 1. Pretty detailed. Lots of info about who would be working on what task.
 2. Other costs not broken out into an individual task include PEER associates/external reviews (30,000), grad student tuition (\$7,462) and GMRI indirect costs (\$45,969)
 3. Cost sharing plan
 - In-kind contribution from GMRI (applicant) includes \$40,463.54
 4. Total cost requested for project is \$322,146.87
- IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support
 1. No Letters from UMaine or URI
 2. Partnerships/ collaborations

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: January 30, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Wilkinson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Department of Marine Resources

- Maine Coast Fishermen Association (MCFA)
 - New England Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC), Samantha Werner
 - Invenergy
 - Avangrid
3. Do they have other fishing community partnerships? Or fishing organizations?
 4. Availability of data
 - Who is going to get the data for the project? Letter from S. Werner, but how will that access/analysis work

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: February 11, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is required that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- The Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) has experience in offshore wind, fisheries, and socio-economic analysis, particularly in the Gulf of Maine. Their work spans cooperative research with fishing communities, offshore wind policy advisory, and economic analysis of marine resource use. They have led stakeholder engagement efforts, facilitated public meetings, and developed resources like the Offshore Wind Resource Hub to support informed decision-making for coastal and fishing communities.
- The team has secured federal funding to advance socio-economic research on offshore wind development, including studies on community engagement, economic impacts, and coexistence strategies for fisheries. With expertise in marine resource economics, stakeholder engagement, and fisheries management, they can assess the socio-economic and socio-cultural dimensions of offshore wind and its interactions with the fishing industry.
- Project 1: Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR)/Shellfish Advisory Council
 - 1. GMRI conducted an economic and market analysis of commercially harvested molluscan shellfish species. This work supported a deeper understanding of industry volatilities and informed decision-making for fisheries management and policy. Used confidential data.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: February 11, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

- Project 2: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC)
 - 1. GMRI investigated the impact of environmental and human-caused stressors, such as ocean warming, marine heatwaves, regulatory changes, and the COVID-19 pandemic, on the volatility of ex-vessel fish prices. The study computed price indices and analyzed volatility measures across different species and spatial scales. Using climate econometrics methods, the project assessed how these stressors influenced price fluctuations and local fishery-related employment. (Used CAMS system).
 - a. It is useful to have a background of how to analyze another human-caused stressor.
- Project 3: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)/Consensus Building Institute (CBI)
 - 1. GMRI, jointly contracted with CBI, developed an engagement strategy to effectively reach fishing community members across the Gulf of Maine. The project facilitated meaningful discussions during the draft Wind Energy Area (WEA) public comment period in November 2023. GMRI organized and led 15 port meetings across Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, engaging 163 coastal community members. Through this effort, GMRI reinforced relationships within the fishing community, which is important in this proposal.
- 2. Subcontractors
 - Subcontractor 1: University of Maine (UMaine)
 - 1. Dr. Christine M. Beitzl will supervise a student conducting ethnographic research to identify vulnerable communities and assess sociocultural impacts related to offshore wind development in Maine. Extensive experience in environmental anthropology and expertise in social justice, governance, and community-based research; she will contribute to the cultural impact assessment of the project.
 - Subcontractor 2: University of Rhode Island

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: February 11, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

1. Dr. Guilfoos will design and implement choice experiments to assess the behavior and valuation of floating wind farms in the Gulf of Maine. With expertise in environmental economics, game theory, and stated preference valuation techniques, he will also contribute to the economic impact analysis, including estimates of onshore effects from changes in commercial fishing due to offshore wind development.
3. Organizational Chart
 - Title and expertise provided for each person/group
4. Litigation (if applicable)
 - N/A
5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Complete

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Task 1
 - Review datasets, indicators, and best practices from the Baseline Inventory study.
 - Incorporate new research, federal guidance, and studies on floating offshore wind (FOW).
 - Update existing data inventory.
 - Analyze socio-cultural aspects using established social impact assessment (SIA) models.
 - Identify relevant communities and use "Communities at Sea" research for methodological guidance.
 - Mentioned recent and relevant literature; could advance a comprehensive deliverable for Task 1, aiding the rest of the project.
2. Task 2
 - Objectives:
 1. Develop and implement an engagement strategy for Maine's fishing communities.
 - a. How were participants for the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) selected?

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: February 11, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

- b. Constant engagement throughout the project is good and develops trust and acceptance in results.
 - 2. Conduct a series of workshops and meetings to refine methodologies and engagement.
 - a. Survey design: unclear as to whether they are gathering economic or socio-cultural data, or both.
 - b. Examples of possible assumptions could have been provided.
 - 3. Task 3
 - Use scenario modeling to address economic and spatial assessment gaps.
 - 1. Haven't seen before behavioral scenario development for offshore wind
 - a. Concerns of whether other entities would be willing to replicate/integrate this approach.
 - b. Leases are still in the planning stages, meaningful assumptions cannot be formed yet.
 - c. Could get at perceived risks and associated costs.
 - Conduct an online survey to assess behavioral changes in commercial and recreational fisheries.
 - Ethnographic data collection through archival research and ethnographic interviews to different stakeholders.
 - 1. Emphasized collecting data on cultural preferences in a standardized manner, which will help to compare different communities.
 - 2. Draws from recent literature, like Burnham et al. 2025
 - 3. Have identified two case study communities; will pick an additional 2-3 communities (if time allows, 3 would be better to have more data to compare and establish concrete differences and similarities).
 - Secure NOAA and DMR data for economic modeling.
 - 1. Concerns on whether they can acquire confidential data.
 - 4. Task 4
 - Will develop sets of behavioral scenarios in which each scenario will denote changes to landed volume and revenue and compare to

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: February 11, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

the status quo estimate produced by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

- Shift-share method was not explained.
 1. Usually, input/output (I/O) model is used within offshore wind.
 2. I/O gets at direct, indirect, and induced impacts.
- The team mentioned a set a criteria to identify potentially impacted communities; could have mentioned a couple to understand how they are planning to evaluate the communities; nonetheless, great idea so that assessment is transparent and there's trust in the results.
- Optional Subtask 4: Additional Data Collection
 1. Conduct online survey on fisheries adaptation to FOW.
 2. Additional interviews to get "Stories from the Sea."

5. Task 5

- Determine communities potentially affected by offshore wind using baseline economic and socio-cultural assessments using the prioritization framework.
- Again, some details on criteria would have been helpful.

6. Task 6

- Summarize methodology and findings; ongoing stakeholder engagement to refine findings.
- Provide recommendations for future socioeconomic research on FOW.

7. Project Evaluation

- An external evaluator will conduct an independent review throughout the project. Apprehension towards the cost of this, although they did come under the allotted budget.

III. Cost Proposal – Budget Narrative

Task	Estimated Hours	Total Cost Request
Task 1	196	\$13,146.63
Task 2	670	\$62,015.62
Task 3	564	\$34,454.93

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: February 11, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Task 4	1,007	\$79,432.30
Task 5	117	\$12,326.24
Task 6	410	\$39,339.83
Others:		
External evaluators		\$30,000
UMaine grad student tuition		\$7,462
GMRI indirect costs		\$45,969.34
Total	2,964	\$324,146.89*

*Discrepancy of \$2,000.02 with what is in the proposal

1. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - a. GMRI contributing \$40,463.54 as in-kind cost match (salary support, fringe benefits, indirect costs)

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations
 - No Letters of Commitment from University of Maine and University of Rhode Island
2. Letters of Support
 - Maine Coast Fisherman's Association (MCFA)
 - Invenergy
 - Avangrid
 - Samantha Werner (NOAA NEFSC)
3. Availability of data
 - Concerns on ability to acquire needed data

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- GMRI is an independent nonprofit that advances cooperative research and collaboration across the Gulf of Maine (GoM)
- Has been working with the fishing community for decades and specifically offshore wind for over a decade
- Multiple staff have contributed to Maine specific OSW initiatives (Roadmap, Consortium, etc)
- Project team is highly active in OSW research and engagement in the GoM- including 3 federal grants to build capacity for stakeholder engagement and socioeconomic research support for OSW development in the GoM

2. Project 1

- Worked with Maine DMR and Shellfish Advisory Council to conduct an economic and market analysis of commercially harvested molluscan shellfish species
- Project uses time series econometrics and climate econometrics to explore environmental, macroeconomic, and other socioeconomic factors contributing to landings and prices
- Involved obtaining and analyzing confidential landings data

3. Project 2

- Working with NOAA Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center through the Cooperative Institute for the North Atlantic Region to study the impact of environmental and human-caused stressors on the volatility of ex-vessel fish prices

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

- Computing indices and volatility measures that will then apply climate econometrics methods to study the impacts of environmental and human-caused stressors on price volatilities and local fishery-related employment
- 4. Project 3
 - Worked with BOEM and Consensus Building Institute to create an engagement strategy to reach GoM fishing community members to receive feedback during the draft Wind Energy Area public comment period
 - Organized and facilitated 15 port meetings that engaged 163 coastal community members including fishermen, fishing industry affiliates, eNGOs, and state and federal agencies
 - Recorded detailed meeting summaries that were submitted into the federal record as public comment and relied on GMRI's close connections to the fishing community
- 5. Subcontractors
 - Subcontractor 1: University of Maine (UMaine)
 1. R1 university with more than 150 graduate level degree programs. Dept of Anthropology has engaged faculty working on wide range of socioenvironmental issues
 2. Ethnographic research has used mixed qualitative and quantitative methods, GIS, community-based approaches, and integration of social and environmental datasets
 3. Role is to supervise graduate student conducting ethnographic research to identify vulnerable communities and characterize the sociocultural impacts. Will also contribute to development of the cultural impact assessment
 4. Has worked with GMRI before
 - Subcontractor 2: University of Rhode Island (URI)
 1. R1 university and mission to advance teaching, research, and outreach. Dept of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics has faculty working in fisheries, energy, and water economics
 2. Research focus is to understand the impact of OSW on commercial and recreational fisheries using game theory, experimental economics, and various state preference valuation techniques

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

3. Role is to help design and implement choice experiments to understand the behavior and valuation of FOW farms in the GoM and contribute to an overall economic impact analysis for Maine and the estimates of onshore impacts
 4. Has worked with GMRI before
 6. Organizational Chart
 - Provided
 - Lot of entities/people involved
 7. Litigation (if applicable)
 - None
 8. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Included
- II. Proposed Scope of Work
 1. Task 1: Review indicators, recommendations, and related activities
 - Demonstrates strong familiarity with existing, relevant, and recent research in this field
 - Key deliverables include a bibliography document of reviewed documents, spreadsheet summarizing relevant federal guidance and guidelines, spreadsheet listing assessments/key project info/methods/datasets utilized/key assumptions, and a synthesis of Socioeconomic Impact Assessment (SIA) methodologies and indicators to inform engagement meetings
 2. Task 2: Stakeholder engagement plan
 - Emphasis on co-production of knowledge and building stakeholder capacity to understand, critique, and apply the assessment results
 - Key deliverables include formation of Project Advisory Committee (PAC) and plan of engagement, communications toolkit for fishermen, SIA literacy workshop (x2), and workshop and meeting summaries
 3. Task 3: Adapt and define assessment methodologies
 - For economic assessment, plan to incorporate 2-3 behavioral scenarios that incorporates the findings from the Consortium-funded coexistence project and are developed in consultation with fishery harvesters and stakeholders, economic planners, and other

STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

coastal stakeholders. Will also analyze federal and state fishing activity data

- For sociocultural assessment, plan to gather ethnographic data to conduct a comparative case study of two or more communities to explore the anticipated positive and negative impacts of offshore wind development and how they may be distributed within and across communities
- Key deliverables for economic assessment include protocol for scenario development, protocol for online survey, and data agreements signed and data obtained
- Key deliverables for socio-cultural assessment include synthesis of findings from archival research, draft proposal identifying additional communities, Internal Review Board approval, ethnographic interview guide, and a stakeholder network map

4. Task 4: Conduct assessments

- Lay out three steps to conduct the economic assessment:
 1. Behavioral scenarios
 2. Spatial analysis
 3. Economic modeling
- Two steps for sociocultural assessment:
 1. Co-develop prioritization framework
 2. Connections between fishing grounds and onshore communities
- Key deliverables for economic assessment include a set a scenarios, estimated impacts on landings and employment, and an aggregated economic impacts at county and state level
- Key deliverables for socio-cultural assessment include prioritization framework, list of sociocultural attributes, and a collection of “stories from the sea”

5. Optional Subtask 4: New data collection

- Key deliverables include online survey and additional stories from the interviews

6. Task 5: Identify fishing communities

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

- Plan to synthesize findings from the economic and sociocultural assessments and apply the prioritization framework developed the PAC, other stakeholders, and GEO
- Key deliverables include report summarizing the assessments and a discussion of potentially impacted communities
- 7. Task 6: Final report and communication products
 - Key deliverables include final report with 2-page summary, slide deck and presentation to Consortium Advisory Board, and engagement with regional entities
 - Meets requirements of the RFA
 - Includes review by an external evaluator, PEER Associates
 - 1. Not quite sure of the value add
- 8. Implementation – Work Plan
 - Gantt chart included and detailed
 - Anticipated timeline ~1 year
- III. Cost Proposal
 - 1. Budget narrative includes summary of each team member's role and cost
 - 2. Includes budget for an external review by PEER Associates
 - Is this necessary?
 - 3. Budget table is very detailed- lists out staff time for each task
 - Task 1= \$13,146
 - Task 2= \$62,015
 - Task 3= \$34,454
 - Task 4= \$79,432
 - Task 5= \$12,326
 - Task 6= \$39,339
 - Other costs that couldn't easily be broken out by task= \$83,431
 - Total requested= \$322,146
 - Falls below the max budget
 - 4. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - GMRI providing \$40,463.54 in non-federal matching support (salary support, fringe benefits, and indirect costs)
- IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support
 - 1. Partnerships/ collaborations

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

- Included Letter of Commitment from Maine Coast Fishermen's Association
- Included Letters of Support from Invenergy and Avangrid
- Don't see Letters of Commitment from UMaine or URI

2. Availability of data

- Letter from Samantha Werner, NOAA Fisheries, to collaborate and facilitate access to data necessary for the analysis
- Some concern around what "facilitate access" means in practicality

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies

DATE: February 11, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Douglas Christel

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: NMFS GARFO

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

- Organization qualifications and expertise
 - Awareness of issues, conducting work, assessing/working with confidential data, the Regional Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) framework
 - Organization worked on baseline socioeconomic data for Maine communities, Maine workforce development, and Boston Fish Pier
 - Organization has a history of public engagement
 - Organization has experience conducting socioeconomic impact analysis for wind projects, including input-output models, but doesn't note which projects
 - Primary organization leads have experience with urban development and planning with some previous engagement on renewable energy projects, but familiarity with fisheries data and assessing economic impacts to fisheries is limited other than contributions to the baseline socioeconomic data inventory.
 - Collaboration with Colby College will enhance stakeholder engagement and socio-cultural analysis
 - Dr. Colgan is familiar with fisheries data and could conduct broad analysis of fishery impacts, but may not be able to access confidential data. Access to confidential data is likely needed for this project given the small communities that may be affected and the likelihood that sufficient non-confidential data may not be available to support this analysis (i.e., data may be suppressed for many communities). If the analysis is based on fishery impacts instead of impacts by port, access to confidential data may not be as much of a limiting factor

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies

DATE: February 11, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Douglas Christel

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: NMFS GARFO

- Proposed Scope of Work
 - Objectives:
 - Objectives are not defined in the description of each task.
 - Access to confidential data is necessary to fulfill the objectives of this project. However, as noted in the proposal, that is predicated on coordinating with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) or Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) staff, who would be responsible for conducting the analysis of such data. Either NMFS or Maine DMR staff could access all data for vessels operating in federal waters, regardless of landing port. Relying only on Maine DMR data (i.e., state permitted vessels) would prevent proponents from conducting the analysis of fishery impacts from floating offshore wind projects in federal waters.
 - If proponents rely on Maine DMR or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) staff to conduct the analysis of confidential fishing data, substantial revisions to the budget for this project would be necessary to reduce the costs for the contributors and more accurately reflect the in-kind contributions of NOAA or Maine DMR staff to this effort.
 - Task 1: Project Initiation
 - This is well described, with discrete activities listed, duration anticipated, and deliverables articulated.
 - Additional detail about the intent to outline the scope and composition of preliminary stakeholder list would be helpful, but perhaps that is part of Task 2 instead.
 - Task 2: Engagement Plan
 - An overarching purpose for the stakeholder engagement plan should be clearly articulated at the onset or repeated here if described elsewhere to provide context for further descriptions of project activities.
 - Clarity on metrics used to identify stakeholders to engage would be helpful. For fishery stakeholders, composition could be biased based on familiarity with project proponents and skewed such that it is not representative of the geographic scope of impacted communities or operational scope for affected fisheries.
 - Routine and targeted engagement with the Maine Governor's Energy Office (GEO) and the Consortium's Advisory Board is

STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies

DATE: February 11, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Douglas Christel

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: NMFS GARFO

encouraging and helpful to ensure the project remains on task. Engagement with the Project Review Committee could also be helpful, but it is unclear if it would serve a similar function as consultations with Maine GEO and the Advisory Board. If the project's objective is to build consensus across stakeholder groups, as stated, then participants in this Committee should be representative of and potentially capable of speaking for the affected communities. However, it is not clear what proponents are trying to achieve consensus on in this description unless it is on the baseline assessment itself.

- Task 3: Methodology Development
 - The definition of fishing-dependent communities can be informed by available data that identify ports that could be affected by historic fishing operations that overlap with existing leases. This can be supplemented with community composition and other data to identify broader secondary and tertiary effects that may expand the definition of fishing-dependent communities. This need not be exhaustive or as comprehensive as the assessment in Task 5, however, and would streamline the definition portion of this task.
 - More detail is needed to define the scenarios that could be developed and what project elements would be used to develop those scenarios (i.e., maximum footprint of moorings, largest available turbines, suspended vs. buried cables, etc.). It would be helpful to consider a range of scenarios that evaluate a bounded range of relevant project elements.
 - More detail about the decision models to be developed to inform the spatial interaction component of the economic impact analysis (EIA) is needed. For example, what factors will inform that decision model? The model should be informed by project elements (mooring type, cable suspension, rafted vs. individual turbines, etc.) and gear type instead of a generic evaluation of space limitations across all gear types because different gear types will respond differently, resulting in different economic and social impacts. The previously funded project on co-existence could help inform the decision models.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies

DATE: February 11, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Douglas Christel

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: NMFS GARFO

- To be effective, trip-level fishery data is needed, as aggregated data or data based on statistical area do not likely have sufficient spatial resolution to accurately evaluate spatial interactions.
- I encourage the proponents to consider location-choice models, as feasible, to serve as these decision models given their use in similar contexts. However, the development of these models is complex and time-consuming, which may be beyond the scope of this work.
- It would be helpful to identify what parameters will be used to prioritize fishing-dependent communities that would be engaged for the sociocultural assessment (SCA). Certain communities may be more or less heavily affected, depending on which area is evaluated (e.g., certain fisheries are more heavily affected by specific lease areas, which in turn affects which communities are also affected).
- Task 4: Complete assessments
 - The analysis outlined in Task 4A should evaluate both job and economic value creation and loss. There will likely be both winners and losers once the analysis is completed. It should not be assumed that a net job or value gain is an overall positive result and trade-offs should be evaluated and discussed. For example, job losses from fishery displacement in one community may be compensated by job creation in another community, but the effects may not be equal for the affected communities.
 - As noted in the proposal, it is critical to ensure that the EIA and SCA are effectively developed. While the proposal indicated time is reserved in Task 4 for additional data collection, additional time beyond that which was proposed for Task 3 may be needed to ensure that decision models in particular are fully developed. Therefore, flexibility in timing of Task 4A may be needed.
- Task 6: Final report and presentation
 - Given the importance and practical utility of some of the EIA and SCA for other areas and for other purposes (i.e., aquaculture, other forms of energy development, etc.), a more thorough description of the methods used for each component should also be considered along with the proposed overview report. This could not only

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies

DATE: February 11, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Douglas Christel

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: NMFS GARFO

enhance public understanding of the methods, but also facilitate the adaptation of this work to other areas or purposes.

- Cost Proposal
 - The fee split of 75/25 between Karp and Colby College and the Center for the Blue Economy (CBE) is unclear. Presumably, Colby College and CBE will be paid 25% of the fees for each relevant project.
 - Estimated hours for each task are not described based on the summaries in the cost proposal and budget narrative. Reviewers cannot evaluate costs if the scale of effort is not sufficiently described or justified.
 - Expenses for community compensation and a risk model are not described. More information is needed to evaluate whether these expenses are reasonable.
 - In-kind contributions by Dr. Bates and Colby College is not described as to the amount of time contributed and for what activities that contribution is dedicated.
 - Overall, the costs per hour for primary participants seem high, while hourly costs for researchers and students seem more reasonable.
- Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/Support
 - Letter of Commitment from Colby College, but not from Middlebury
 - No other letters included

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies, LLC

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Wilkinson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Department of Marine Resources

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

- I. Organization Qualifications and Experience- Positive impression
 1. Karp Strategies does community and economic development planning, stakeholder engagement, real estate and urban planning strategy. Parter with clients to meet specific needs. Has previous experience working in Maine and previously received funds from the Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium. Appears that three staff would be working on the project, have a range of experience and capabilities to address their planned work. Not as much fisheries experience, some offshore wind experience though.
 - Project 1: Maine Governor's Energy Office (GEO)
 1. Collaboration with Colby College to collect existing data on Maine's fishing communities and identify methodological best practices as part of the effort to inform future impact analysis of offshore wind development.
 - Project 2: Center for Economic Growth, Advance Albany County Alliance, Port of Albany & Carver Companies
 1. The client brought Karp Strategies in to quantify the potential effects of various projects on job creation and the offshore wind supply chain in Upstate New York, providing strategic advisory services to ensure key stakeholders understand the real benefits of supporting offshore wind facilities development in the region. Did create a public facing analysis as part of a final product.
 - Project 3: HDR

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies, LLC

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Wilkinson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Department of Marine Resources

1. New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) brought on a consultant team led by HDR to develop one of 15 new studies titled Empowering Potential: Cataloging Existing Community Assets for Harnessing Offshore Wind Opportunities in New York's Disadvantaged Communities. Karp Strategies was tasked with providing an overview of the state's efforts to engage these communities, recommending strategies for effective collaboration, and shaping decisions for future projects. This work aimed to ensure offshore wind development meets clean energy objectives while driving meaningful economic opportunities for underserved populations.
2. Subcontractors
 - Colby College
 1. Dr. Alison Bates and likely two student researchers. Dr. Bates is a professor of environmental policy, and research is focused on public perceptions of offshore wind. Has done previous place-based studies in Maine. Worked with Karp Strategies previously in Phase 1 of this project.
 - Middlebury College, Center for the Blue Economy
 1. Dr. Charles Colgan, Director of the Center for the Blue Economy. Previous roles included working as a professor of public policy and management at Muskie. His team will lead the spatial and fisheries specific data analysis of the project.
 2. Fisheries experience?
3. Organizational Chart
 - Not a ton of detail
 - Large role for subcontractors?
4. Litigation (if applicable)
 - None
5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Complete
- II. Proposed Scope of Work
 1. Proposal includes all the required aspects from the RFA. Identifies a logical step-wise approach to the project from data collection through analysis. Proposal identifies four objectives and roadblocks.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies, LLC

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Wilkinson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Department of Marine Resources

- Linking offshore wind activity to onshore communities
 - Securing critical federal data
 - Combining socio-cultural and economic factors into one analysis
 - Building consensus and acceptance of project outcomes
2. Task 1: Project Initiation
- Project kick off
 - Background and early literature review
 - These tasks appear to help lay the foundation for the tasks to come- building stakeholder lists, identifying other organizations or research effort happening in this space
3. Task 2: Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Stakeholder mapping workshop
 - 1. Collaborators will leverage connections with fishing communities to lead this task, building on the network developed in Phase 1 of the project
 - Workshop will identify stakeholders in a stakeholder framework, clarifying their involvement at various levels. Education and awareness; collaborative data collection; critical decision making
 - 1. Are participants in the workshop participating in every aspect? Or just in one portion? How are participants going to be selected
 - Workshop results and stakeholder framework will be used to create the engagement plan to lay out contacts, methods, and timeline.
 - Regular check in with the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) to review, plan, etc. seems beneficial. Project review committee.
4. Task 3: Methodology Development
- Working definition of fishing dependent communities. The Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium has already spent a lot of time talking about this.
 - Economic Impact Analysis (EIA) and Socio-Cultural Assessment (SCA). Could use some more details about how decisions will be made.
5. Task 4: Complete Assessments

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies, LLC

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Wilkinson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Department of Marine Resources

- Concern about access to data and ability to actually conduct the assessments. If no National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data that could be a challenge.
- State/Council data might not suffice.
- 4A: following Task 3, completion of the EIA will require data collection and beginning Task 4 will collect any additional data.
 1. Will use collected data and EIA framework to analyze direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts of the projected offshore wind development in Maine.
 2. Outcome of task 4A will impact socio-cultural factors in task 4B
- 4B: Socio Cultural Assessment (SCA)
 1. Data collection- depending on needs identified in previous task will work to collect any updated data. Will fill data gaps with key outreach
 - a. 10-15 interviews with each priority community. Not sure if only 1-2 communities is going to be sufficient?
 2. Analysis- will synthesize the data defined by the SCA framework using a thematic analysis
 - a. This approach draws strongly on oral histories, personal anecdotes, cultural connections
- 6. Task 5: Synthesizing Impact on Fishing Dependent Communities
 - Plan to develop results report (report out from Task 4)
 - This task is light on details
- 7. Task 6: Final Deliverables
 - Meets RFA requirements
 - Key findings will be put into a final report that will provide overview of data collection, stakeholder engagement, methodology development, and EIA and SCA analysis
 - Will include recommendations for economic and/or socio-cultural metrics that require further research and understanding
 - Final report will come with a final presentation highlighting key findings
- 8. Implementation/work plan
 - Ambitious work plan. 11 months.

III. Cost Proposal

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies, LLC

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Wilkinson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Department of Marine Resources

1. Some clarity on who is doing what under each of Karp's tasks would have been nice. Karp has a lot more hours than other collaborators.
 2. Came in just under 400K limit.
 3. Total project costs: \$399,283.98
 4. Cost sharing: total of \$34,600
 - In kind contribution from Dr. Bates/Colby College: \$22,600
 - IMPLAN subscription for Maine if used in 2025: \$12,000
 1. What happens if this can't happen in 2025?
- IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support
1. Letter of commitment from Colby College
 - Would have been nice to see some additional letters of support.
 2. No letter from Middlebury College
 3. Availability of data
 - Concern with how federal data might be incorporated/accessed. State data likely won't be sufficient here.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies

DATE: February 12, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is required that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- Team has worked on multiple offshore wind (OSW) projects, including economic impact assessments, workforce development strategies, and engagement efforts tailored to fishing communities.
- Experience includes conducting socio-economic research for Maine's Governor's Energy Office (GEO) and other regional agencies, analyzing the impacts of OSW on maritime industries, and leading outreach to stakeholders affected by industry shifts. The team has also performed numerous economic impact analyses, integrating methodologies to assess workforce, business, and community development trends in relation to OSW infrastructure.
- Karp has a big team but is leaning too much on subcontractors. Seems like the bulk of the project will not be done by Karp.
- Project 1: Maine Governor's Energy Office
 - a. This project, led by Karp Strategies in collaboration with Colby College, helped GEO in assessing the socioeconomic landscape of the state's fishing communities amid OSW development. By gathering existing data, reviewing assessment frameworks, and engaging stakeholders, the project established a foundation for future impact analyses on the coexistence of Maine's fishing industry and OSW. The resulting centralized data repository will inform OSW development in the Gulf of Maine.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies

DATE: February 12, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

- Project 2: Center for Economic Growth, Advance Albany County Alliance, Port of Albany & Carver Companies
 - a. This project, led by Karp Strategies in collaboration with regional partners, assessed the economic impact of offshore wind facility development in Upstate New York's ports. By quantifying job creation, supply chain effects, and investment trade-offs, the team provided guidance to support OSW development despite financial and logistical challenges. The analysis helped stakeholders understand the benefits of OSW facilities, their workforce implications, and alternative port uses to inform future decision-making.
 - Project 3: HDR (Prime)
 - a. This project supported New York State's efforts to ensure OSW development benefits disadvantaged communities in alignment with the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. As part of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) Offshore Wind Master Plan 2.0, Karp Strategies analyzed community engagement efforts, impact mitigation measures, and workforce development investments across six OSW projects. The resulting study provided best practices and strategic recommendations to foster inclusive collaboration and drive economic opportunities for underserved populations.
2. Subcontractors
- a. Subcontractor 1: Colby College
 - Dr. Alison Bates will lead the Colby College partnership, supported by two student researchers, contributing expertise in stakeholder engagement and socio-cultural analyses. With research experience focused on public perceptions of OSW and experience in place-based studies of fishing communities in Maine, she and her team will collaborate on engagement strategy, lead on-the-ground interactions,

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies

DATE: February 12, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

support data collection, and provide insights on hyperlocal issues.

- Subcontractor 2: Middlebury College, Center for the Blue Economy
 1. Dr. Charles Colgan and his research team will lead the spatial and fisheries-specific data analysis for the economic impact assessment (EIA) workstream and will also provide advisory support across tasks as needed.

3. Organizational Chart

- a. Title provided for each person/group
 - b. Area of expertise only provided for subcontractors
 - c. Based on chart, Karp seems to mostly be providing project management support.
4. Litigation (if applicable)
- a. None
5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
- a. Complete

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Objectives

- Proposes a comprehensive socioeconomic analysis incorporating both qualitative and quantitative data to assess OSW impacts on coastal communities. However, achieving an effective synthesis of socio-cultural and economic factors remains a challenge due to the absence of standardized methodologies.
- Integrates socioeconomic and socio-cultural analysis, ensuring a holistic approach.
- Strategy for establishing clear spatial links between offshore activities and onshore communities.
- Includes a strategy for securing critical federal data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies

DATE: February 12, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) despite uncertainties.

- Develops a Project Review Committee to enhance credibility and stakeholder buy-in.
- Areas for Improvement:
 1. Ensure transparent criteria for integrating qualitative and quantitative assessments.

2. Task 1

- Review US and European OSW fisheries studies since fall 2024.
- Identify stakeholders [Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) and the Regional Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA)] to avoid duplicative research.

3. Task 2

- Workshop-based stakeholder mapping to categorize engagement levels:
 1. Education & Awareness: Light-touch engagement.
 2. Collaborative Data Collection: Coordination with agencies and researchers.
- Critical Decision Making & Feedback: Formation of a Project Review Committee.
- Consolidate findings into a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) with adaptable timelines.

4. Task 3

- Objectives:
 1. Develop a working definition for Fishing-Dependent Communities (FDCs).
 2. Establish analytical boundaries for defining FDCs based on geography, workforce concentration, and cultural significance.
- Methods:
 1. Scenario construction for OSW impact assessment.
 2. Geospatial economic modeling using IMPLAN and GIS-based spatial interaction models.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies

DATE: February 12, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

3. Economic Impact Analysis (EIA) integrating:
 - a. Industry-level effects (harvesting, processing, retail).
 - b. NOAA and DMR landing data.
 - c. Recreational fishing representation.
 - Expected Review Points:
 1. Client and Project Review Committee meetings to finalize FDC definitions and methodologies.
5. Task 4
 - Objectives:
 1. Identify impacted communities through a two-step process:
 - a. Develop and refine a Fishing-Dependent Community hypothesis.
 - b. Prioritize communities based on EIA results.
 - Methods:
 1. Conduct ethnographic fieldwork in 1-3 prioritized communities.
 2. Use semi-structured interviews (~30 total) with stakeholders (e.g., harbor masters, local businesses, fishers).
 3. Identify key socio-cultural indicators and validate them with community members.
 4. Apply qualitative data analysis (coding via qualitative data analysis software) to synthesize insights.
 - Expected Review Points:
 1. Client review of Preliminary Results Report and further refinements via stakeholder engagement.
6. Task 5
 - Objectives:
 1. Refine definitions of Fishing-Dependent and Impacted Communities.
 2. Update the Results Report based on findings from economic and socio-cultural analyses.
 - Methods:

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies

DATE: February 12, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

1. Translate findings into policy recommendations for OSW development.
2. Define positive and negative socioeconomic impacts.
- Expected Review Points:
 1. Client and Project Review Committee validation of refined results.

7. Task 6

- Objectives:
 1. Summarize key findings and methodologies in a comprehensive final report and presentation.
- Methods:
 1. Provide an overview of methodologies and key findings.
 2. Highlight data gaps and recommendations for further research.
- Expected Review Points:
 1. Client meeting to review deliverables.
 2. Consortium Advisory Board meeting to discuss project outcomes.

III. Cost Proposal – Budget Narrative

1. Literature review (Task 1) cost (~\$32k) seems too high for the task at hand, especially given that there was a comprehensive literature review done last year (Baseline Inventory study).

Task	Estimated Hours	Total Cost Requested
Task 1	216	\$31,949.18
Task 2	144	\$21,330.80
Task 3	818	\$121,445.68
Task 4	926	\$126,211.89
Task 5	226	\$40,591.59
Task 6	274	\$57,754.84
Total	2,604	\$399,283.98

2. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies

DATE: February 12, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

- In donated time by Dr. Bates and Colby College= \$22,600
- IMPLAN subscription for Maine (statewide) if used in 2025 =\$12,000
- Total = \$34,600
- IMPLAN subscription could be an issue if timeline is moved; requested cost is just below budget, so there is no chance of acquiring a new one.

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations

- Letter of Commitment from Colby College
- No Letter of Commitment from Middlebury College
- No Letters of Support
 - Given their prior engagement with stakeholders, including letters of support would have boosted this section.

2. Availability of data

- The project would need someone from NOAA as part of the team to acquire data due to it being confidential.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

Directions: Follow the sections of your RFA to develop a bulleted outline for notes. Delete the sample below and these directions and replace with your own outline based on your RFA.

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- Karp Strategies is an equity driven WBE/DBE/SBE-certified urban strategy consultancy with an emphasis on community and economic development planning, community and stakeholder engagement, and real estate and urban planning strategy
- Karp Strategies' work is focused throughout New York, the Mid-Atlantic, and New England
- Karp Strategies was awarded the baseline socioeconomic inventory project, also funded by the Research Consortium
 1. Therefore very familiar with the project that serves as the basis for this RFA. The proposed project team has significant overlap with the team that completed the baseline inventory project
- Project 1: Maine Governor's Energy Office
 1. Karp Strategies was selected to collect existing data on Maine's fishing communities and identify best practices to inform future impact analyses of offshore wind development
 2. Methodology included research and targeted stakeholder outreach that resulted in a socioeconomic data inventory

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

3. Demonstrates highly applicable experience that serves as the foundation for this RFA project
- Project 2: Center for Economic Growth, Advance Albany County Alliance, Port of Albany & Carver Companies
 1. Karp Strategies hired to quantify the potential effects of various projects on job creation and the offshore wind supply chain in upstate New York
 2. Scope included conducting an economic impact assessment that was designed to objectively present the cumulative impact of the projects and a comparative assessment to understand the tradeoffs of using the port for various uses
 3. Demonstrates ability to complete an economic impact assessment while working with a range of stakeholders
- Project 3: HDR
 1. Karp Strategies was a subcontractor to HDR on NYSERDA-funded project to catalog existing community assets for harnessing offshore wind opportunities in NY's disadvantaged communities
 2. Karp's scope included providing an overview of the New York state's efforts to engage disadvantaged communities, recommending strategies for effective collaboration, and shaping decisions for future projects
 3. Demonstrates ability to conduct stakeholder engagement and desktop research
2. Subcontractors
 - Subcontractor 1: Colby College
 1. Dr. Alison Bates' research is focused on public perceptions and attitudes towards offshore wind and has conducted place-based studies of Maine fishing communities funded through a variety federal and state sources
 2. In partnership with two student researchers, Dr. Bates will provide key support on stakeholder engagement and socio-cultural analyses, specifically co-creating the stakeholder engagement strategy, leading on-the-ground engagement, and providing strong support or data gathering and sociocultural analysis

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

3. Dr. Bates and her students are Maine-based and her lab has a strong history of conducting offshore wind research, including previous Consortium-funded work
 - Subcontractor 2: Middlebury College, Center for the Blue Economy (CBE)
 1. Dr. Charles Colgan is the director of CBE and serves as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Ocean and Coastal Economics
 2. Dr. Colgan was previously a Professor of Public Policy and Management at the Muskie School at the University of Southern Maine and his long term economic forecasts are used by Maine Department of Transportation and the Economic Development Districts of Maine. He held numerous positions in Maine state government and currently serves on the Commission on Infrastructure Rebuilding and Resilience
 3. Dr. Colgan and his team will lead the spatial and fisheries-specific data analysis of the Economic Impact Assessment and provide expert advisory across other tasks
 4. Dr. Colgan has a strong background in economic analyses and familiarity with Maine's economy- how fisheries specific is his expertise?

3. Organizational Chart

- Included
- Includes the key team members but doesn't list specific team members beyond them
 1. What are the qualifications of unidentified team members?

4. Litigation (if applicable)

- No litigation against any members of the team within the past 5 years

5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)

- Included

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Objectives

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

- Introduction clearly demonstrates the project team's familiarity with relevant prior work conducted and an understanding of next steps and the sensitivity of this work
 - Stated objectives include linking offshore activity to onshore communities, securing critical federal data, combining socio-cultural and economic factors into one comprehensive analysis, and building consensus and acceptance of project outcomes
2. Task 1: Project initiation
- Plan to re-review data inventory and add any recent literature published since fall 2024 and develop initial stakeholder list and list of ongoing relevant research efforts (Responsible Offshore Science Alliance and Gulf of Maine Research Institute mentioned)
 - Key deliverables include kickoff meeting, project work plan, background and literature review, and preliminary key stakeholder list
3. Task 2: Stakeholder engagement plan
- Plan to host a stakeholder mapping workshop that identifies key stakeholders and their level involvement throughout the project
 - Include the creation of a Project Review Committee with a note that the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) would play a large role in managing it
 - Key deliverables include stakeholder register and stakeholder engagement plan
4. Task 3: Methodology development
- CBE proposed to lead the Economic Impact Analysis (EIA) and Karp and Colby will lead the Socio-Cultural Assessment (SCA)
 - Identify first step as developing a working definition of "Fishing-Dependent Communities" and that the definition is likely to evolve based on results of Tasks 3-4
 - 1. Agree this is important but could easily take up a lot of time early on- better to wait until preliminary assessments are completed?

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

- EIA proposed methodology is to determine data needs and availability, develop framework (scenario construction and spatial interaction leading to EIA)
- SCA proposed methodology is to identify affected communities by further refining fishing-dependent communities definition (with stakeholder outreach factored in) and prioritize that list by the results of the EIA. Field work will be conducted in 1-3 communities. Existing data metrics will be prioritized based on stakeholder feedback to create a short-list of metrics that will inform the qualitative SCA
- Key deliverables include working definition of fishing-dependent communities and a methodology memo for each the EIA and SCA

5. Task 4: Complete assessments

- EIA will be completed through data collection and then analysis. Data collection will start at contract award given that data (geospatial, landings, and other economic metrics identified in Task 3) from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), and/or New England Fisheries Management Council is anticipated. Analysis will include the direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts of the projected offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine (not only capturing the change in fishing activity but how offshore wind activity may create new jobs and economic value). Results will be incorporated into the SCA to inform which communities should be focused on
- SCA will also go through data collection and then analysis. Project team will fill identified data gaps through outreach with stakeholders (aiming for ~10-15 interviews for two communities, total ~30 interviews). Anticipate areas of focus being mental health, dockside employment, and importance/heritage of generation fishing to community culture. Analysis will be qualitative (thematic analysis) that iteratively defines and refines major concepts that emerge from the raw data
- Key deliverables include preliminary results report that includes results from EIA and SCA, EIA data outputs, and SCA data collection notes

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

6. Task 5: Synthesizing impact on fishing-dependent communities
 - Propose to synthesize the outputs of the EIA and SCA to determine where and how Maine communities may be impacted by offshore wind development
 - Will do so by meeting internally to evaluate findings, refine key definitions, and revise/augment the preliminary results report from Task 4
 - Key deliverables include a results report (10-15 pages)
 - Relatively light on methodology details
7. Task 6: Final deliverables
 - Key deliverables include final report (12-15 pages) and a final presentation
 - Will also deliver a final presentation to the Consortium Advisory Board
 - Meets RFA requirements
8. Implementation – Work Plan
 - Gantt chart included
 - Proposed project timeline= 11 months
 1. Timeline may be tight depending on ease of securing data

III. Cost Proposal

1. Budget narrative is included and narrative details/assumptions are included per task. Note that there may be some budget shifts from task to task depending on how efficiently research questions can be addressed
2. Budget table broken out by task and Karp vs subcontractors but doesn't further elaborate on which Karp team members will perform which tasks
3. Not clear on the two expenses labeled "community compensation" and "@ Risk Model"
 - Task 1= \$31,949
 - Task 2= \$21,330
 - Task 3= \$121,445
 - Task 4= \$126,211
 - Task 5= \$40,591
 - Task 6= \$57,754
 - Total requested= \$399,283
 - Falls right at the max budget

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Karp Strategies

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

4. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - Donation of time from Dr. Bates and Colby College and IMPLAN subscription for Maine (statewide) if used in 2025
 1. What happens to the subscription if project runs into 2026?
 - Combined in-kind cost share of \$34,600
- IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support
 1. Partnerships/ collaborations
 - Letter of Commitment included from Colby College
 - Don't see letter of Commitment from CBE
 - No other letters of support included
 2. Availability of data
 - Data availability addressed in the Proposed Scope of Work section- project team has had soft conversations with NOAA. Acknowledge that NOAA staff will have to be a co-PI and this was unable happen prior to contract award. Backup plan is to work with DMR landings data. Team plans to begin outreach and partnership formation as soon as possible after contract award

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Lynker Corporation

DATE: February 25, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Douglas Christel

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: NMFS GARFO

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

- Qualifications
 - Lynker
 - Past work with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) (ports on west coast, shellfish dredge fisheries in Mid-Atlantic Bight - ongoing) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (port biological sampling program and stock assessments) seems relevant, but not many details of that work are provided and some work is ongoing.
 - Experience with social science and engagement is beneficial.
 - Subcontractors – Seem qualified – familiar with two of them
- Proposed Scope of Work
 - Develop multi-dimensional indicator of community vulnerability to impacts to be used for baseline info and monitoring
 - Phase 1
 - It is unclear how floating offshore wind affects the utility of the Social Indicators of Fishing Community Vulnerability and Resilience as a means to identify preliminary communities to study. Why is new methodology required for an offshore spatial use impact assessment specific to floating wind projects? Additional details about floating offshore wind benefits to communities can be used to revise/clarify potential vulnerabilities, but doesn't suggest the indicators are invalid.
 - Task 1
 - This task is not clearly defined, especially considering the suggestion in the Phase 1/2 description that existing NOAA

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Lynker Corporation

DATE: February 25, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Douglas Christel

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: NMFS GARFO

indicators may not be effective for floating wind project evaluations. Will new indicators be created? They suggest that they have a working hypothesis about how to address those gaps and developed methodologies, but do not describe either.

- Task 2
 - Clarity is needed on when and how stakeholders will be engaged with initial results and findings, including which results/findings will be shared.
 - Review of previous efforts to engage with stakeholders (e.g., from completed Northeast Sea Grant projects) could help inform which communities may be subject to fatigue.
 - Failure to at least recognize past work and available data in identifying communities to engage seems to be a deficiency of this proposal and could delay project deliverables and timing.
- Task 3
 - The proposal should describe the “conceptual and methodological framework” if it differs from other approaches referenced in the proposal, as implied in the text.
 - Adaptation of the Jepson and Colburn method for defining fishing community seems appropriate.
 - While familiarity with fisheries data through work on other projects is relevant, it would be inappropriate to imply that such work provides access to such data for the purposes of this proposal; you cannot use data made available for one project through applicable access decisions to facilitate access to the same confidential data for a different project that may not warrant or allow similar access (e.g., funding mechanism is different).
 - Proposed development of an indicator for economic revitalization is a good step forward to address issues related to offshore wind development and community impacts/vulnerability.
 - Preliminary analysis suggests they’ve started to apply their methods, which is an encouraging element of this proposal. Tying the biological status/trends of predominant fisheries for communities listed in Table 1 would enhance the proposal’s objectives and address/isolate variables described in the narrative.
 - The scope of off-site qualitative data collection/evaluation seems large and time consuming.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Lynker Corporation

DATE: February 25, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Douglas Christel

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: NMFS GARFO

- Collective identity is an important element to consider and a benefit to include in Phase 2 along with community identity profiles, but it is unclear how these identities will be collected. If it is through ethnographic interviews on-site, that should be clarified, but the description of source(s) of textual analysis is lacking.
- Task 5
 - The community impact reports and the three key components seem appropriate to the objectives of the RFA.
 - Clarity on whether NOAA's Social Vulnerability Indicators (SVIs) will be used or if a modified set of indicators (see previous comments) will serve as the foundation for evaluating and monitoring vulnerability is needed to ensure we understand the outputs of this proposal.
- Stakeholder Engagement
 - The proposal suggests they will use the Maine Fishermen's Forum to establish relationships with stakeholders and form advisory groups, but that is before any decision on this proposal will be reached.
- While they note data will be shared with publicly accessible databases, it should be acknowledged that such databases don't exist for socio-cultural data, as discussed by the Regional Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) during recent meetings. Therefore, specificity in where the data would be stored is needed.
- Cost Proposal
 - Hourly wages seem high for some participants, including for "other labor" later defined as research assistants.
 - Fringe benefit rates are not unreasonable.
 - More detail is needed to describe and justify the travel costs.
- Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support
 - None included (with a justification statement)

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Lynker Corporation

DATE: February 19, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Wilkinson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Department of Marine Resources

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience:

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- Have done a lot of technical work for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), on the East and West coasts. Looks like they would bring a lot of relevant expertise to the table.
- Project 1: Port Infrastructure Needs of Commercial and Recreational Fisheries along United States West coast
 1. Lynker is a subcontractor on this project. They provide technical assistance and consulting for the project that is documenting port infrastructure and services that serve commercial and recreational fishing communities along West Coast so that future offshore wind related activities can avoid, minimize, offset conflicts. Lynker brings social science expertise and stakeholder engagement to the project. Also in field site visits.
- Project 2: Fishing Industry Spatial Needs Analysis- Mid Atlantic Bight
 1. Lynker is working with the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and BOEM to assess spatial needs of commercial shellfish dredge fisheries to enhance environmental assessments of offshore wind projects in mid-Atlantic bight. Project management, ensuring deliverables, etc. Data management and ensuring

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Lynker Corporation

DATE: February 19, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Wilkinson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Department of Marine Resources

compliance with federal data requirements. Subcontract with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science

- Project 3: Data Collection, Analysis and Support Services
 1. Work with NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) to provide data collection, analysis and support services. Access and work with confidential federal fisheries landings and permit data. Reviewing and auditing fisheries trip data, comparing landings data for target species. Lots of data management support and ensuring compliance with federal data standards
 - Good experience in fisheries, and project management but not sure what their socioeconomic analysis experience is based on these provided reference projects.
2. Subcontractors
 1. Applicant does not intend to use subcontractors
 3. Organizational Chart
 - Included, Principal Investigator (PI) central to project with two supporting scientists and three field/secondary analysis team members
 - Alyssa Maraj Grahame, PhD (political economist), Christopher Hawkins PhD (quantitative fisheries social scientist), Chase Perren (natural resource scientist), Thomas Remington (fisheries scientist) and Sarah Pautzke (fisheries and marine professional)
 - Looks like Dr. Grahame is not actually a Lynker employee yet -- could be a limiting factor. Not sure if this is a potential issue? Same with hiring Maine based staff -- is there a contingency plan if the hiring doesn't go as planned?
 4. Litigation (if applicable)
 - None
 5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Included/complete

II. Proposed Scope of Work

- Phase 1: Develop a methodology for conducting baseline economic assessments using geospatial and economic data. Identify which

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Lynker Corporation

DATE: February 19, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Wilkinson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Department of Marine Resources

communities are most economically vulnerable to impact from offshore wind development

- Phase 2: Develop a methodology for characterizing potential socio-cultural impacts of those vulnerable communities identified in phase
 1. Proposal describes how 'off the shelf' approaches are lacking with regard to the RFA objectives but does not do a great job detailing how this would be improved.
 - Proposal could use more details about how they see including cultural aspects with the socio-economic. Indicate they will meld economic and socioeconomic appraisals into a multi-dimensional measure, but unclear how or what that really means.
2. Task 1: Review Indicators and Recommendations
 - Will review baseline inventory report. Will use baseline work to develop approaches to subsequent tasks.
 - This section seems a little lacking
 3. Task 2: Stakeholder Engagement Plan
 - How will they identify key stakeholders? Narrative discusses use of an approved discussion guide -- what kinds of topics will be in that? When does engagement occur?
 - Will create a Project Advisory Committee (PAC). Members will be from communities not selected for ethnographic study
 - Do not want to contact potential PAC members until final plans are made. Can understand wanting to wait, but some indication of how they plan to identify people would have been helpful.
 4. Task 3: Adapt and Define Assessment Methodologies
 - Cited older literature -- was there more recent work they could have pulled from?
 - Felt like there should have been more details on the methodology
 - Unclear if they are going to use publicly available data or if they need access to confidential data.
 5. Task 4: Conduct Assessments
 - Will use methodology described in Task 3 and will write a draft economic impact assessment report to facilitate selection of communities for next phase. Phase 2 will deploy sociocultural

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Lynker Corporation

DATE: February 19, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Wilkinson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Department of Marine Resources

methodology using new data to deliver the sociocultural impact report.

6. Task 4.1: New Data Collection Plans and Logistics

- Plan to hire four Maine-based individuals to support data collection. Will intersperse offsite data collection and analysis with on site field research. What if the hiring process takes longer than anticipated?
- Will work to gain baseline understanding of the communities' cultural and historical features/values/identities
- Plan to cluster site visits outside July/August to mitigate travel costs and number of study communities.
 1. Will coordinate with PAC
 2. Target key informants -- how will they identify these people?

7. Task 5: Identify Fishing Communities

- Information gained from offsite and onsite work will be used to identify communities most impacted by floating offshore wind floating offshore wind. Will create a Community Impact Report, that has 3 parts:
 1. Economic Impact Profile
 2. Community Identify Profile
 3. Stakeholder Perspectives on Floating Offshore Wind and Socio-cultural vulnerability
- How many communities?

8. Task 6: Final Report and Communication Products

- What is proposed seems reasonable and in-line with what is asked for in the RFA

9. Quality Assurance and Compliance

- Will have detailed protocols to monitor/validate data collection, ensure consistency and adhere to standards.
 1. Some description of the 'detailed protocols' would have helped fill out this section

10. Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration

- Introductory meetings, industry events, forming advisory groups.
- Align with Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA)/Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC) guidelines- but not clear if they already have a connection with these groups.

11. Project Management and Coordination

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Lynker Corporation

DATE: February 19, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Wilkinson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Department of Marine Resources

- Alignment with the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) and the PAC
- Kickoff meeting, future meetings at regular intervals

12. Implementation

- Gantt chart included
- Seems ambitious

III. Cost Proposal

1. Budget narrative

- Most of the costs appear to be for staff time. A fair amount is set aside for travel in Task 4 and for stakeholder meetings and logistics. Some detail about what is thought to be included in that would be helpful
- Included in budget is \$184,878.60 for new data collection (including salaries, materials, travel, other costs and indirect)
- Total budget Requested: \$371,296.91

2. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)

- \$37,365.40 of in-kind from applicant for staff member time (200 hours for Dr. Hawkins and 40 hours for Thomas Remington)

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Proposal discusses how the applicant is wary to identify potential collaborators until a final plan for the project is established between Principal Investigators (PIs) and GEO. While I understand that perspective, it would have been nice to see if the applicant had considered who might be potential collaborators, or to identify where (if) they have existing connections.
2. Availability of data
 - Applicant does have experience with confidential data (Project 3 in background/qualifications). But not clear if they have access to what they would need for this project.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Lynker

DATE: February 21, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is required that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- Relationship with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries (as service providers).
- Work for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on East Coast and West Coast on fisheries focused projects.
- Extensive experience in working on projects related to ocean, coastal, and fisheries science and management across the US for federal, state agencies, universities, and non-profit organizations, which alludes to great familiarity with federal and state standards and expectations.
- Given the large team and collective extensive knowledge, they are able to handle interdisciplinary projects like this one.
- Overall, Lynker seems well-equipped to meet the RFA's requirements through its extensive federal and state experience, proven management capabilities, and domain expertise in fisheries and offshore wind.
- Project 1: Port Infrastructure Needs of Commercial and Recreational Fisheries Along the U.S. West Coast (subcontractor to Hamer Environmental LP; prime client: BOEM)
 - 1. Worked with Hammer Environmental LP to provide technical assistance and consulting services to this project that is documenting existing port infrastructure and services used

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Lynker

DATE: February 21, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

by the fishing communities along the West Coast to inform future offshore wind activities.

2. Lynker demonstrates the ability to meet the RFA's requirements through its experience in combining technical and social science methods, particularly in conducting economic assessments, stakeholder engagement, and field data collection.
 3. This project addresses potential space-use conflicts between commercial fishing and offshore energy, familiarizing Lynker with the issues and dynamics that are central to the RFA's objectives regarding floating offshore wind development. Although, issues might not be the same between coasts.
- Project 2: Fishing Industry Spatial Needs Analysis – Mid Atlantic Bight (BOEM – Environmental Sciences Division)
 1. Lynker is responsible for project management and coordination, ensuring all deliverables meet the high standards set by BOEM to assess spatial needs.
 2. Project exemplifies Lynker's ability to manage complex projects and ensure quality of all deliverables.
 3. Their experience in facilitating stakeholder communication, conducting quantitative analysis using fisheries data, and generating actionable recommendations demonstrates the organization's ability to address socio-economic impacts of offshore wind, aligning well with the RFA's requirements.
 - Project 3: Data Collection, Analysis and Support Services [NOAA Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO)]
 1. Lynker provided data collection, analysis, and support services for GARFO.
 2. Worked with confidential federal fisheries landings and permit data for fisheries stock assessments, showing ability to manage and analyze confidential federal fisheries data.
 3. By collaborating with the fishing industry to identify and correct discrepancies in landing reports and providing comprehensive data audit support, the organization

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Lynker

DATE: February 21, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

showcases its strong stakeholder engagement and quality control processes.

2. Subcontractors
 - No subcontractors
3. Organizational Chart
 - Provided
 - Identifies role of project members
4. Litigation (if applicable)
 - None
5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Complete

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Objectives

- Propose to develop a multi-dimensional indicator of fishery and community vulnerability to potential and actual impacts from regional offshore wind development activities that can be used for baseline information collection, and for monitoring thereafter.
- Proactively thinking about monitoring, which will be of need in the future when offshore wind development in the area begins. Good that future monitoring could be tied to past assessments seamlessly.
- Propose to meld the economic and sociocultural appraisals into an integrated multi-dimensional measure.
- Tackling the constant problem of how to integrate social and economic data into one analysis/assessment.

2. Task 1

- Review indicators and provide recommendations for their application.
- Already conducted a preliminary analysis of existing data and indicators. Team established that they have identified gaps between the data and the RFA objectives, formulated working hypotheses about how to address those gaps, and developed appropriate methodologies that are well-established

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Lynker

DATE: February 21, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

- Well-established methodologies were not pointed out.
- Given that they completed a preliminary analysis, they should be able to move quickly into Task 2.

3. Task 2

- Develop discussion guide to collect economic assessment data.
- Create interview guide for semi-structured ethnographic interviews.
- Create Project Advisory Committee (PAC).
- Outcomes, including stakeholders' feedback and revised interpretations will be systematically documented.
 1. This is important to ensure transparency.
- Identify key stakeholders and send invitations to collaborate
 1. Details on how they will identify key stakeholders would have been beneficial.
 2. Commitment against bias is good but might be going too far here.
 3. Participation of stakeholders directly contributing to the project is beneficial to aid trust of future results from the communities, as well as letting participating stakeholders know that their input is welcomed and heard.
 4. Member-checking (or participant validation) helps keep participants involved during the length of the project + facilitates trust and acceptance in the results.
 5. Team did not engage with any stakeholder group at this time. This could have been an opportunity to start building relationships and to let communities know of proposed project, contributing to early progress on trust building with stakeholders. Although this decision was made to avoid the appearance of bias, a similar outcome could have been achieved by engaging with a few groups across a broad geographical area.
 6. They also mentioned stakeholder fatigue.
 - a. Although this can become a real issue, it occurs less when importance of the research and their participation is well understood.
 - b. As with a lot of things, it is also context dependent.

4. Task 3

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Lynker

DATE: February 21, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

- Conceptual framework for economic and social assessments
 1. Use Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) to construct a complementary indicator that accounts for vulnerabilities and prospects for economic revitalization
 2. Apply Social Vulnerability Analysis (SVA) as the basis of the framework
 3. Built upon NOAA's Community Social Vulnerability Index (CSVI) with a focus on the indicators commercial fishing reliance and poverty
 4. Note: NOAA CSVI Map tool no longer has a public facing website
- Should have put Jepson & Colburn's 2013 definition of fishing community.
- Team has experience using NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) confidential fishery data, as well as the Fisheries Knowledge Trust's confidential individual trip Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data.
- They touched upon how it is important to establish that offshore wind is not the only critical stressors impacting said communities; important to acknowledge so as to not conflate results.
- Unsure as to whether the team will need access to federal economic data or will extract data from assessment reports.
- Targeted sample of 12 communities
 1. Time constraint concerns given their proposed timeline of a year.
 2. Nonetheless, given the lack of qualitative data (as established in the baseline inventory study), it is important to collect data from a broad range of communities to be able to compare information between vulnerable and non-vulnerable communities.
 3. More details would have been useful to understand their new indicator.
 4. Off-site data can be collected ahead of on-site visits to avoid duplication and after site visits to fill missing gaps.
 5. Being knowledgeable about the communities before visiting them can promote trust among stakeholders and team.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Lynker

DATE: February 21, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

- Collective identity/Community identity profiles allow us to understand subjective well-being perceptions which informs personal and communities' point of views and actions, giving insight as to how they might respond to offshore wind.
- On-site qualitative data; team will undertake site visits to a representative sample of communities, particularly outside of peak tourism season (July-August) in order to maximize interactions with year-round residents.
 1. Again, time constraint concerns. Especially if on-site data collection will occur after August and not before July.

5. Task 4

- Conduct economic and socio-cultural impact assessment (Phase 1 & 2)
- Deliverable: Draft economic impact assessment report
- Deliverable: Sociocultural impact report
 1. Methodology from Task 3; this methodology will extract an extensive amount of information from communities in the Gulf of Maine, including historical data, which will be good to not only establish potential offshore wind impacts but also a baseline before construction in the area begins.
- Economic assessment will use existing economic data
 1. Ability to get data from agencies is a concern.
- Optional Subtask 4: Additional Data Collection
 1. Off-site data collection: gives more historical context that can be useful to understand current community dynamics.
 2. On-site data collection "identify and contact as many potential participants prior to site visits": good plan for saving time and to have a more extensive reach of stakeholders.
- Cost effectiveness: left over space in the budget is good in case a large gap in data collection or overall knowledge becomes evident and there is a need to collect more data, so long as the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) finds it sensible.

6. Task 5

- Develop a Community Impacts Report, which can be expanded geographically and longitudinally, consisting of three parts.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Lynker

DATE: February 21, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

- The parts and organization of the project are comprehensive with potential to integrate future research.
- More details on the economic assessment would be helpful.

7. Task 6

- Final report will include findings and recommendations for future work.
- Quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) and communication with key stakeholders throughout the project enhances trust in results.

III. Cost Proposal – Budget Narrative

Task	Estimated Hours	Total Cost Request
Task 1	141	\$17,270.62
Task 2	141	\$12,570.62
Task 3	233	\$22,602.30
Task 4	1,242	\$185,135.92
Task 5	141	\$12,570.62
Task 6	814	\$72,716.80
Others:		
Indirect costs		\$48,430.03
Total	2,712	\$371,296.91

1. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)

- Lynker contributing \$37,356.40 as in-kind cost match (staff members' time)

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. No subcontractor; no letter of commitment needed.
2. No letters of support.
 - They argued against it on the basis of reducing perceived bias.
3. Availability of data
 - There is no longer a Community Social Vulnerability Indicators (CSVI) public facing webpage.
 - Team would need to put in a request through NOAA for data; unsure as to whether that data is shareable at the moment.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Lynker

DATE: February 18, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- Lynker is a company that has over 15 years of experience working with government, industry, and non-profits on projects related to ocean, coastal, and fisheries science and management
- Have worked with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) fisheries and ocean science and management team and have more recently started working with Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on East and West Coast fisheries related projects
- Project team bios are included and demonstrate relevant expertise
 1. Proposed Principal Investigator (PI) has some connections to Maine but less clear what the rest of the team's familiarity with Maine fishing communities
- Project 1: Port Infrastructure Needs of Commercial and Recreational Fisheries Along the U.S. West Coast
 1. Lynker serving as a subcontractor on a BOEM project to document existing port infrastructure and services that serve the commercial and recreational fishing communities along the West Coast
 2. Lynker's specific scope includes the social science methodology and stakeholder engagement, implementing strategies to involve stakeholders from the fishing industries,

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Lynker

DATE: February 18, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

- ensuring effective communication and participation, and includes site visits to 10 ports
- 3. Demonstrates relevant experience, particularly related to stakeholder engagement
- Project 2: Fishing Industry Spatial Needs Analysis- Mid Atlantic Bight
 - 1. Lynker working with BOEM and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) to assess the spatial needs of commercial shellfish dredge fisheries
 - 2. Lynker specifically responsible for project management and coordination of all deliverables, including executing the Project Management Plan and the Data Management Plan
 - 3. Demonstrates strong project management capabilities but a subcontractor to Lynker is conducting the quantitative analysis, doesn't highlight Lynker's own analysis expertise
- Project 3: Data Collection, Analysis, and Support Services
 - 1. Lynker provides data collection, analysis, and support services to NOAA's Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
 - 2. Specifically, this involves accessing and working with confidential federal fisheries landings and permit data and conducting data audits and ensuring compliance with federal data handling standards
 - 3. Demonstrates direct experience working with confidential federal fisheries data
- 2. Subcontractors
 - Subcontractor 1: No subcontractors are planned to be used
- 3. Organizational Chart
 - Included
 - Articulates roles of key team members
 - Notes that the proposed PI is not a current Lynker employee, nor are research assistants and that they will be hired upon award
 - 1. Brings uncertainty to the application and project timeline
- 4. Litigation (if applicable)
 - No current or past litigation cases within the last five years in which the company has been named

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Lynker

DATE: February 18, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)

- Included

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Objectives

- Proposed to develop a multi-dimensional indicator of fishery and community vulnerability to potential and actual impacts from regional offshore wind (OSW) development activities that can be used for baseline information collection, and for monitoring thereafter
 1. Identifies critiques of other approaches but doesn't fully articulate the benefits of their proposed approach
- Proposes to tackle project in two phases: Phase 1 will consist of developing a methodology for conducting baseline economic assessments using existing geospatial and economic data and identifying which communities are most economically vulnerable to OSW development and Phase 2 will consist of developing a methodology for characterizing potential socio-cultural impacts of those vulnerable communities identified in Phase 1

2. Task 1: Review indicators and recommendations

- Highlights the team's familiarity with existing data and indicators but is otherwise light on the details for how this task will be carried out
- Key deliverables include a concise but comprehensive summary report of indicators and recommendations for the application of the indicators

3. Task 2: Stakeholder Engagement Plan

- Propose to identify key stakeholders and invite them to participate (either virtually or in-person). Plan to use an approved discussion guide for interviews collecting economic assessment data and an approved interview guide for semi-structured ethnographic interviews. Will create a Project Advisory Committee (PAC) consisting of members not from the communities selected for ethnographic study to avoid conflicts of interest and conflated interpretations of data gathered

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Lynker

DATE: February 18, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

1. How to invite PAC members this early without knowing which communities will be studied?
 - Rationale clearly laid out but minimal details given about what will go into the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and how the Plan will shape the project
4. Task 3: Adapt and define assessment methodologies
 - Framework for the economic and social assessments will be based on Social Vulnerability Analysis, a framework that NOAA has used to explore the social and economic well-being of coastal/fishing communities
 - Propose to use two economic indicators, commercial fishing reliance and poverty, for the initial assessment of community vulnerability and then factor in projects for economic revitalization
 - Hypothesize that the most direct, measurable economic impacts from OSW will be felt in communities geographically closest to OSW installations (including onshore infrastructure)
 - Acknowledge fishing communities are facing economic challenges beyond OSW so propose to identify a targeted sample of ~12 communities to further examine vulnerability and socio-cultural features through qualitative and ethnographic methods
 - Sociocultural impact assessment part of proposed Phase 2. Propose to collect off-site data (newspapers, social media, etc) to prepare for onsite visits, fill missing gaps as necessary, and contribute to community identify profiles (see Task 5) and collect on-site qualitative data
 - Literature cited is generally more than 10 years old- are they familiar with more recent work in this rapidly evolving space?
5. Task 4: Conduct assessments
 - Economic assessment will be conducted as part of Phase 1 and use existing sources to compile and analyze comprehensive economic data on all Maine coastal and fishing communities with data available. Assessment will result in a draft economic impact assessment report that identifies the communities to focus on for Phase 2

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Lynker

DATE: February 18, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

- Anticipate Phase 1 only taking 3-4 weeks but Phase 2 will yield new data to incorporate into the economic assessment
 - Phase 2 will result in new data and include the sociocultural impact report, which will provide qualitative analysis and actionable insights into the social and cultural effects of OSW development
 - This section includes additional details about the research team, data collection plans and logistics for both off- and on-site data
 - Concern that many of the research assistants that will be collecting data are yet to be identified/hired
 1. What will be their qualifications?
6. Task 5: Identify fishing communities
- Key deliverables include a Community Impacts Report that could be expanded geographically or longitudinally with future research:
 1. Economic Impact Profile- summarize and narrate current status of each community's economy
 2. Community Identify Profiles- based on qualitative text analysis and offer a concise, high-level sociocultural and historical snapshot of each community
 3. Stakeholder Perspectives on OSW and Socio-cultural Vulnerability- based on field research and include accounts of stakeholders' lived experiences, perceptions, and attitudes regarding community vulnerability
7. Task 6: Final report and communication products
- Key deliverables include a final report that encapsulates key findings, the methodology, and recommendations for future work and a presentation
 - Meets RFA requirements
8. Implementation – Work Plan
- Gantt chart included
 - Proposed project timeline of 1 year
 - Not clear how Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be implemented throughout the project
 - Include sections on QA/QC, stakeholder engagement, and project management
 1. Mention establishing relationships with key stakeholders as crucial to fostering collaboration with Maine fishing

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: Lynker

DATE: February 18, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

industries. Concern that deep relationship building won't occur within the project's 1 year timeline if no relationships currently exist

III. Cost Proposal

1. Budget narrative is included and breaks out the costs associated with salaries/wages, materials/supplies, travel, other costs, indirect costs, and in-kind match. Cost details surrounding Task 4.1 (New Data Collection) are further broken out
 - Travel and indirect costs seem high
2. Budget table broken out by team members. Some uncertainty around "Other Labor"
 - Task 1= \$17,270
 - Task 2= \$12,570
 - Task 3= \$22,602
 - Task 4= \$185,135
 - Task 5= \$12,570
 - Task 6= \$72,716
 - Plus \$48,430 in indirect costs
 - Total requested= \$371,430
 - Falls below the max budget
3. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - Offering two staff members' time as match (total of 240 hours)
 - \$37,356 offered as in-kind match

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations
 - None included
 - Lynker openly acknowledges Letters of Support is a scored section of the RFA but their experience found, for methodological reasons, it is prudent to wait to make contact with potential stakeholders until plans are finalized with GEO
2. Availability of data
 - Unclear what their data access plan is

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: February 26, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Douglas Christel

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: NMFS GARFO

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

1. Organization qualifications and expertise

- Awareness of issues, conducting work, assessing/working with confidential data, and the Regional Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) framework
- Background work for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) assessing natural resource damages at ports (2016 port modification study) will help inform work needed for this proposal. The associated approach developing port profiles could be utilized for this proposal as well.
- Supported the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) development of "northeast fisheries regulations," but doesn't describe what they did.
- Project 2 suggests they helped prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a wind project, but doesn't note which project they prepared this document. Specification of which project they drafted the EIS for would help evaluate the quality of their work, although they noted they worked on both the South Fork and Revolution Wind EISs as well.
- Project 3 notes they accessed confidential fishing data. While that is helpful to familiarize them with data needed for this proposal, it is unclear under what authority they were granted such access.
- Reference to IMPLAN modeling is appropriate and necessary.
- SWCA staff, despite experience, will not likely be able to access confidential fisheries data for this proposal without permission from individual vessel owners/operators.
- Multiple litigation claims are concerning.
- Subcontractor(s)
 - Dr. George Parsons is well qualified in economics and research relevant to this proposal.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: February 26, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Douglas Christel

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: NMFS GARFO

2. Proposed Scope of Work

- Task 1
 - Good awareness of more recent literature developments.
- Task 2
 - Additional detail about sources used for stakeholder identification and issues analysis would help.
 - There is no information on the scale of stakeholder engagement.
- Task 3
 - Use of IMPLAN is appropriate and necessary. Details about how proponents will inform the four specified data clusters is needed, including how they will estimate changes to fishing revenues from floating offshore wind development and evaluate expenditures for project development (e.g. mooring/platform types, configurations, spacing, etc.) given the numerous uncertainties for both topics. Instead of using professional judgement, use of a site choice model would help inform potential changes in fishing revenues absent consideration of other variables (climate change, regulations) that could also affect fishing revenues. This could be an additional step in the process.
- Task 4
 - Outputs of economic assessment will be organized in a table – is this the only output? If so, it would be helpful to provide more context and depth in that area. What are the vulnerability attributes that will be included in the table?
 - This section is light on details.
- Task 5
 - Plan to create maps that identify fishing-dependent communities
- Task 6
 - Transparency of response matrix/public comment database – how will public comments be fed into the report?

3. Cost Proposal

- The in-kind contribution seems to be a budgetary exercise to get the proposal under the \$400,000 limit. The United States General Services Administration (GSA) rates would not be applicable for this proposal given that it is a state-funded project, not a federally funded project, so this “in-kind” contribution seems inapplicable.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: February 26, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Douglas Christel

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: NMFS GARFO

- Under assumptions, the advisement that additional effort and associated costs may require a separate scope of work for future approval suggests they are not confident in their budget proposal, which could result in cost overages.
 - Hourly wages are extremely high in some cases (\$293-450/hour), with all hourly costs above \$100.
 - Justification for markups for various fees is needed.
4. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support
- Letter of Commitment from Dr. George Parsons
 - No other letters

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: February 19, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Wilkinson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Department of Marine Resources

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

- I. Organization Qualifications and Experience
 1. Previous socioeconomic, fisheries, and offshore wind related work. For this proposal, SWCA has added Dr. George Parsons, an environmental economist, to serve as senior advisor/reviewer. Experience with Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
 - Project 1: BOEM
 1. Updating 2016 port modification study. Report will look at all existing Atlantic ports capable of supporting present and future offshore winds development. Includes 'port profiles'. Did look at socio-economic and cultural resources
 - Project 2: BOEM
 1. 3rd party National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) consultant preparing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for offshore wind energy generation on Atlantic outer continental shelf. SWCA prepared project plan, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BOEM, federal agencies, states and Tribes. Role included document preparation [EIS, Biological Optimization (BiOp), and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), etc.]. Hosted public scoping meetings and meetings with Tribes
 2. How did they access confidential fisheries data?
Confidential access would have been given to BOEM
 - Project 3: Grand Isle LNG Holding Company

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: February 19, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Wilkinson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Department of Marine Resources

1. Lead consultant responsible for preparation of Grand Isle's Deepwater Port License Application. Discussion/assessment of environmental impacts, socioeconomic concerns
 2. Project did require accessing and analyzing confidential state and federal fisheries data, Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) mapping, and port utilization data. But how did they get this data?
 2. Subcontractor
 - Dr. George Parsons
 1. Specializes in environmental economics. Has published articles looking at impacts of offshore wind on East Coast.
 2. Will serve as project advisor
 3. Organizational Chart
 - Included, has people with identified roles and what they bring to the project team
 4. Litigation (if applicable)
 - Listed a few cases resolved with mediation, one case involving an employee involved in a vehicle accident, stream restoration case where SWCA was drawn in as a related party- case resolved through mediation
 5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Complete
- II. Proposed Scope of Work
1. Project pillars: communication, project control, cost control/accounting, document management/collaboration/computer services, quality assurance/quality control, and schedule adherence
 - Proposal spent a lot of time talking about their approach to the project but not actually talking about the work they will do. Would have been nice to see more details about the proposed methodology and budget
 2. Awareness of more recent literature
 3. Objectives
 - Assess the direct economic impacts of floating offshore wind development on Maine's fishing dependent communities and

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: February 19, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Wilkinson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Department of Marine Resources

identify the most economically vulnerable fishing dependent communities

- Characterize the socio-cultural impacts likely to occur in the most vulnerable fishing-dependent communities

4. Task 1: Review Indicators, Recommendations, Related Activities

1. Build off previous work, conduct a review of relevant reports and publications to identify data, methods, approaches. Use this to inform draft assessment methodologies

5. Task 2: Develop stakeholder engagement plan (SEP)

- Stakeholder identification/mapping. Will identify those who expect to be or should be involved. But how?
- Engagement plan outlines a varied approach, seems capable of reaching wide audience. Could use a few more details about how they plan to identify who should be involved or the level of engagement

6. Task 3: Define and Adapt Assessment Methodologies

- Plan to use IMPLAN model. Could use some more details about what they plan to actually put into the model.

7. Task 4: Conduct Economic Impact Assessment and Socio-Cultural Assessment

- Wasn't very clear about what they will do. IMPLAN seems to be the focus
- Light on details

8. Task 5: Identify Fishing Dependent Communities and their Vulnerability to Floating Offshore Wind

- Plan to create a series of maps that identify fishing communities in Maine, and anticipated net economic impacts in those communities and an integrated measure of each community's vulnerability to floating offshore wind development
- What will the feedback loop be?

9. Task 6: Final Report/Communications Products

- Proposed products seem in line with RFA

10. Implementation – Work Plan

- One year timeline. Built in review time with the Governor's Energy Office (GEO)

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: February 19, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Wilkinson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Department of Marine Resources

III. Cost Proposal

1. Budget Narrative

- Total request of \$395,070.
- SWCA did also submit a proposal for Topic 2 under the RFA
- Bulk of costs appear to be for salaries. Other proposed costs include travel, facility rentals, per diem, supplies for interviews, IMPLAN data package.
 1. Salary rates seem very high, and unclear if they include fringe, etc.
 2. Blanket additional costs for expenses and subcontractors

2. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)

- \$10,979 [which is the difference between the amount the project would have cost if applicant used their adopted United States General Services Administration (GSA) rates].

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Included a letter from Dr. George Parsons confirming their support/participation
2. No other letters
3. Unsure of availability/access to data

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: February 21, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Instructions: *The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is required that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.*

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- The organization has experience in fisheries, marine biology, social sciences, economics, and environmental impact assessments.
- The organization has over a decade of experience in offshore wind related projects, thus are experienced with the intricacies of offshore wind development.
- SWCA staff have vast experience in conducting socio-economic assessments.
- Large interdisciplinary team within SWCA.
- Project 1: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
 - 1. "Port Profiles" that summarize the buildouts and potential impacts of offshore wind development at each individual port
 - 2. Familiarity with the data needed to assess offshore wind impacts
- Project 2: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
 - 1. Knowledge of resource assessment as it relates to offshore wind
 - 2. Currently working on evaluating potential impacts to socio-economic resources, fishing sectors, etc.; could immensely help insights that will be developed in this project
- Project 3: Grand Isle LNG Holding Company
 - 1. Knowledge of assessing impacts on fishing resources.

2. Subcontractors

- Subcontractor 1: Dr. George Parsons

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: February 21, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

1. Joined as an advisor and senior reviewer.
 2. Expertise in environmental economics and impacts of offshore wind development in coastal communities.
 3. Is Dr. Parsons going to be the sole reviewer of the project?
3. Organizational Chart
 - Title and area of expertise provided for each person
4. Litigation (if applicable)
 - A Transaction terminated (termination for cause) by the town of Meeker, Colorado.
 - 4 current or closed cases within the past 5 years.
5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Complete

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Objectives:
 - Communication: Monthly client calls; regular updates and on an as-needed basis
 1. Good to have flexibility on meeting times.
 - Project control: project management plan (PMP) will be developed; available to the Governor's Energy Office (GEO)
 - Good data management process in place.
2. Task 1
 - Review of relevant reports and publications to identify data, methods and approaches as they relate to the assessment of economic and socio-cultural impacts likely to be brought about by floating offshore wind (FOW) development.
 - Once review is completed, the results will be used to inform draft assessment methodologies
3. Task 2
 - Stakeholder engagement plan: it mentions previous stakeholder engagement but do not describe it, what does this entail?
 - Providing translation and interpretation services: this is important for some fleets, and encourages more participation from diverse groups

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: February 21, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

- Outreach: ground “truth-ing” is important to develop a more complete picture of concerns and, later on, results; it also engages stakeholders throughout the whole study which further develops acceptance in the results by stakeholders
- Open house: there’s not much details about how the open house will be conducted. It would benefit from being conducted like a workshop where stakeholders can give their input systematically. As it stands, it lacks structure and doesn’t seem to bring enough value to justify cost, especially because the survey will be available online.
- Virtual communication: as an idea, it is a great initiative as it simplifies and widens the process of providing comments. However, thought should be given as to how they will ensure that only people from the communities/stakeholders they are targeting are able to comment.
- Time constraint is understandable, but a hard limit of a single set of comments seems restrictive.

4. Task 3

- IMPLAN model inputs: standard for assessing offshore wind impacts on fisheries.
- “Best professional judgement”: what does this mean?; How would this foster acceptance and trust in results from any stakeholder?
 1. Don’t see how this promotes usage of best available data.
- Documents usage: They mentioned using information from an updated BOEM study, if assumptions are being made based on a document that hasn’t been published, the project should be pushed until the document becomes available.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Community Social Vulnerability Indicators (CSVI) Tool: public facing webpage is not available anymore. Data is not confidential but it’s unclear on whether NOAA would be able to share it.
- The Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Environmental Justice (EJ) Screen: public facing webpage not available anymore. Although a copy has been made by a third party (accuracy concerns)

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: February 21, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

- Task 3A working with GEO & stakeholders: a bit too vague; structure and frequency of communication details would be useful.
 - Characterizing most vulnerable fishing-dependent communities: 3 might not be enough to have a good representation of the differences and similarities in communities throughout Maine.
 - Task 3B: they are waiting to complete Task 1 to develop socio-cultural methodologies. It feels like they have no real understanding of the background literature. While I understand that they are not going to do the work prior to getting funded, mentioning the results of the baseline inventory and how it will inform the methods is the bare minimum.
 - Step 1 Task 3B: "SWCA currently envisions..." this seems very loose.
 - Two one-week long onsite visits for socio-cultural collection might not be enough time to collect sufficient data.
 - "Meetings will consist of group discussions, focus groups, and/or in-depth interviews": given the time constraint team has of two, one-week-long onsite visits, they should establish which data collection method they're going to implement so that it is equal for every interaction and for data comparability.
 - Step 2 Task 3B- semi-structure interview: given that interviews will be recorded, the project might benefit from thematic analysis.
5. Task 4
- Task 4A Economic assessment organization: the outputs being organized tabularly is good for comparability across communities but the section will probably need more information than that provided in the table to add more context and depth.
6. Task 5
- Maps seem like a good way to visualize overall impacts to communities, and a good way for different stakeholders to connect with results.
7. Task 6
- Report for general audiences.
 - Appendices for technical details.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: February 21, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

III. Cost Proposal – Budget Narrative

1. There are too many mentions of additional costs and spending changes; makes it seem like there's a lot of uncertainty in the proposed budget that might hinder completion of project.

Task	Estimated Hours	Total Cost Request
Task 1	115	\$21,615
Task 2	250	\$43,300
Task 3	368	\$72,204
Task 4	580	\$102,348
Task 5	130	\$23,830
Task 6	300	\$54,512
Others:		
Project Management & Coordination	130	\$26,806
Airfare for In-person Meetings		\$2,400
Lodging		\$7,200
Rental Car		\$1,400
Rental Car Fuel		\$560
Per Diem		\$2,720
Facility Rentals (Open Houses)		\$4,500
Facility Rentals (Interviews)		\$1,800
Refreshments (Open Houses and Interviews)		\$1,000
Supplies (Open Houses and Interviews)		\$500
IMPLAN Data Package		\$9,500

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: February 21, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Kiara Acevedo Martinez

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Ocean Associates Inc. in support of Northeast Fisheries Science Center

15% Markup on Expenses		\$4,329
3% Communication Fee on SWCA Labor		\$9,596
20% Markup on Subcontractor Fee		\$4,950
Total	1,873	\$395,070

2. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - SWCA contributing \$10,979 as in-kind cost match (from adopted rates)
 1. Not really an in-kind cost match just a reduction in rate to remain within budget.
- IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support
1. Partnerships/ collaborations
 - Letter of Commitment from Dr. George Parsons
 - No Letters of Support
 2. Availability of data
 - CSCI and EPA EJ websites not available

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- SWCA is a consultancy that has economists, social scientists, marine biologists, archaeologists, ethnographers, fisheries experts, ecologists, and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) specialists on staff
- Have offices around the country, including in Portland, ME and Boston and Amherst, MA
- Staff have managed and/or contributed to hundreds of socioeconomic evaluations, fisheries impact assessments, and environmental impact assessments, including work for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- SWCA has worked on offshore wind (OSW) related projects for over a decade and are well versed in the intricacies and impacts of OSW development
 - 1. Unclear how much Gulf of Maine experience the team has
- Project 1: BOEM
 - 1. SWCA is supporting BOEM in their update to the 2016 Port Modification Study that evaluates all existing Atlantic ports capable of supporting present and future OSW development, including the proposed port on Sears Island
 - 2. The scope specifically includes evaluating the direct and indirect impacts of buildout across resources like air quality,

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

cultural resources, ecological resources, socioeconomic resources and environmental justice communities

3. Demonstrates ability to evaluate socioeconomic and cultural resources

- Project 2: BOEM

1. SWCA is serving as the third party NEPA consultant and preparing the environmental impact statement for an OSW farm on the East Coast
2. The scope involved preparing the Project Management Plan, FAST-41 Coordinated Project Plan, and the Memorandum of Understanding between BOEM and other federal and state agencies and Tribes. Ongoing work includes the NOAA Fisheries Biological Assessment and the Essential Fish Habitat Assessment
3. The social science team is currently evaluating potential impacts to socioeconomic resources, the region's commercial and recreational fishing sector, among others. The analysis involves accessing RWSC data and confidential fisheries landings and permit data
4. Demonstrates strong, relevant experience including confidential fisheries data

- Project 3: Grand Isle LNG Holding Company

1. SWCA led the preparation of Grand Isle's Deepwater Port License Application
2. Evaluation included impacts on benthic habitats, water quality, marine mammals, commercially and recreationally pursued fish and shellfish resources, and cultural resources
3. Demonstrates ability to access and analyze confidential state and federal fisheries data, vessel monitoring system mapping, and port utilization data

2. Subcontractors

- Subcontractor 1: Dr. George Parsons

1. Dr. Parsons is a professor at the University of Delaware with a specialization in environmental economics
2. He has published numerous articles on the impacts of OSW on the East Coast

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

3. He will serve as an advisor and senior external reviewer on the project

3. Organizational Chart

- Chart included with the roles clearly outlined
- Appears to be reasonably sized team and a clear pathway for decisions and information to flow
- Include short bios of the proposed project team- everyone seems qualified but largely unclear who is local to Maine and has Gulf of Maine experience

4. Litigation (if applicable)

- Note in the Responsible Applicant Certification form that SWCA was issued a termination letter from a town in Colorado
- Includes a list of all current or closed cases within the past 5 years (4 of them)

5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)

- Included

- II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Objectives

- Overall objective is to write a report that characterizes the socioeconomic impacts of OSW development on Maine's fishing sector, identifies the onshore communities most likely to be impacted by planned OSW development, and provides a clear and concise analysis that can serve as a foundation for future assessments
- Application emphasizes communication, project control, cost control, document management, QA/QC, and schedule adherence

2. Task 1: Review indicators, recommendations, and related activities

- Acknowledges the previous work done in this space and highlights studies that have been completed since
 1. Demonstrates up-to-date knowledge
- Plan to complete a thorough review of relevant reports and publications to identify data, methods, and approaches as they relate to the economic and sociocultural assessments
- Review will then inform the draft assessment methodologies and be submitted to the Governor's Energy Office (GEO)

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

3. Task 2: Develop stakeholder engagement plan (SEP)
 - The SEP will describe the approach to stakeholder identification/mapping, stakeholder issues analysis, direct outreach to key stakeholders, open houses, and virtual communication
 - Approach is decently laid out but not particularly specific
4. Task 3: Define and adapt assessment methodologies
 - For economic assessment, plan to develop IMPLAN model inputs, identify and characterize fishing-dependent communities, estimate economic changes for individual fishing-dependent communities, and then identify the most economically vulnerable fishing-dependent communities (assumes 3 communities in the budget)
 - IMPLAN model requires data for changes in commercial fishing revenues brought about by OSW development, expenditures related to OSW development, information on the spatial distribution of workers in the commercial fishing industry, and information on the expected spatial distribution of workers involved in the construction and operation of OSW
 1. Spatial distribution of fishing industry workers will be gathered via open houses and online survey- will there be enough data collected to result in a robust analysis?
 - Following the economic assessment, the sociocultural assessment will consist of identifying and recruiting community members to participate in semi-structured interviews, develop the interview approach, and then develop plan for compiling sociocultural information
 - Will adapt and finalize the methodologies based on input from GEO and the public (via an online portal and 3 open houses)
 1. Detail on how public comment would be addressed would be helpful
5. Task 4: Conduct economic and sociocultural assessments
 - Baseline economic impact assessment will be organized and ranked tabularly with each row being a community and each column corresponding to an attribute of that community (ex vulnerability, attributes, annual value of baseline commercial fishing

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

activity, net impact of OSW development on economic measures, etc)

- Using the methodologies outlined in Task 3, output of sociocultural assessment will be summarized in 2-4 page descriptions of the most likely to be impacted communities
- Very light on details

6. Task 5: Identify fishing-dependent communities and their vulnerability to OSW

- Task 4 results will be reviewed by GEO and then used to create maps that identify fishing-dependent communities in Maine including their anticipated net economic impacts in those communities and an integrated measure of each community's vulnerability to OSW development

7. Task 6: Final report and communication products

- Key deliverables include a final report designed for general audiences and a series of appendices with more technical detail. Draft report will be available for public comment and a slide deck will be prepared
- Meets RFA requirements

8. Implementation – Work Plan

- Gantt chart included
- Anticipated project timeline of 1 year
- Task 1 seems relatively long and overlaps with Tasks 3- can it inform the methodology if happening simultaneously?

III. Cost Proposal

1. Budget narrative is light on details but notes a discounted rate is being granted

2. Budget table is detailed with specific staff and estimated hours laid out for each task

- Task 1= \$21,615
- Task 2= \$43,300
- Task 3= \$72,204
- Task 4= \$102,348
- Task 5= \$23,830
- Task 6= \$54,512

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #1

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: February 3, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

- Project management/coordination= \$26,806
- Expenses and fees= \$50,455
- Total requested= \$395,070
- Falls just below the max budget
- Lot of markups on expenses and subcontractor
- 3. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - Proposed in-kind cost share of \$10,979 through reduced rates
- IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support
 - 1. Partnerships/ collaborations
 - Letter of Commitment provided by Dr. George Parsons
 - No other letters included
 - 2. Availability of data
 - Data access plan unclear

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Oceantic Network

DATE: 2/4/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Summers

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Marine Resources

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

- I. Organization Qualifications and Experience
 1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- Oceantic is a nationally recognized nonprofit organization focused on U.S. offshore wind education and research. Oceantic uses a network of members, events, workshops, and conferences to address key questions in the offshore wind industry. Oceantic tracks and maintains key market and environmental data in its Market Dashboard and Supply Chain Connect, tools that are widely utilized by researchers, regulators, and industry professionals. This data is disseminated through briefings, events, and publications. They have a staff of 3 in Maine and an additional 3 in New England. They have supported conversation in the floating offshore wind and secondary entanglement space, including the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) model used on the West coast.
- Gould act as project manager. Christensen, Gerringier, and Shinay listed as stakeholder engagement, policy, data analysis, etc. None have explicit fishery related experience or engagement listed.

2. Subcontractors

- Worley has stated expertise in fisheries engagement and technical expertise in marine mammals, environmental impacts, fisheries, tribal engagement, marine debris, and entanglement issues. Worley additionally has experience that includes assessment of entanglement potential with offshore wind, aquaculture, and oil and

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Oceantic Network

DATE: 2/4/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Summers

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Marine Resources

gas infrastructure. In this role, Worley will develop workshops, interviews, focus groups, desktop assessment, literature review, and technology and monitoring solutions. Worley will also support stakeholder planning and engagement while Oceantic will facilitate and coordinate the project, manage its milestones and deliverables, and engage its broad membership and contacts.

3. Organizational Chart
 - Attached
4. Litigation (if applicable)
 - None
5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Complete

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Task 1: Literature Review, Data Collection, and Data Gaps
 - Create tables of available relevant data and publications, and that identify information still needed to assess entanglement risks, including potential changes in marine debris types, location, and movement relative to climate change over the lifespan of offshore wind projects. The report will describe types of marine debris and fisheries expected to be present in the state and federal lease areas, as well as documented or estimated gear loss rates and entanglement incidents. The report will also include recommended research that may be useful and practicable to conduct, provide advice where models may be a good alternative for risk assessment to address gaps, and suggest appropriate organizations to support or be engaged in such data collection or modeling efforts.
 - Kick off meeting, interim and final reports on literature and data gaps, final webinar.
2. Task 2: Stakeholder Engagement
 - Utilize contacts with current team, the Governor's Energy Office (GEO), and Project Advisory Board (PAB) to figure out which stakeholders and industry contacts to engage and how.

STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Oceanic Network

DATE: 2/4/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Summers

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Marine Resources

- Identify organizations and individuals who can participate in interviews, workshops, focus groups, data provision, and report/outcome review as appropriate to their expertise, interests, and availability.
 - Includes payments for time spent by stakeholders.
 - Deliverables are an outreach plan and a final webinar.
 1. They are just building an outreach plan and not implementing it for this issue?
 - Did they include a step or process for feedback into the project?
3. Task 3: Desktop Risk Assessment
- A probability estimate of entanglement by each fishing gear type will be developed by the Team based on the current and predicted prevalence of fishing gear, gear loss rates, currents & gear movement, entanglement data, mooring types, animal presence & use patterns, and information about anticipated presence and configurations of moorings and cables in floating offshore wind infrastructure. Seasonal density predictions for marine mammals in the Gulf of Maine will be used as part of quantifying risk. Biological and physical risk parameters have been evaluated in the literature, and such assessments will be considered in the context of Maine offshore wind.
 - Discussed the potential to use the BOEM-developed entanglement simulation model
 - Does not touch on fishery related data sets and how those data streams will be obtained or analyzed. This would be a good place to integrate the feedback portion of the outreach plan from above but not linked in this application.
 - Interim and final report and webinar
4. Task 4: Monitoring Approaches and Techs
- Review regulations and guidance from agencies and consider how technologies can be vetted and applied in regulatory frameworks. We will also review best practices provided through approved Construction and Operations Plans (COPs) in the U.S. and plans from European floating windfarms, such as entanglement

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Oceantic Network

DATE: 2/4/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Summers

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Marine Resources

monitoring, proposed by the White Cross Offshore Wind Farm in the United Kingdom and the Green Volt Wind Farm in Scotland.

- Mostly monitoring plans for marine mammals and entanglement detection taking from other projects.

5. Task 5: Retrieval Approaches and Technology

- A combination of literature and technical documentation review and engagement, including a workshop, focus groups, and interviews per our stakeholder engagement plan (Task 2). We will develop the workshop like our prior state and federal project workshops, in collaboration with the GEO and PAB, with an Oceantic Network facilitator, and using Mural as a documentation and interaction platform.

6. Task 6: Final Report and Communications

- Compile the interim deliverables from Tasks 1-5 and all the feedback from the PAB and GEO to date on those deliverables into a final comprehensive report in plain language focused on advancing understanding of likelihood and risk of secondary entanglement in the Gulf of Maine and understanding what an effective secondary entanglement monitoring program should consist of from a technology and regulatory perspective. The final report will provide a set of recommendations for monitoring techniques and retrieval options based on the assessments in Tasks 1-5
- Built in an external review of the final report into the budget
- Also provide summary report and slide deck

7. Implementation – Work Plan

- Oceantic proposes to leverage a lot of existing relationships, projects, and previous reviews and workshops to utilize what has already been done and compile it here
- Not clear how new or region-specific information will be integrated in the risk assessment task specifically
- Timeline seems reasonable if not ambitious

III. Cost Proposal

1. Total cost \$336,067
2. Task 1

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Oceantic Network

DATE: 2/4/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Summers

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Marine Resources

- \$42,420
- 3. Task 2
 - \$52,505
- 4. Task 3
 - \$59,601
- 5. Task 4
 - \$49,962
- 6. Task 5
 - \$49,881
- 7. Task 6
 - \$58,122
- 8. Cost sharing plan
 - Cost sharing in in-kind time for publication of paper, presentation at conferences and webinars. \$8500 total.
- IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support
 - 1. Partnerships/ collaborations
 - List of letters and collaborators extensive in the offshore wind space. Collaborations for fishery related data and engagement limited to Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.
 - 2. Availability of data
 - Fishery data use?

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Oceantic Network

DATE: 1/30/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Nathan Lubega

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Energy Research and Development Division/California Energy Commission

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

Oceantic is a national non-profit organization focused on U.S offshore wind education and research through events, workshops, and conferences. Research department and partnerships with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

Worley to develop data sharing and standardization for monitoring and regulation marine debris on floating offshore wind infrastructure.

• Project 1

1. Planning of federal agency workshop for offshore wind environmental data strategy with NREL

• Project 2

1. (Worley) Evaluation of technology gaps to monitor impacts to marine mammals and birds from offshore wind with National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium (NOWRDC)

• Project 3

1. (Worley) Chairing technical working group for technology and data innovation for offshore wind monitoring guidance development with California National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Oceantic Network

DATE: 1/30/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Nathan Lubega

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Energy Research and Development Division/California Energy Commission

Comment: Most of the relevant project experience coming from the subcontractor who's only performing a subset of the work (Task 1) so there's concern that the applicant has not demonstrated enough project experience.

- Ross Gould Project- Manager
- Denille Christensen- Stakeholder Engagement
- Julia Gerringer- Stakeholder Engagement and Environmental Science and Regulatory Policy [spread too thin?]
- Matt Shinay- Stakeholder Engagement and Data Collection and Data Analysis

Comment: The team seems a bit thin for the tasks proposed with numerous staff doing multiple roles.

2. Subcontractors

- Worley Consulting
 1. Develop workshops, interviews, focus groups, desktop assessment, literature review, and technology and monitoring solutions.
- Support stakeholder planning and engagement
- Sarah Courbis, Technical Lead and Marine Mammologist
- Kim Fitzgibbons, Environmental Permitting and Compliance
- Aude Pacini, Marine Mammal specialist
- Kelly Keen, Marine Mammal Specialist
- Heidi Etter, Monitoring and mitigation specialist
- Megan McManus, Monitoring and mitigation specialist
- Melissa Snover, Endangered Species Act and Modeling Specialist
- Darla White, Fish and Fisheries Specialist
- Dane Pehrman, Stakeholder and Regulatory Specialist
- Denise Toombs, Cable Specialist

Comments: Qualified team to do the proposed work but not sure what "Cable specialist" means and if they have the necessary expertise for this role

3. Organizational Chart

- Oceantic Project Management → Worley Subcontractor

4. Litigation (if applicable)

- None

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Oceantic Network

DATE: 1/30/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Nathan Lubega

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Energy Research and Development Division/California Energy Commission

5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)

- Complete

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Objectives

- Assess the risk of secondary entanglement for marine wildlife due to floating offshore wind projects in the Gulf of Maine and explore monitoring and retrieval technologies to reduce risk.

2. Task 1: Literature Review, Data Collection, and Data Gaps (Worley)

- Kick off meeting with the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) and meeting summary memo
- Interim Report summarizing literature review, data resources, and identified gaps and recommendations
- Webinar

Comments: Consistent with RFA requirements and Worley is equipped to complete this task

3. Task 2: Stakeholder Engagement Plan

- Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Webinar

4. Task 3: Desktop Risk Assessment

- Interim Report
- Webinar

5. Task 4: Monitoring Approaches and Technologies

- Interim report
- Webinar

6. Task 5: Retrieval Approaches and Technologies

- Interim report
- Webinar

7. Task 6: Final Report and Communication Products

- Draft final report
- Webinar
- 2-page summary
- Final report
- Virtual public presentation [optional]

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Oceantic Network

DATE: 1/30/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Nathan Lubega

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Energy Research and Development Division/California Energy Commission

Comments: Unclear who is completing Tasks 2 – 6. Assuming “the team” is Oceantic staff, then the team is light on manpower and unsure as to how Worley will be helping.

8. Implementation – Work Plan

- Schedule and Gantt chart make sense

III. Cost Proposal

1. Task 1

- 252 hours
- \$168.33/hr average
- \$42,420.62

2. Task 2

- 356 hours
- \$144.68/hr average
- \$51,505.05

3. Task 3

- \$59,601.40

4. Task 4

- \$49,962.76

5. Task 5

- \$49,881.48

6. Task 6

- \$58,122.36

7. 3rd party review

- \$19,524.54

8. G&A

- \$5,049.15

9. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)

- Applicant: \$8,500 (in kind)
- Subcontractor \$16,000 (in kind)
- Total \$24,500 (in kind)
- 7.29% match

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations

- Several

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Oceantic Network

DATE: 1/30/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Nathan Lubega

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Energy Research and Development Division/California Energy Commission

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Oceantic Network

DATE: 1/29/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Stephanie Watson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- Oceantic is a non-profit trade organization focused on ocean renewable energy. They specialize in education and coordination. Oceantic is headquartered in Maryland and they have staff and members in Maine. They maintain a Supply Chain Connect database and a Market Dashboard with key data about the U.S. industry.
- Project examples with relevance to this project: Facilitation for National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) / the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) / the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) Environmental Data Sharing Workshop (Oceantic); Study of Technology Gaps for Offshore Wind Wildlife Monitoring (Worley); California Offshore Wind Environmental Monitoring Guidance (Worley)

2. Subcontractors

- Worley Consulting, team led by Sarah Corbis, PhD. Worley Consulting has marine protected species expertise and significant experience with offshore wind impact assessment and development of mitigation and monitoring and assessment of technology and data for addressing offshore wind impacts. Kim Fitzgibbons, Worley Environmental Permitting lead will also be on the project.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Oceantic Network

DATE: 1/29/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Stephanie Watson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

Fitzgibbons has experience with offshore wind permitting, including early efforts on floating offshore wind demonstration projects in the Gulf of Maine. Worley notes they have experience with assessment of entanglement potential with offshore wind (specifics?), aquaculture, and oil and gas infrastructure.

3. Organizational Chart

- Attached to application. Oceantic is the overall project manager and will conduct administration, facilitation, stakeholder engagement, and quality assurance. Worley Consulting will provide the subject matter expertise on marine mammals and the environmental permitting for offshore wind.
- No lead identified for the fisheries engagement, which will be an important component of this project.

4. Litigation (if applicable)

- Listed as none

5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)

- Complete

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Task 1 Literature Review, Data Collection, Data Gaps

- Task to be led by Worley. They will conduct a literature review and engage experts to provide data and identify data gaps. Good overall approach with list of resources and experts to consult. Kickoff meeting, report, webinar.

2. Task 2 Stakeholder Engagement

- Reasonable stakeholder engagement plan. However, the proposers seem to be relying heavily on the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) to identify and connect with stakeholders.
- Honoraria should be offered to fishermen or others who are not already being compensated for their time through their normal job duties.

3. Task 3 Desktop risk assessment

- Risk analysis with probability estimates

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Oceantic Network

DATE: 1/29/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Stephanie Watson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

- Had pre-application discussions with BOEM and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to help inform the project

4. Task 4 Monitoring Approaches and Technologies

- Regulatory review, technology exploration, and recommendations. Will include a virtual workshop and focus groups. Propose to build on existing efforts into existing and planned technology assessments. Propose to review Construction and Operations Plans (COPs) and identify best practices
- Question: How do the applicants specifically propose to coordinate with the other projects?

5. Task 5 Retrieval Approaches and Technologies

- Technology solutions and recommendations.
- More detail would be helpful
- Approach similar to Task 4

6. Task 6 Communications

- Reasonable plan
- Project Assumptions section added – question about, “Deliverable compliance with Section 508 of the Americans with Disabilities Act is not included.”
- Good that they specified meetings with GEO and Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR)

7. Task 7 Implementation – Work Plan

- included

III. Cost Proposal

- Overall reasonable cost but some questions about the alignment and subject matter expertise in the costs per task.

Cost sharing plan (if applicable)

- \$24,500 in-kind cost sharing offered from Oceantic and Worley for workshops, the International Partnering Forum (IPF) conference, journal submissions, some review time.

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

Letters from the following – strong support:

1. Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (Mike Pol, Research Director)

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Oceantic Network

DATE: 1/29/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Stephanie Watson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

2. Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (Emily Shumchenia, Executive Director)
3. National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium (Lyndie Hice-Dunton, Executive Director)
4. National Renewable Energy Laboratory (Walt Musial, Offshore Wind Chief Engineer)
5. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Bob Beale, Executive Director)
6. BelleQuant Engineering (Lars Howle, BOEM and NCCOS's partner on the entanglement simulator model)
7. California National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (Julia Dombroski, leading a monitoring guidance effort for the state of California for floating wind that includes recommendations on addressing entanglement risk)
8. Avangrid (Atma Kahlsa, Director of Environment)
9. Equinor (Scott Lundin, bringing experience from floating wind in Europe and Equinor's California project)
10. Diamond Offshore Wind (Dave Cowan, Director Environmental Affairs)

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: 2/5/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Summers

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Marine Resources

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- SWCA Environmental Consultants has grown to include 43 offices and more than 1,600 employees nationwide. Our multidisciplinary team includes economists, social scientists, terrestrial and marine biologists, archaeologists, ethnographers, water quality experts, ecologists, and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) specialists. In the mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions, SWCA operates five offices with over 120 employees, including locations in Portland, Maine, and Amherst and Boston, Massachusetts
- Maine-based office with knowledge of the strong and diverse fishing industry in Maine, the types of fishing gear used in the Gulf of Maine, and the expertise to engage the key stakeholders. Our familiarity with the regional fishing industry enables us to contextualize data and assess potential interactions with floating offshore wind

2. Subcontractors

- N/A

3. Organizational Chart

- Attached

4. Litigation (if applicable)

- Disclosed

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: 2/5/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Summers

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Marine Resources

5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Complete
- II. Proposed Scope of Work
 1. Task 1: Literature Review, Data Collection, and Data Gaps
 - Detailed literature review to compile and analyze existing information related to marine debris, fishing gear, gear loss rates, and entanglement risks in the Gulf of Maine. The review will involve a systematic approach to identify, gather, and assess data from peer-reviewed scientific literature, government reports, industry publications, and other credible sources.
 - Includes a data collection section with primary and secondary data from various sources to fill knowledge gaps (including fisheries data) and identification of the gaps that still exist after these datasets are identified and mined.
 - Includes metrics for a risk assessment including species info, behavioral characteristics, and offshore wind metrics.
 1. Did not include fishery metrics on this list?
 - Literature review report, data gap analysis and recommendations, inputs for risk model, chapter for final report.
 2. Task 2: Stakeholder Engagement
 - Stakeholder identification and mapping, using attributes to guide engagement plans, resources, and tracking effectiveness.
 - Stakeholder Issue Analysis
 - Messaging Development
 - Outreach, open houses, information translation, develop materials, AI comment tracking, multiple/diverse contact vehicles
 - Where to incorporate feedback?
 3. Task 3: Desktop Risk Assessment
 - Incorporate the following aspects
 1. Species at risk and data integration – behavioral and biological data, prey and environment, entanglement cases by species and gear type
 - a. What about the gear field itself?

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: 2/5/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Summers

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Marine Resources

2. Behavioral Dynamics and Infrastructure Influence (spatial overlap between infrastructure, fishing effort, displaced species, etc.)
 3. Ghost gear and potential high-risk scenarios
 4. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) model with region-specific additions
 5. Recommendations for adapting BOEM model
4. Task 4: Monitoring Approaches and Techs
 - SWCA will review existing technologies proposed in various offshore construction projects, including offshore wind (Construction and Operations Plans), deepwater port licensing applications or other offshore infrastructure construction applications, and resulting permit requirements to capture regulatory guidance or requirements
 - Include Responsible Offshore Development Alliance's (RODA) work on emerging technologies
5. Task 5: Retrieval Approaches and Tech
 - SWCA will focus on identifying and evaluating potential technologies and innovations for the retrieval of marine debris and ghost fishing gear. This assessment will examine a range of solutions, including autonomous systems, remotely operated devices, and specialized retrieval tools designed for different types of fishing gear and debris. Particular attention will be given to technologies that are scalable, cost-effective, and environmentally sensitive, ensuring they are well-suited for deployment in the Gulf of Maine.
 - Gap analysis on technology with focus on operating costs, efficiencies, access, detection accuracy.
 - Also review Marine Debris and ghost gear programs to incorporate.
6. Task 6: Final Report and Communications
 - Overview of the findings, highlighting key insights related to marine life entanglement risks, retrieval technologies, and the broader implications for marine ecosystem health in the Gulf of Maine. Furthermore, the report will conclude with actionable recommendations for future work, addressing gaps identified during

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: 2/5/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Summers

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Marine Resources

the study and proposing strategies for advancing research, technological innovation, and regional collaboration.

- Also provide summary report and slide deck

7. Implementation – Work Plan

- Timeline seems reasonable if not ambitious. Very detailed task chart with timeline attached

III. Cost Proposal

1. Total cost \$214,500

2. Task 1

- \$65,176

3. Task 2

- \$66,264

4. Task 3

- \$32,774

5. Task 4

- \$15,298

6. Task 5

- \$14,447

7. Task 6

- \$20,541

8. Cost sharing plan

- Cost sharing in a change is United States General Services Administration (GSA) rates used to a lower rate, resulting in \$15,500 in total savings.

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations

- No letters or partnerships provided

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: 1/30/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Nathan Lubega

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Energy Research and Development/California Energy Commission

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

SWCA Environmental Consultants is a contractor for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), offshore wind developers, and oil and gas industry.

• Project 1

1. Third-party National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) consultant preparing environmental impact statement for BOEM

• Project 2

1. Technical guidance and federal compliance review to National Fish and Wildlife foundation

• Project 3

1. Evaluate and social and economic impacts of alternative groundfish regulatory regimes for New England Regional Office of National Marine Fisheries Service

Comments: Applicant has necessary experience completing similar projects

2. Subcontractors

• N/A

3. Organizational Chart

- Stephanie Healey, Project Manager/Marine Biologist
- Ryan Rupprecht, Deputy PM/Marine Biologist
- Sarah Lupis, Stakeholder engagement specialist

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: 1/30/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Nathan Lubega

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Energy Research and Development/California Energy Commission

- Laura Hatmaker, Stakeholder engagement specialist
- Jeff Wakefield, Statistics/economics

4. Litigation (if applicable)

- Donna Chick v. Rolfe House – Resolved through mediation
- Dynamic energy v. SWCA – settled out of court
- Sarah Bohling v. SWCA – settled out of court
- Fort Bend County v. SWCA – resolved through mediation

Comments: Concern that there is notable litigation in the past 6 years with this applicant. Additionally, the responsible applicant certification has a termination for cause on 11/2023. Concerns about the legal/ethical responsibility of this applicant especially as they are proposing to do all the work in-house.

5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)

- Complete

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Task 1: Literature Review, Data Collection, and Data Gaps

- Literature review report
- Data gaps analysis
- Input for risk assessment model
- Draft chapter for final report

2. Task 2: Stakeholder Engagement Plan

- Stakeholder identification and mapping
- Stakeholder issues analysis
- Messaging development
- Engagement methods
- Informational materials
- Comment tracking with AI tool
- Contact vehicles

Comments: What are the deliverables for this task?

3. Task 3: Desktop Risk Assessment

- Species at risk and data integration
- Behavioral dynamics and infrastructure influence

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: 1/30/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Nathan Lubega

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Energy Research and Development/California Energy Commission

- Risk of secondary entanglement
- Use of BOEM/NOAA entanglement model
- Future model adaptations
- Probability estimates of entanglement risks
- Analysis of infrastructure
- Evaluation of ghost gear risks
- Recommendations for BOEM's entanglement model

Comment: Very clear detail and metrics for desktop risk assessment but unsure what the specific deliverables are for this task.

4. Task 4: Monitoring Approaches and Technologies

- Summary of existing monitoring technologies in a feasibility matrix memo

Comment: This task is light and short of information

5. Task 5: Retrieval Approaches and Technologies

- Detailed report summarizing the retrieval technologies

6. Task 6: Final Report and Communications Products

- Comprehensive final report
- Visual presentation

7. Implementation – Work Plan

- Gantt chart/Schedule hard to read
- Schedule seems rushed?

III. Cost Proposal

1. Task 1

- \$65,176.00

2. Task 2

- \$66,264.00

3. Task 3

- \$32,774.00

4. Task 4

- \$15,298.00

5. Task 5

- \$14,447.00

6. Task 6

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: 1/30/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Nathan Lubega

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Energy Research and Development/California Energy Commission

- \$20,541.00

Comments: Generic positions listed for direct labor hours and unsure which of the listed staff fit in these roles. An unexplained 3% communications fee does not seem like an appropriate use of public funds.

7. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)

- \$15,500 in-kind contribution
- 7.23% match in-kind

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations

- None

Comment: No letters of commitment/support and/or partnerships is concerning

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: 1/30/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Stephanie Watson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

SWCA Environmental Consultants is a U.S. environmental consulting firm with 43 offices, including one in Portland, Maine. The company has served as a contractor to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on offshore wind and to offshore energy companies. Roles in permitting, due diligence studies, Natural Resources Damage Assessment, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) regulations. Relevant Project Examples: Developing a 3rd party Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to BOEM on an Atlantic offshore wind project; Provided technical guidance and federal compliance review to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) on large-scale conservation projects; and collaborated with New England Regional Office of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (GARFO?) on alternative groundfish regulations.

2. Subcontractors

1. None

3. Organizational Chart

- Table provided with staff name, role, education/experience. Team includes expertise in marine biology, biological oceanography, wildlife, and economics. Key capabilities listed included: project management, interdisciplinary expertise, SMEs, data management, technical reporting. Simple organizational chart included in the appendix.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: 1/30/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Stephanie Watson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

4. Litigation (if applicable)
 - Included -some noted
 5. Certificate of Insurance
 - Complete- sample
- II. Proposed Scope of Work
1. Task 1 Literature review, data collection, and data gaps
 - Description of literature review of gear loss rates, entanglement incidents, other sources as listed in the RFA
 - Data collection will include biological and behavior information for species in the study area, engineering and design information for floating infrastructure and associated mooring and cable systems (focus on 2 appropriate designs for 500-1000m depth, which is deeper than the Gulf of Maine), and fisheries data to identify the gear most commonly used in the region.
 - Data gaps and recommendations – gaps to be identified by several parameters and tailor recommendations. More detail would be helpful.
 - Risk assessment metrics – species specific information, behavioral patterns, and engineering characteristics of floating infrastructure
 2. Task 2 Stakeholder engagement plan
 - Proposed to include stakeholder identification and mapping, stakeholder issues analysis, messaging development, engagement methods, informational materials, comment tracking with AI (check if allowed), and clear contact information.
 - Standard approach
 - Would benefit with initial stakeholder identification
 3. Task 3 Desktop Risk Assessment
 - Proposed to include: species at risk and data integration, behavioral dynamics and infrastructure influence, risk of secondary entanglement, use of BOEM/NOAA risk model (SWCA to adapt to Gulf of Maine – do they have a relationship with the developer of that model?), and identify use of future model adaptations
 4. Task 4: Monitoring Approaches and Technologies

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: SWCA

DATE: 1/30/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Stephanie Watson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

- Proposed to review offshore construction projects for technologies, deepwater ports applications. Included review of the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA) efforts. More detail would be helpful.

5. Task 5: Retrieval Approaches and Technologies

- Proposes review of technologies and innovations for retrieval of marine debris and ghost fishing gear addressing scalable, cost-effective, environmentally sensitive, and adaptable to the Gulf of Maine – with gap analysis, although the approach to the gap analysis could be more detailed

6. Task 6: Final Report and Communications Products

- Standard report and presentation

7. Implementation – Work Plan

- Gantt chart included
- Approximately 10 months - quick

III. Cost Proposal

1. Included for all tasks, with general level but not individual experts identified; what is a communication fee of 3%?
2. Reasonable total cost
3. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - In kind cost share estimated at \$15,500, although no detail is provided.

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations
 - None included

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: University of Maine

DATE: 2/5/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Summers

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Marine Resources

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- University of Maine (UMaine)
- List "consulting team" TBD
- More people in the budget than included on the organizational chart
- Senior Personnel very knowledgeable and connected in regionally-specific topics, issues, data sources, etc.
 - 1. I question their time commitment to the project versus undergraduate and graduate students?
- Project 1 – developing taut synthetic mooring system for floating offshore wind infrastructure. Part of the design load cases for this project include a preliminary entanglement analysis looking at the impact of fishing gear entangling with the mooring lines, and subsequent secondary entanglement of a Humpback Whale. UMaine is conducting an environmental assessment study of the proposed synthetic system and comparing it to baseline catenary and semi-taut mooring systems to understand the relative impact of the novel taut-synthetic system.
- Project 2 – 1:4 scale demo project for platform concept. Semi-taut synthetic mooring system utilizing nylon mooring ropes that reduce the amount of heavy steel components and has reduced impact on

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: University of Maine

DATE: 2/5/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Summers

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Marine Resources

the benthic environment when compared with typical catenary moorings

- Project 3 - Risk framework for assessing the likelihood of structural failure of offshore wind monopiles and towers subjected to hurricane wind and waves – use as framework for other risk assessments, including complex interactions between infrastructure and environment (fishing gear, species, etc.)

2. Subcontractors

- None listed but The Nature Conservancy (TNC) identified in the tasks

3. Organizational Chart

- Attached – faculty leads with student participation

4. Litigation (if applicable)

- Disclosed

5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)

- Complete

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Task 1: Literature Review, Data Collection, and Data Gaps

- The University of Maine will assess publicly available data on derelict fishing gear types, quantities, and geographical distributions for the Gulf of Maine. Maps of fishing activities and likely distribution of derelict gear will be made, and statistical estimates of quantities of gear will be developed.
- A literature review of publicly available data including, but not limited to: types, sizes, and geographical distributions of fishing gear in the Gulf of Maine, estimates for annual gear loss rates for each of the above gear types behavior of gear in the water column in the event of a loss, type, size, range and geographical distribution of marine wildlife, metocean forcing factors such as currents, wind, and waves that act to move derelict gear, and the type, size, and layout of typical floating offshore wind turbine (FOWT) mooring systems and dynamic cables.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: University of Maine

DATE: 2/5/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Summers

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Marine Resources

- Included region-specific datasets and partner agencies for obtaining information. Figure of gear loss rates from Nova Scotia.
- Partnering with TNC on this task to compile data from the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries. Listed in this task but not in the organizational chart or listed as a team member or subcontractor?
- Provide publicly in an online repository through Github and available through the Regional Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA), the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC), FishFORWRD
- Deliverables – report on literature review and data gap analysis to be included in online repository

2. Task 2: Stakeholder Engagement

- Meet and interview members of the fishing communities from Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts to both clearly communicate the data and data gaps that were found in Task 1, as well as obtain more information about the types, configuration, and quantities of derelict gear that is likely to be found in the Gulf of Maine, and how likely it is to interact with FOWTs
- Demonstrated that they understand regional issues (right whales and potential difficulty engaging this community)
- Put a specific goal on the stakeholder engagement with the fishing industry - test our assumptions within the risk assessment and to gain insight into any recommendations for gear retrieval approaches
- Interested in getting feedback and not just pushing information
- Due to their previous work with offshore wind development and research in the Gulf of Maine, they have experience working with the fishing industry and other stakeholders on similar issues and where the pain points of those conversations will be.
- TNC to hold a stakeholder meeting with developers active in the Gulf of Maine

STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: University of Maine

DATE: 2/5/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Summers

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Marine Resources

- Conducted at various stages throughout the project to update research progress and show how stakeholder feedback shapes the risk assessment work that is proposed. Stakeholders such as fishers, NOAA, Maine DMR, and FOWT developers will help decide on which species of marine mammals (or other species), the risk quantification should be targeted
- Specifically mention working with the Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium to update but get guidance on appropriate stakeholders to include
- Use stakeholder meetings to get input on types of data available and questions that are most important to diff stakeholders to answer
- Fishermen as subject matter experts on lost gear and how it might behave
- Engaging on all other tasks of project – monitoring, removal
- Engagement plan and summary report as deliverables

3. Task 3: Desktop Risk Assessment

- Three risk metrics will be aggregated to obtain a quantitative risk of secondary entanglement: global-scale derelict gear movement based on Gulf of Maine currents, turbine-scale likelihoods of derelict gear ensnaring on FOWT equipment, and seasonal likelihood of marine life entering Wind Energy Areas (WEAs)
- Use the Decision Support Tool (DST) to assess risk. Currently the DST only uses right whale models. Do we care about other species? – “from task 1” so a literature review?
- Using particle/current models for the Gulf of Maine to track where derelict fishing gear may end up and how often it enters the area in question. This combined with fishing gear densities and loss rates could get to how much gear could interact with offshore wind infrastructure.
- Discuss using models to estimate the likelihood of marine mammals entering that space – which species and which models using? Behavior incorporated or just overlapping in space?

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: University of Maine

DATE: 2/5/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Summers

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Marine Resources

- Turbine scale model for if gear in that space actually interacts with mooring systems.
 - Estimated entanglement rates will be estimated from the NOAA Decision Support Tool – The DST doesn't give you entanglement rates. It gives you a unit of "risk" (gear x whales x threat). They are including a DST output and also density of gear present, which is also a factor in the DST output. "Estimated entanglement rate" divided by density of gear and density of marine mammals – already included in the "estimated entanglement rate".
 - Probability = Total entanglement * gear entering grid cell * gear actually interacting with infrastructure
 - Scale? Grid size?
 - DST not currently available to public. Have they discussed with NMFS on use?
 - Report and peer reviewed paper
4. Task 4: Monitoring Approaches and Techs
- A technology review for monitoring fishing gear arrest and secondary entanglement, including but not limited to load sensors, acoustic sensors, fiber optic cables, and visual inspections will be reviewed and applied to the desktop study.
 - A ranking system will be applied to the monitoring technologies that gives a relative "low/medium/high" designation of cost, detection sensitivity, compatibility with FOWT mooring technology, and robustness will be developed, and whether the monitoring approach is sufficient in detecting an ensnarement of derelict gear alone, or a secondary entanglement
5. Task 5: Retrieval Approaches and Tech
- This will include reviewing the best practices from industry on how materials are recovered in subsea environment to reduce risk of damaging FOWT mooring systems, as well as categorizing types of gear
 - Light on details
 - Combined Task 4 and 5 deliverables into a summary report for both
6. Task 6: Final Report and Communications

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: University of Maine

DATE: 2/5/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Summers

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Marine Resources

- Monthly to communicate project progress and updates and identify risks with the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) and the Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium

7. Implementation – Work Plan

- Timeline seems reasonable if not ambitious. Very detailed task chart with timeline attached

III. Cost Proposal

1. Total cost \$263,672
2. Mix of Senior Advisors and students
3. TNC not listed in budget or cost share or as a partner but is included in tasks
4. Cost sharing plan
 - Cost sharing \$76,446

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations
 - Letters from TNC, Diamond Offshore Wind, Avangrid

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: University of Maine

DATE: 1/31/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Nathan Lubega

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Energy Research and Development/California Energy Commission

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

• Project 1

1. Design of taut-synthetic mooring system for California to include a preliminary entanglement analysis with California Energy Commission

Comment: Can confirm this project

• Project 2

1. Intermediate scale floating offshore wind turbine platform concept with Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E)

• Project 3

1. Risk framework for assessing the likelihood of structural failure of offshore wind infrastructure subject to hurricane wind and waves with Massachusetts Clean Energy Center

2. Subcontractors

1. N/A

3. Organizational Chart

- Org chart is complete and clear

Comment: 3rd party consulting included in organization chart but not listed in subcontractors

4. Litigation (if applicable)

- 22 complaints filed, 7 pending

5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: University of Maine

DATE: 1/31/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Nathan Lubega

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Energy Research and Development/California Energy Commission

- Non-standard insurance form provided.

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Objectives

- Risk assessment within Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and wind energy areas (WEAs) delineated in Maine

2. Task 1: Literature Review, Data Collection, and Data Gaps

- Summary report
- Online data repository

3. Task 2: Stakeholder Engagement

- Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Summary Report

4. Task 3: Desktop Risk Assessment

- Secondary entanglement risk quantification report
- Peer reviewed article

5. Task 4: Monitoring Approaches and Technology

- Technology review

6. Task 5: Retrieval Approaches and Technology

- Summary report for monitoring and retrieval

7. Task 6: Project Management, Final Report and Communication

- Final report
- Press release
- Data repository

8. Implementation – Work Plan

- Gantt chart is clear

Comment: Project schedule is missing, the Gantt chart has some loose timelines

III. Cost Proposal

1. Task 1

- \$28,976

2. Task 2

- \$44,773

3. Task 3

- \$97,945

4. Task 4

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: University of Maine

DATE: 1/31/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Nathan Lubega

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Energy Research and Development/California Energy Commission

- \$34,445
- 5. Task 5
 - \$25,937
- 6. Task 6
 - \$31,597
- 7. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - \$76,446 in cash
 - 28.99% in cash match

Comment: Very detailed cost proposal and supporting documentation. Project seems a good value for the cost and high cash match percentage.

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

- 1. Partnerships/ collaborations
 - 3 letters of commitment with strong partners

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: University of Maine

DATE: 1/31/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Stephanie Watson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- The University of Maine's (UMaine) Advanced Structures and Composites Center (ASCC) is a globally recognized leader in materials and advanced manufacturing and engineering of composites, including floating offshore wind
- Employs over 300 faculty, staff and students, spun off 5 companies, and developed more than 200 patents
- Significant research background and facilities relevant to topic
- Proposed technology provided for the state's floating offshore wind research array; deploying an Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) demonstration floating turbine
- Project Examples relevant to this topic: Semi-taut mooring system research with California Energy Commission Research and Development program; VoltturnUS+ semi-submersible floating offshore wind design with the Department of Energy (DOE) ARPA-E program; Development of risk framework for assessing monopiles and towers regarding hurricanes with Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC).

2. Subcontractors

1. None listed

3. Organizational Chart

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: University of Maine

DATE: 1/31/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Stephanie Watson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

- Table included
- Four Teams, each with an identified senior lead except the Consulting Team TBD
 - 1. Risk Team (Hallowell), Modeling Team (Ward), Marine Science Team (Brady), and Consulting Team (TBD).
- Table includes list of task involvement per Team. Who is providing overall lead?
- 4. Litigation (if applicable)
 - Included for the UMaine System
- 5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Complete
- II. Proposed Scope of Work
 - 1. Task 1 Literature Review, Data Collection and Data Gaps
 - Literature review of publicly available data, including oceanographic drivers, building on preliminary literature review on the topic by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). Will collaborate with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) (not listed as 3rd party in organizational table) and Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR).
 - Compilation of data into an open, online data repository
 - How will gaps be identified
 - Final report
 - 2. Task 2 Stakeholder Engagement
 - Plan will include fishing industry members from Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); Maine DMR; and developers
 - Will work with The Nature Conservancy of Maine to hold a stakeholder meeting with developers in the Gulf of Maine (Diamond Offshore Wind, Avangrid)
 - Plan (listed twice), host stakeholder engagement meetings for concept overview; hold stakeholder engagement meetings for gear loss estimation; stakeholder engagement meetings for risk results dissemination, monitoring and gear retrieval; stakeholder engagement summary

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: University of Maine

DATE: 1/31/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Stephanie Watson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

3. Task 3 Desktop Risk Assessment

- Proposes to include movement of ghost gear in Gulf of Maine, turbine scale likelihoods of derelict gear entanglement, and seasonal likelihood of marine life entering the Wind Energy Area (WEA) into a probability estimate
- Proposes to quantify the risk of derelict gear ensnaring on floating offshore wind turbine (FOWT) infrastructure and the subsequent likelihood of secondary entanglement

4. Task 4: Monitoring Approaches and Technology

- Proposes to review different sensors, cables, visual inspection technologies
- References Kincardine project example
- Includes an example of monitoring technology ranking chart – good categorization of where the risks may occur

5. Task 5: Retrieval Approaches and Technology

- Review of best practices with summary report. Could use more detail.

6. Task 6: Communications Plan

- Includes project management and communications
- Data and coding included in a Github Repository
- Final report

7. Implementation – Work Plan

- Gantt chart included

III. Cost Proposal

1. Total cost requested= \$263,672
2. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - Includes \$76,446 cost share (in-kind time and benefits)

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations
 - The Nature Conservancy of Maine
 - Diamond Offshore Wind
 - Avangrid
2. Availability of data
 - Open online repository

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Xodus Group

DATE: 2/6/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Summers

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Marine Resources

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is required that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- Global offshore wind energy consulting company. Fisheries coexistence and environmental analysis in developed offshore wind markets, particularly Scotland
- Supported several public responses regarding North Atlantic Right Whales and offshore wind, including the 'North Atlantic Right Whale Vessel Strike Reduction Rule' [The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) / the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) / Department of Commerce (DOC) 2022] and the North Atlantic Right Whale and Offshore Wind Strategy the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)/ NMFS/ NOAA, 2022]. Beyond this, Xodus has been undertaking additional work supporting offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine, including work to support the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) Offshore Wind Roadmap and support of the Maine International Trade Center's (MITC) offshore wind efforts. More recently, Xodus is part of a partnership (including Kelson Marine) which has been provisionally awarded funding from the Department of Energy (DOE) and Wind Energy Technologies Office (WETO) to investigate the co-location of aquaculture and floating offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine
- Engagement and fisheries work with offshore wind in Scotland

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Xodus Group

DATE: 2/6/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Summers

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Marine Resources

- Subcontractors
- Kelson Marine (Portland, Maine) specializes in engineering and physics-based simulation of fisheries, aquaculture, and floating offshore wind turbine (FOWT) mooring gear in waves and currents and regional circulation modeling and geospatial analysis. BelleQuant (Mebane, North Carolina) is the developer and owner of the BOEM/NOAA-funded entanglement simulator
- Project 1 – feasibility analysis investigating the potential for specific floating offshore wind technologies to be co-located with specific aquaculture technologies in the Gulf of Maine. Includes feasibility matrix, challenges and opportunities from an industry perspective.
- Project 2 – develop a framework facilitating improved cross-sector coordination and conflict resolution. The aim was to manage underwater noise disturbance, particularly to harbor seals (*Phocoena phocoena*), whilst minimizing the operations risks and challenges to the industry
- Project 3 - feasibility of implementing underwater noise abatement systems (NAS) during piling operations at Dogger Bank C wind farm. Technical report and recommendations (to not include noise abatement – would delay project with little conservation benefit).

2. Subcontractors

- Kelson Marine Co. will execute the desktop risk assessment portion of the proposal in conjunction with BelleQuant Engineering. The Kelson team will use data gathered in Task 1 on the rates and geographic distribution of gear loss in the Gulf of Maine. This data will be an input into a physics based drift model that combines our deep understanding of the hydrodynamic behavior of fishing gear with regional circulation and drift modeling capabilities. We will use this model to rigorously estimate probabilities of encounter between this derelict gear and FOWT moorings in realistic lease layouts in 3D space as a function of gear type. This deliverable will provide necessary input data for BelleQuant Engineering's tangling analyses using the BOEM/NOAA simulator.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Xodus Group

DATE: 2/6/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Summers

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Marine Resources

- BelleQuant Engineering, PLLC will execute a portion of Task 3, Desktop Risk Assessment of the proposal in coordination with Kelson Marine Co. BelleQuant Engineering will use the data assimilated by the Kelson Marine as input to our risk assessment calculations using the BOEM/NOAA entanglement simulator.
- 3. Organizational Chart
 - Attached
 - Included GEO and Research Consortium Advisory Board in organizational chart
- 4. Litigation (if applicable)
 - N/A
- 5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Complete
- II. Proposed Scope of Work
 - 1. Task 1: Literature Review, Data Collection, and Data Gaps
 - Comprehensive literature review on information associated with potential entanglement risk for offshore infrastructure; relevant topics will include gear loss rates, fishing gear types (with priority given to those in use in the Gulf of Maine), relevant policy, broader marine debris, and mitigations against ghost gear and associated debris. Supplement by engagement with various maritime partners
 - State of the Science report on marine debris and gear loss in the Gulf of Maine and how it pertains to entanglement risk. This report will also include a chapter on data gaps and recommendations for addressing those data gaps.
 - 2. Task 2: Stakeholder Engagement
 - Engagement plan - overview of the methodology for outreach, communication, and dissemination of findings while highlighting the strategy for incorporating stakeholder input and data
 - Fisheries stakeholders: intended to include organizations such as the following: Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI), Maine Lobstermen's Association, Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation, Maine Coast Fishermen's Association, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries, Department of Marine Resources (DMR), OceansWide,

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Xodus Group

DATE: 2/6/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Summers

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Marine Resources

and others. The intention is to cover stakeholders across various gear types, as well as those entities engaged in research, data collection, and education in this space.

- Relevant offshore wind developers and stakeholders, plus ecological environmental NGOs
- Incorporate relevant Fisheries' Traditional Ecological Knowledge (FTEK) as it pertains to experience with gear loss, interaction with ghost gear, and potential methods to mitigate and recover lost gear
- One on ones, small meetings, survey tools. Also suggest regular check-ins with GEO and the Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium.
- Early-stage engagement will focus on fisheries and gear loss/marine debris topics, while engagement will shift towards novel technologies, innovation, and industry initiatives regarding monitoring and retrieval of debris later on in the project timeline
- Touch points for feedback on fishery-specific model inputs?

3. Task 3: Desktop Risk Assessment

- Kelson Marine Co. will execute the desktop risk assessment portion of the proposal in conjunction with BelleQuant Engineering. The Kelson team will use data gathered in Task 1 on the rates and geographic distribution of gear loss in the Gulf of Maine. This data will be an input into a physics-based drift model that combines our deep understanding of the hydrodynamic behavior of fishing gear with regional circulation and drift modeling capabilities. We will use this model to rigorously estimate probabilities of encounter between this derelict gear and floating offshore wind turbine (FOWT) moorings in realistic lease layouts in 3D space as a function of gear type
- Determine the most common prevalent and potentially impactful gear types as targets for study and mitigation – including parts/types of gear and associated buoyancy, drag, etc. combined with circulation models.
- Quantify the mean probability of gear entering each 3D parcel, combining results from 3D drift experiments. Quantify the mean

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Xodus Group

DATE: 2/6/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Summers

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Marine Resources

probability of encounter between derelict gear configurations and FOWT moorings within lease areas. Synthesize probabilities through static maps and a post-processed dataset.

- Input above into whale entanglement model and provide outputs.
- Draft interim report on the most probable gear types and associated encounter modes with FOWT mooring lines determined by Kelson Marine at the completion of Task 3.4, prior to the initiation of BelleQuant's entanglement modeling for the identified gear types and modes. Maine GEO and the Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium Advisory Board will receive a draft interim report following BelleQuant's portion of Task 3 as well.

4. Task 4: Monitoring Approaches and Techs

- Stakeholder relationships and literature review to generate chapter on what's available. Utilize already existing projects.
- Light on details
- Chapter in report

5. Task 5: Retrieval Approaches and Technology

- Examples of appropriate risk mitigation and rapid response technologies. This will all be communicated in the context of the unique environmental and social challenges associated with the Gulf of Maine ecosystem, including the presence of marine mammals, including the critically-endangered North Atlantic right whale (NARW), the prevalence of rope-based fisheries (and the challenges around associated policy and technology shifts), and the nascency of the floating offshore wind industry
- Light on details
- Report chapter, gaps and opportunities

6. Task 6: Final Report and Communications

- Final report and slide deck and closing meeting

7. Implementation – Work Plan

- Timeline seems reasonable if not ambitious. Detailed task chart with timeline attached

III. Cost Proposal

1. Total cost \$349,669
2. Bulk of time and funds on Task 3

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Xodus Group

DATE: 2/6/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Erin Summers

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Marine Resources

3. Minimal hours allocated to Tasks 4 and 5
 4. Cost sharing plan
 - Cost sharing \$48,673 in-kind across applicant and both sub-contractors
- IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support
1. Partnerships/ collaborations
 - Letters from Diamond Offshore Wind, National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium (NOWRDC), Seaway7, and Boston University

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Xodus Group

DATE: 1/31/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Nathan Lubega

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Energy Research and Development Division/California Energy Commission

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

- I. Organization Qualifications and Experience
 1. Organization Overview/ Introduction
Offshore energy consultant for technical, environmental, and engineering support in offshore wind.
 - Project 1
 1. Feasibility analysis investigating potential for floating offshore wind with aquaculture in Maine with Department of Energy (DMR)
 - Project 2
 1. Develop a framework facilitating improved cross-sector coordination to manage underwater noise disturbance with offshore wind industry council
 - Project 3
 1. Implement underwater noise abatement systems for piling operations with Dogger Bank Wind Farm
 2. Subcontractors
 - BelleQuant Engineering
 1. Perform part of Task 3, desktop risk assessment
 2. Experience with scientific simulations, computational fluid dynamics, marine mammal locomotion, and wind turbine design and analysis.
 - Kelson Marine Company

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Xodus Group

DATE: 1/31/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Nathan Lubega

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Energy Research and Development Division/California Energy Commission

1. Part of Task 3, desktop risk assessment in conjunction with BelleQuant by using Task 1 data as input into a physics model to estimate probabilities of entanglement.

Comment: No discussion on this subcontractor's qualifications to complete this task

3. Organizational Chart

- Complete and detailed
- Emma Martin, Project Manager
- Nick Hemmings, Engineering Manager
- Dr. Ewan Edwards, Environmental specialist
- Femke de Boer, Fisheries Specialist
- Tobias Dewhurst, Ocean engineer (Kelson Marine)
- Dr. Laurens Howle, Fluid Dynamics (BelleQuant)

Comment: Proposed staff seem lacking in stakeholder engagement expertise per Task 2

4. Litigation (if applicable)

- N/A

5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)

- Sample provided

- II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Task 1: Literature Review, Data Collection, and Data Gaps

- Report

2. Task 2: Stakeholder engagement plan

- Stakeholder engagement plan
- Stakeholder list
- Target engagement questions

Comment: Applicant proposes that this task will be completed by the project team who did not demonstrate appropriate expertise and experience for this task.

3. Task 3: Desktop Risk Assessment

- To be completed by both subcontractors
- Detailed report

Comment: This task is very clear as to the metrics and level of detail for the report and results

4. Task 4: Monitoring Approaches and Technologies

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Xodus Group

DATE: 1/31/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Nathan Lubega

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Energy Research and Development Division/California Energy Commission

- Report chapter including recommendations and gaps
- 5. Task 5: Retrieval Approaches and Technologies
 - Report chapter regarding retrieval technologies

Comment: Tasks 4 and 5 seem light on information and not clear in the level of detail this work is expected to complete.

- 6. Task 6: Final Report and Communication Products
 - Final Report
 - 2-page summary
 - PowerPoint and presentation
- 7. Implementation – Work Plan
 - No schedule included
 - Anticipate work to be completed in 10 months
 - Gantt chart complete

Comment: The proposed work seems rushed and no clear dates on when tasks will be completed. Furthermore the lack of experience and expertise with stakeholder engagement brings to question if this is enough time to gather and communicate with all the necessary stakeholders to ensure a robust process.

III. Cost Proposal

- 1. Task 1
 - \$46,818
- 2. Task 2
 - \$49,110
- 3. Task 3
 - \$139,198
- 4. Task 4
 - \$12,595
- 5. Task 5
 - \$12,595
- 6. Task 6
 - \$24,398
- 7. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - \$48,683 in kind “discount” proposed

Comment: Many concerns here. 1) Proposed costs per task are not detailed by labor categories, software/equipment purchase, fringe benefits, indirect costs, etc. 2) Task 4 and 5 costs are the same, which given the lack of information in the proposed scope

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Xodus Group

DATE: 1/31/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Nathan Lubega

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Energy Research and Development Division/California Energy Commission

raises a concern as to whether or not the applicant is making a distinction between these tasks 3) Task 3 allocates ~\$25k for an in-house software support that is unnecessarily high and not an appropriate use of public funds 4) Biggest concern is that the applicant's proposed costs are higher than the allocated funding for this project group (~\$400k) and the "match" is a discount (~\$50k) to bring it in line with the funding. I don't think this application meets the funding requirements for this RFA.

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations

- 2 Letters of Commitment
- 4 Letters of support

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Xodus Group

DATE: 1/31/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Stephanie Watson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- Xodus is a global consultancy with technical, environmental and engineering support for offshore energy. More than 10 years in offshore wind, including support to the Maine Governor's Energy Office (GEO) and Maine International Trade Center on the Roadmap and its implementation. Has supported responses to North Atlantic Right Whale rules and strategies. Experience working with fisheries in Scotland on offshore wind.
- Project Examples Relevant to the Topic: Department of Energy (DOE) feasibility study (provisionally awarded) of offshore wind and aquaculture co-location with the University of Maine (UMaine), Kelson Marine; Underwater noise mitigation conflict resolution with the Offshore Wind Industry Council through RenewablesUK; Noise abatement feasibility report for Dogger Bank Wind Farm
- ISO certification for quality management

2. Subcontractors

- Subcontractor 1
 1. Kelson Marine – Maine-based engineering firm with fisheries, aquaculture, and ocean energy expertise; Will provide desktop risk assessment with BelleQuant.
- Subcontractor 2
 1. BelleQuant – North Carolina based engineer - developer and owner of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Xodus Group

DATE: 1/31/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Stephanie Watson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

/ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
funded entanglement simulator

3. Organizational Chart

- Included
- Team members include renewables (lead), fisheries, ocean engineering, and risk assessment expertise

4. Litigation (if applicable)

- Listed as none

5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)

- Complete

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Task 1: Literature Review, Data Collection and Data gaps

- Literature review of gray and peer reviewed literature
- Will use GIS visualizations of available data to help inform
- State of science report on ghost gear and marine debris in the Gulf of Maine and how pertains to entanglement risk. Details on the entanglement risk review would be helpful.

2. Task 2: Stakeholder engagement plan

- To include outreach, communication and dissemination of findings while incorporating stakeholder data
- Comprehensive list of focal areas and stakeholder groups
- Engagement will vary depending on phase of the project (i.e., early engagement on fisheries and marine debris topics while later on retrieval technologies.
- Include fisheries ecological knowledge
- Stakeholder plan, stakeholder list, target questions

3. Task 3: Desktop risk assessment

- Kelson Marine to lead this with BelleQuant Engineering. Model to include hydrodynamic behavior of different types of fishing gear and entanglement with floating offshore technology in 3D. Will include evaluations of net buoyancy and drag coefficients. Detailed approach although less specifics on the marine mammal aspect.
- Summary report

4. Task 4: Monitoring technologies

- Stakeholder engagement and literature review

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #2

APPLICANT NAME: Xodus Group

DATE: 1/31/25

EVALUATOR NAME: Stephanie Watson

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

- Will utilize global network and experience from other offshore wind projects
 - Summary report
 - More detail would be helpful
 - 5. Task 5: Retrieval technologies
 - Engagement and literature review
 - Acknowledge the social and cultural considerations which seems important
 - More detail would be helpful
 - 6. Task 6: Communications plan
 - Standard report and presentation(s) – meets base level expectations
 - 7. Task 7: Implementation plan
 - Included for each task
- III. Cost Proposal
1. Budget is heavily weighted on some topics and high
 2. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - Lead and subcontractors agreed to reductions in rates, totaling \$48,673. Is this the same as in-kind?
- IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support
1. Partnerships/ collaborations
 - From subcontractors – Kelson and BelleQuant
 - Diamond Offshore Wind
 - National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium (NOWRDC)
 - Seaway7
 - Boston University

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: 2/10/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: John Perry

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

- The staff at Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) have significant experience conducting bat acoustic research in both terrestrial and offshore environments, including buoy, boat, and offshore wind turbine deployments, as well as managing large-scale projects to support offshore wind decision-making
- BRI has been conducting research on bats for 20 years, working to inform offshore wind energy decision-making for over 15 years, and working in the Gulf of Maine for over 25 years.
- Significant experience conducting bat acoustic research in both terrestrial and offshore environments, including buoy, boat, and offshore wind turbine deployments, as well as managing large-scale projects to support offshore wind decision-making
- Deployed bat acoustic detectors on vessels in the mid-Atlantic and in the Gulf of Maine and installed detectors on the nacelle of offshore wind turbines for a Department of Energy (DOE) funded project
- Conducted long-term tests of bat acoustic equipment in the marine environment
- BRI is qualified

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- **Project 1: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) Gulf of Maine (GOM) bat acoustic monitoring**

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: 2/10/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: John Perry

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

1. Brief Description of Project: deployed detectors/microphones on five islands, 2 coastal sites, and three vessels following range-wide Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Northern Long-eared Bat (NLEB) guidelines
 - a. Used Kaleidoscope Pro/vetted calls
 - b. Data analyzed to see how bat activity varied temporally/spatially in GOM, as well as relative to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) lease areas
- **Project 2: Name: Project Wildlife and Offshore Wind (WOW)**
 1. Brief Description of Project: As part of a large consortium of researchers collaborating on Project WOW, BRI is responsible for deploying passive acoustic detectors on operational turbines and other strategic locations (buoys, vessels, islands, and coastal sites) in New England and the New York Bight to examine patterns of bat presence, species composition, and activity offshore.
 - a. Goals include improving understanding of exposure of bats to the rotor-swept zone of operational offshore wind turbines and identifying drivers of offshore bat activity, including wind speed and direction, time of night/year, moon phase, distance from shore, local topography, turbine status, and other factors
- **Project 3: Environmental Design and Research (EDR) pre-construction boat-based acoustic bat surveys**
 1. Brief Description of Project: Conducted pre-construction boat-based acoustic bat surveys throughout the BOEM Offshore Wind Lease Area OCS-A 0499
 - a. Analyzing the calls recorded in both years and managing the surveys in 2021
 - b. Acoustic surveys
 - c. Processed data
2. Subcontractors
 - **Subcontractor 1: Bat Conservation International (BCI)**

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: 2/10/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: John Perry

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Provide technical support for buoy detector deployments, peer-review of a subset of potential bat calls, and general advisory support of the proposed research design and analytical approaches. BRI selected BCI in consideration of its demonstrated commitment to scientific rigor, and because its staff offers an unmatched level of expertise with regards to bats and the offshore environment.

- **Subcontractor 2: Maine Coast Fishermen's Association (MCFA)**

Identify available fishing vessels with routes most valuable to data collection, work with member vessel captains to deploy and maintain bat acoustic detectors, and provide maintenance assistance. MCFA's established and trusted leadership within the Maine fishing industry, large vessel network, and proven conservation record make them an unparalleled partner on this project.

3. Organizational Chart

STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute

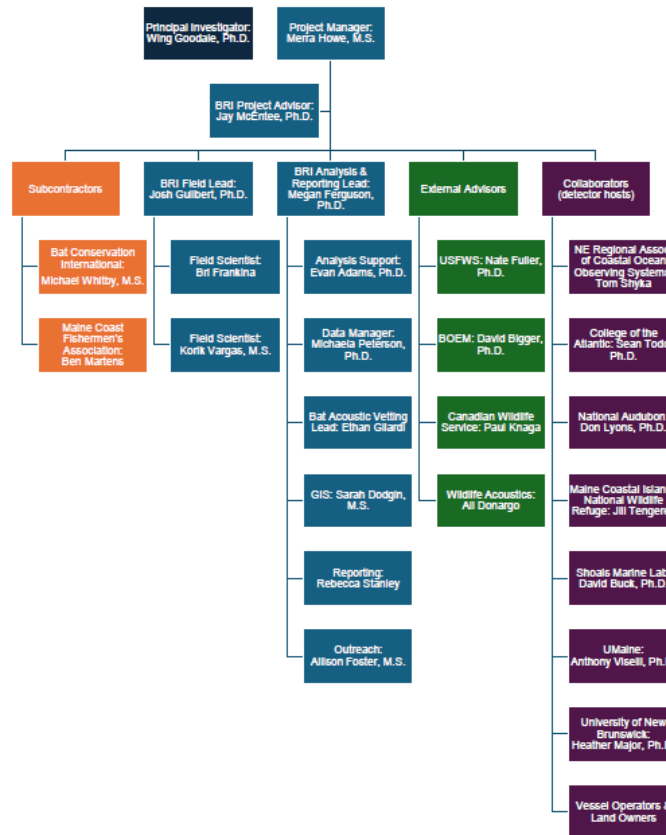
DATE: 2/10/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: John Perry

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Gulf of Maine Bat Research Program Organizational Chart

Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) proposes to lead the Governor's Energy Office RFA# 202410193 "Project 3: Baseline offshore bat monitoring assessment" through a broad collaborative named Gulf of Maine Bat Research Program (abbreviated "GoMBat"). The Principal Investigator is Dr. Wing Goodale. Merrin Howe, M.S. will lead the study, with support from more than ten BRI staff, two subcontractors, and four advisors, as well as a broad group of collaborators hosting detectors. The project organizational chart, below, lists the roles of each member of the collaborative.



Very detailed breakdown of staff

4. Litigation (if applicable)

- BRI has no current litigation or closed cases that have closed within the past five (5) years in which the Applicant paid the claimant either as part of a settlement or by decree to report.

5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: 2/10/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: John Perry

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

- Complete

II. Proposed Scope of Work

- Task 1: Development of the study plan, BRI will build on its 2024 data collection effort with MDIFW, the research framework presented herein, and the expertise of GOM Bat partners
- Task 2: Building, deploying, maintaining, and retrieving acoustic detectors across a diverse array of platforms/sites.
Redundant detectors???
- Task 3: The data will be processed and analyzed using a rigorous QA/QC process allowing a standardized comparison of bat occurrence between different areas and over time.
- Task 4: Detailed report, outreach documents, and at least one peer-reviewed paper

III. Cost Proposal – Budget Narrative (refer to detailed budget breakdown)

- Overall reduction of rates
- Instead of billing staff at their standard government rates commensurate with their education and experience, we are proposing to bill staff at BRI's lowest approved United States General Services Administration (GSA) rate that covers the staffer's salary, fringe, and indirect expenses. For Dr. Goodale's time, we have further reduced the applicable GSA rate from \$161.21 to \$135 per hour.
- Waiving administrative fee of 10% that applies to subcontractor pass-through fees and equipment purchases. This fee covers the overhead costs associated with administering these expenses. BRI is waiving this fee as an in-kind contribution, so that subcontractor costs and equipment purchases will be passed through to the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) with no markup
- Reducing standard daily truck rental charge of \$175 to \$100 (\$6,750 savings)
- BRI is offering the use of its 9 SM4BAT detectors, 3 of which are already customized for vessel deployment, as an in-kind contribution to the project. BRI will not charge rental fees on these units.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: 2/10/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: John Perry

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

- BRI's relationships with collaborators will help to minimize labor costs for deployment and maintenance of detectors, many on remote island locations. Over the course of the project, BRI expects that collaborators will contribute hundreds of volunteer hours to project efforts.

2. Task 1: Develop Study Plan

- Estimated hours: 208 BRI/24 subcontractor (BCI)
- Total cost requested: \$22,767

3. Task 2: Collect Data

- Estimated hours: 996 hours of BRI staff time
 1. building, deploying, maintaining, and retrieving acoustic detectors across the 2025 and 2026 field seasons;
 2. \$45,000 in acoustic equipment (e.g., detectors, microphones, power stations, enclosures, GPS pucks)
 3. \$11,688 in support from Maine Coast Fishermen's Association to deploy detectors on member fishing vessels
 4. Support from BCI on buoy deployment strategy
 5. Travel expenses
- Cost per hour
- Total cost requested: \$140,456

5. Task 3: Data Processing and Analysis

- Estimated hours: 2,503 hours of BRI staff time; includes 80 hours for two annual submissions to North American Bat (NABat), 220 hours of BCI staff time for advisory support on data analysis, as well as peer review and QA/QC support (\$190,863)

6. Task 4: Reporting

- Estimated hours:
 - a. 100 BRI staff hours for the first annual report
 - b. 196 staff hours for the final report
 - c. 130 hours for the scientific manuscript
 - d. 70 hours for stakeholder outreach
 - e. \$45,910 total budget

Total Requested Cost: \$399,996.63

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: 2/10/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: John Perry

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

7. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)

- BRI is providing, as an in-kind contribution, use of 9 SM4BAT acoustic recorders (\$12,287.88)
- BRI is waiving its 10% administrative fee on subcontractor fees and equipment purchases (\$6,023)
- Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS) has committed to purchasing up to 12 detectors for deployment on buoys (\$13,188)
- Project partners will provide hundreds of hours of time as in-kind support for this Task. BRI estimates that each partner hosting a detector over the two project years will provide 20-30 hours of in-kind support.
- USFWS has committed to acquiring, deploying, maintaining, and retrieving detectors on five Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex islands at no cost to the project (status??)
- Project WOW—unclear?

	Cash	In-Kind	Total
State of Maine	\$399,996.63	-	-
Biodiversity Research Institute (Applicant)	\$12,232.00	\$20,146.61	\$32,378.61
NERACOOS	\$13,188.00	-	\$13,188.00
Project WOW	\$106,233.99	-	\$106,233.99
Total	\$531,650.62	\$20,146.61	\$551,797.23

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations

- Bat Conservation International
- BCI (Winifred Frick, Michael Whitby) subcontractor
- Maine Coast Fishermen's Association (Ben Martens) subcontractor

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: 2/10/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: John Perry

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

- USFWS Ecological Services (Nathan Fuller, Samantha Hoff))
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (David Bigger)
- Canadian Wildlife Service (Paul Knaga)
- Wildlife Acoustics (Mona Doss)
- NERACOOS (Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems) (Jake Kritzer, Executive Director)
- College of the Atlantic (Sean Todd, Steven K. Katona)
- National Audubon Society's Seabird Institute (Don Lyons)
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuge (Jill Tengeres)
- Shoals Marine Laboratory (David Buck)
- UMaine Advanced Structures and Composites Center (Anthony Viselli)
- Maria Jo Ann vessel (Captain Robby Roberge)

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI)

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- BRI is a Maine-based nonprofit ecological research group that has been conducting bat research for 20 years and working in the Gulf of Maine for over 25 years
- BRI staff have significant experience conducting bat acoustic research both on- and offshore, including on buoys, boats, and offshore wind turbines
- Worked with UMaine to deploy bat acoustic detector on UMaine turbine off Castine in 2013 and have since been involved with bat monitoring at commercial scale projects (Vineyard Wind 1 and Revolution Wind)
- Demonstrate experienced processing data using U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) guidelines
- Dr. Wing Goodale proposed to serve as Principal Investigator (PI) and has been conducting research on the impacts of offshore wind energy on wildlife since 2009

- Project 1: Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife (MDIFW)

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI)

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

1. Conducted bat acoustic monitoring in the Gulf of Maine between July-October 2024 with analysis focused on how bat activity varied spatially and temporally
2. Coordinated with Maine Department of Marine Resources, fishermen, and Shoals Marine lab to deploy detectors on 5 islands, 2 coastal sites, and 3 vessels
3. Demonstrates recent, relevant experience conducting a monitoring campaign in the Gulf of Maine
- Project 2: Project Wildlife and Offshore Wind
 1. BRI part of a consortium of researchers collaborating to deploy passive acoustic detectors on operational turbines and other strategic locations in New England and the New York Bight
 2. Goal is to improve understanding of bat presence, species composition, and bat activity offshore
 3. Demonstrates involvement in regional projects and experience in deploying detectors offshore with a focus on offshore wind
- Project 3: Environmental Design and Research
 1. BRI supported opportunistic pre-construction boat-based acoustic bat surveys of a BOEM lease area in 2020 and 2021
 2. BRI analyzed the calls for both years and additionally managed the surveys in 2021. The survey results are available in a public report
 3. Demonstrates experience conducting offshore bat surveys and analyzing the data in accordance with USFWS protocols
2. Subcontractors
 - Subcontractor 1: Bat Conservation International (BCI)
 1. BCI is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of bat species and producing science-based solutions for bat conservation globally
 2. BCI will provide technical support for buoy detector deployments, peer-review of a subset of potential calls, and general advisory support of the proposed research design and analytical approaches

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI)

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

3. Proposed staff are working on establishing baseline data on bat activity on the Pacific coast for U.S. Department of Energy and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
 - Subcontractor 2: Maine Coast Fishermen's Association (MCFA)
 1. MCFA is a commercial fishing industry-focused nonprofit that advances environmental, policy, business, and research solutions for Maine's fishing communities since 2006
 2. MCFA will help identify available fishing vessels with routes most valuable to data collection, work with member vessel captains to deploy and maintain detectors, and provide maintenance assistance
 3. MCFA has deep experience partnering on collaborative research projects, including deploying monitoring systems and collecting environmental data
 3. Organizational Chart
 - Included
 - Detailed with staff members all named by role and organization
 - Includes 8 collaborators that will serve as detector hosts
 - Lists 4 external advisors representing federal agencies and other experts
 4. Litigation (if applicable)
 - No current litigation or closed cases that have closed within the past 5 years in which the Applicant paid the claimant either as part of a settlement or by decree to report
 5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Included
- II. Proposed Scope of Work
1. Objectives
 - Identifies 4 key questions:
 1. How does bat occurrence compare between the offshore, island, and coastal sites?
 2. What is the composition of bat species offshore, and how are such species distributed spatially and temporally across the Gulf of Maine?

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI)

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

3. How do weather conditions and other environmental factors influence offshore bat presence?
 4. How does bat occurrence vary temporally and spatially between a coast wind turbine site and an inland site?
- BRI intends to answer these questions through a broad collaboration that leverages ongoing research and includes a strong partnership with Maine's fishing community
2. Task 1: Develop study plan
 - Create study plan leveraging 2024 MDIFW data, external expertise, and detector host partnerships. It will include the methods and study area
 - Plan will focus on key questions listed above, and incorporate NABat methods, RWSC Science Plan Recommendations, and lessons from the 2024 MDIFW study
 - Subtasks include kick-off meeting with GEO, drafting the study plan, and going through an external review to finalize the plan
 - Question on how realistic spring 2025 deployment is and what the implications are if that season is missed
3. Task 2: Collect data
 - Target the 8 bat species found in Maine
 - Propose detectors on (map of proposed sites included):
 - 6 vessels for the mobile acoustic transects based on existing relationships with Maine fishermen and through MCFA subcontractor,
 - 6 buoys through coordination with NERACOOS
 - 1 floating offshore wind turbine off the coast of Castine (UMaine project)
 - 13 on islands and inland locations for stationary acoustic monitoring
 - Site access is confirmed at 19 potential deployment sites
 - Plan to deploy detectors in spring 2025 and 2026 with buoy monitors expected to commence in fall 2025
 - Subtasks include assembling detectors, deploying detectors, collecting data and maintaining detectors, and retrieving detectors

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI)

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

- Key deliverables are the deployment and maintenance of acoustic detectors from the spring through fall of each year, 2025-2026 and quarterly updates to GEO and MDIFW
 - Description of subtasks demonstrates familiarity with setting up, deploying, and maintaining detectors on land, vessels, and buoys
4. Task 3: Data processing and analysis
- Plan to process data through Kaleidoscope Pro and SonoBat and manually vetting the data. Two types of metrics: binary classification of presence/absence of a species at a particular sample site and period and a measure of relative acoustic activity (presumed absence, low activity and high activity)
 - Will conduct a robust quality assurance/quality control process through internal review and third party peer review (BCI and USFWS) for subset of data
 - Analytical approach for each research question laid out
 - Application describes a couple of different models that may be utilized (mixed model, occupancy modeling). Identifies additional analysis that is contingent on budget and sufficient sample sizes
 - Subtasks include data processing and manual vetting and data analysis
 - Key deliverables will be vetted files, methods and results sections of the annual report, curated NABat projects maintained in the data portal, and quarterly updates to GEO and MDIFW
5. Task 4: Final report and communication products
- Plan to combine data from this project with 2024 MDIFW data to develop a technical report, outreach materials, and at least one peer-reviewed paper
 - Annual and final reports will include a two-page summary designed for broad audiences and recommendations for future work, including how this project framework can become a long-term monitoring effort
 - Includes coordination with external entities like RWSC, NYSERDA's New York Environmental Technical Working Group, and U.S. and Canadian federal agencies through regular meetings

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI)

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

- BRI staff have strong history of publishing papers and a peer-reviewed paper will ensure federal agencies and others to reference during offshore wind permitting processes
- Key deliverables include an annual report summarizing 2025 field efforts, preliminary results, and plans for 2026; a presentation to GEO, MDIFW, and the Consortium Advisory Board; outreach materials to be sent to detector hosts; a final report combining all data with statistical analysis, final outreach materials; and at least one peer-reviewed paper

6. Implementation – Work Plan

- Proposed timeline goes from Q1 2025-Q4 2027, notes schedule has been developed for unfavorable weather conditions
- Gantt chart high level- by quarters
- All tasks and subtasks included

III. Cost Proposal

- Budget narrative is detailed by task and includes assumptions
- Tasks are broken out by specific staff members with estimated hours, table includes work to be conducted by specific subcontractors
- Task 1= \$22,767
- Task 2= \$140,456
- Task 3= \$190,862
- Task 4= \$45,910
- Total cost requested= \$399,996.63
- Proposed costs are essentially at max budget
- Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - Offering BRI's lowest approved GSA rate, waiving administrative fee, reduced daily truck rental charge, offering use of 9 detectors
 - Combination of cash and in-kind cost sharing is \$151,800.60

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations

- Includes letters of commitment from BCI and MCFA
- Includes letters of support from USFWS, BOEM, Canadian Wildlife Service, Wildlife Acoustics, NERACOOS, College of the Atlantic, National Audubon Society's Seabird Institute, Shoals Marine

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI)

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

Laboratory, UMaine Advanced Structures and Composites Center,
and Captain of Maria Jo Ann vessel

- Letters from government agencies, nonprofits, universities, fishing industry
- Includes letters from detector hosts

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Sarah Haggerty

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Maine Audubon

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- Maine-based NGO that does ecological research
- 20 years conducting on- and offshore bat acoustic surveys
- 15 years working in offshore wind
- 25 years working in Gulf of Maine (GoM)
- Conducted Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) surveys referenced in RFA
- Dr. Wing Goodale as PI
 - 1. 15 staff – field lead, analysis lead, 2 directors of acoustics lab, mammal program, animal movement expertise, spatiotemporal pattern analysis, stats, GIS, etc.
 - 2. Project “guided by” Bat Conservation International (BCI), Maine Coast Fishermen’s Association (MCFA), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), Wildlife Acoustic (WA)
- Experience with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at Superfund sites, Acadia National Park, Katahdin Woods National Monument, bat surveys in Africa
- Experience (back to 2013) with bat acoustic detector on University of Maine (UMaine) buoy off Castine; supported planning for bat acoustic monitoring at Vineyard Wind, Revolution Wind, etc.;

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Sarah Haggerty

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Maine Audubon

deployed detectors on vessels, nacelle of offshore wind turbines for the Department of Energy (DOE), tested equipment in marine environment, planning bat acoustic deployments on buoys with Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS)

- Data processing: experienced following USFWS survey guidance
- Project 1 description: bat acoustic monitoring in GoM July-Oct 2024 for MDIFW (5 islands, 2 coastal sites, 3 vessels); Very relevant
- Project 2 description: Project Wildlife and Offshore Wind (WOW) deployed passive acoustic detectors on operational turbines and buoys, vessels, islands, coastal sites in New England and New York Bight to identify factors in bat activity at turbines. Project in progress and very relevant
- Project 3 description: opportunistic pre-construction boat-based acoustic bat surveys in 2020 and 2021 in New Jersey. Bats detected throughout lease area, no clear spatial trends, July-October with spikes in late August and early September. Wind and temperature influenced bat activity. Very relevant project

2. Subcontractors

- Bat Conservation International (BCI)
 1. Tech support for buoy detector deployments, peer-review of subset of potential bat calls, general advisory support. BCI is non-profit with expertise in bats and offshore wind risk
- Maine Coast Fishermen's Association (MCFA)
 1. Identify available fishing vessels with routes most valuable to data collection, work with boats to deploy and maintain detectors. MCFA is commercial fishing industry-focused non-profit organization. Working with fishing organizations encouraged in RFA

3. Organizational Chart

- Provided
- Detailed with staff members named by role and organization
- Included collaborators
- A lot of different people, question about how it will be coordinated
- Hope it won't be too cumbersome

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Sarah Haggerty

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Maine Audubon

4. Litigation (if applicable)
 - NA
5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Appears complete
- II. Proposed Scope of Work
 1. Objectives
 - Conduct multifaceted acoustic monitoring and analysis effort to understand bat occurrence in the GoM
 - 2 years, 30 detectors deployed across vessels, buoys, coastal sites, UMaine floating test turbine; already has partners ready to go
 - Develop an ecological understanding of baseline occurrence of bats in GoM and
 1. Compare bat occurrences offshore, islands, coast
 2. Composition of bat species offshore and how spatially and temporally distributed in GoM
 3. Identify effect of weather conditions and other environmental factors on bat presence
 4. Compare bat occurrence temporally and spatially between coastal and inland sites
 2. Task 1
 - Develop study plan built on 2024 surveys with MDIFW; could start as early as spring 2025 (seems unrealistic); would likely just expand current work with MDIFW
 - Doesn't seem to allow for much flexibility or room for input if planning to start as soon as possible
 3. Task 2
 - Build, deploy, maintain, retrieve acoustic detectors across array of platforms/sites; collect data over 1st 2 years (not winter)
 - Will target all 8 bat species in Maine; already has sites and partners lined up so should be able to start quickly
 - No specific information on sampling (size, location, power of sampling) or discussion on duplication of effort (put out more than one detector or check them more often?); need to change out microphones?

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Sarah Haggerty

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Maine Audubon

- 24-hour sampling which is good to capture diurnal activity

4. Task 3

- Data processing – compare sites over time; 3rd year for analysis and reporting
- Will use Kalaidescope Pro and SonoBat to analyze the data
- Manually vetting the data
- Statistical analysis will include input from the Governor's Energy Office (GEO), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and BCI
- Will incorporate 2024 data into their analysis
- Doesn't talk about doing all-bat analysis, just identified bats (need as much data as possible, so should analyze all data)
- Doesn't address bias of bats following ships

5. Task 4

- Report – including at least one peer-reviewed paper
- Annual reports, technical report
- Presentations to GEO, MDIFW, and the Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium Advisory Board
- Outreach materials to site hosts

6. Implementation – Work Plan

- 6 vessels, 6 inland sites, 7 islands, 6 buoys, 1 wind turbine
- Evaluate co-variate info: site, temp, sensor type, etc.
- Develop ecological understanding of baseline bat occurrence in GoM; species-specific with spatial and temporal variables identified
- Gantt chart as required (somewhat high level but good)
- Will vessels be out there overnight? Still number of questions around vessels (where, when, etc.)
- Some details missing, but overall very good

III. Cost Proposal –

1. Maximized the budget. Hourly rates and hours to complete sections seem appropriate and within normal range
2. Task 1 – Develop Study Plan
 - Estimated hours = 208 BRI staff, 24 BCI
 - Cost per Hour = see table
 - Total cost requested = \$22,767

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Sarah Haggerty

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Maine Audubon

3. Task 2 – Collect Data
 - Estimated hours = 996 BRI
 - Cost per Hour = see table
 - Additional costs = \$45,000 acoustic equipment; \$11,688 support from MCFA to deploy detectors on vessels
 - Total cost requested = \$140,456
 4. Task 3 – Data Processing and Analysis
 - Estimated hours = 2503 + 80 BRI staff, 220 BCI
 - Cost per Hour = see table
 - Total cost requested = \$190,863
 5. Task 4 – Reporting
 - Estimated hours = 536 BRI staff
 - Cost per Hour = see table
 - Total cost requested = \$45,910
 6. Cost sharing plan (if applicable) = \$151,800 – may be generous to include so much of WOW work, but not unreasonable to include that work
 - Use of existing BRI acoustic recorders
 - Waive 10% overhead fee
 - NERACOOS providing 12 detectors
 - Partner time hosting detectors; USFWS
 - BRI existing work with WOW
- IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support
1. Partnerships/ collaborations
 - BCI
 - MCFA
 - USFWS
 - BOEM
 - Canada Wildlife Service
 - Wildlife Acoustics
 - NERACOOS
 - College of the Atlantic
 - Audubon Seabird Institute
 - Maine Coast Islands National Wildlife Refuge
 - Shoals Marine Lab
 - University of Maine

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Sarah Haggerty

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Maine Audubon

- Maria Jo Ann vessel
- 2. Availability of data
 - To be made available through reports, peer-reviewed journals, etc.
 - Will make data available through North American Bat (NABat)

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: 2/10/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Zara Dowling

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: RWSC, UMass Amherst

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- Organization appears to have ample experience with bat acoustic data collection and analysis, as well as experience with deployment offshore in particular on vessels and buoys.
- Ample experience working in the Gulf of Maine.
- Familiarity with local contacts [e.g., Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Maine Coast Fisherman's Association (MCFA)], regional contacts [e.g., Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS)], and national contacts [e.g., Bat Conservation International (BCI)] relevant to the proposed work.
- Relevant work (projects) described individually are very relevant to the proposed work and demonstrate experience with this type of work. It would be helpful to know what references say about the applicant's work on those projects.

2. Subcontractors

- Subcontractor involvement is logical given proposed scope of work
- Subcontractors' roles are clear
- Subcontractors have appropriate expertise for their roles in the project.

3. Organizational Chart

- Organizational chart is included.
- This project involves a very large team, as indicated in the organizational chart and also in the detailed budget. This does raise

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: 2/10/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Zara Dowling

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: RWSC, UMass Amherst

questions in my mind about project management and coordination. The proposed scope of work does not dedicate much space to how the project will be managed to assure all involved are coordinating together well. How will hand-offs of project details and data be managed to avoid loss of information or important details among individuals? Will the main point(s) of contact for the project be aware of all the important details as the project moves forward and available to answer questions from the funder?

4. Litigation
 - The applicant reports no current or recent litigation.
5. Certificate of Insurance
 - I don't have the expertise to evaluate a certificate of insurance but it is included.
- II. Proposed Scope of Work
 1. Objectives
 - The broad objectives of the project are well in line with the RFA.
 - The work described is in line with the RFA's expectation that acoustic detectors will be deployed on buoys, vessels, and other offshore sites.
 - The timeline for deployment of acoustic detectors in spring 2025 seems unrealistic, given that the deployment plan will not be finalized until Q3 of 2025, which could mean it is not finalized until September 2025, well into the fall migration season. Either the applicant is being unrealistic about the timeline of when detectors will actually be deployed or is not planning to fully incorporate feedback from funders and partners into planning for the first year of data collection.
 - The applicant has already identified many project partners/site hosts which could allow for a relatively quick project kick-off.
 2. Task 1
 - The proposed scope of work for this task is clearly described and meets the requirements of the RFA.
 - The applicant does not include presenting the draft plan to the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC) Offshore Bat

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: 2/10/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Zara Dowling

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: RWSC, UMass Amherst

Working Group for review, which would be a helpful group to provide expert feedback on the proposed study plan.

3. Task 2

- The components of deployment that have been fleshed out thus far are clearly described. The applicant has already lined up a number of stationary monitoring sites in coastal areas, on islands, and on buoys, and has identified clear project partners for site deployment.
- A project subcontractor has been identified to assist with vessel deployment, which should facilitate logistics of deployment on vessels.
- Because the vessel routes have not been determined, it is difficult to evaluate how much of the Gulf of Maine will be sampled acoustically, including the overall area that is sampled or coverage within a given area. There is not an indication of what will be considered adequate sampling coverage, although a 10x10 km grid cell size is mentioned. There is no power analysis or estimate of adequate sample size to provide meaningful information about bat presence/absence in different grid cells.
- The proposal does not include redundancy – that is, deploying more than one detector at a given location. This is a concern given the harsh offshore environment and relatively inaccessible nature of some sites. Visiting a detector only every 6 months (i.e., on NERACOOS buoys) could result in a major loss of data if a detector stops functioning. Losing “3-4 weeks” of data would be problematic but less of a loss if sites are actually visited that frequently (the proposal suggests they will be if “appropriate and feasible”).
- The proposal does not include changing out microphones, which may be needed regularly in the marine environment.
- This project does include 24-hour monitoring, which seems appropriate given potential diurnal activity of bats.

4. Task 3

- The main steps of data processing and analysis are clearly laid out.
- This proposal does not appear to include an analysis of ALL bat passes collectively (as opposed to by species), which would be

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Biodiversity Research Institute

DATE: 2/10/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Zara Dowling

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: RWSC, UMass Amherst

useful, given that it is not clear how much data will be collected a large percentage of bat calls could be ignored in data analysis if they are not able to be identified to species. Bat calls that are not able to be classified to species could nevertheless provide a lot of information about variations in bat activity offshore.

- The environmental covariates to be used are to be determined and sources of covariate weather data (important for analysis) are not clearly identified.
- There are some concerns that bats might follow ocean-going vessels, which could bias results from vessel surveys. The plan does not indicate how this might be addressed.

5. Task 4

- The overview of reporting and communication is in line with the RFA.
- An interim report is planned before the final report to allow an opportunity for review and funder input before the completion of the project.
- Submission to North American Bat (NABat) is addressed in the overview of the project but not in this section. It would be good if details were included here.

III. Cost Proposal – Budget Narrative

- The budget is roughly the maximum amount allowable for applications in this topic area.
- Roughly \$45,500 allocated for equipment and supplies.
- Roughly \$11,500 allocated for deployment on vessels.
- \$12,300+ in unspecified expenses (gas, etc.?).
- Significant cost share provided, but a number of items indicated as cost share are likely to benefit the RFA project regardless of which applicant is successful.

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations

- The applicant has already identified many project collaborators, site hosts, and advisors and received letters of support.

2. Availability of data

- Sources for weather data, as noted earlier, are not explicitly addressed and would be important for analysis.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

DATE: 2/10/25

EVALUATOR NAME: John Perry

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is required that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience
1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- Stantec a global company that focuses on sustainable engineering, architecture, and environmental consulting
- Have a staff of over 250 wildlife biologists that have conducted thousands of surveys targeting a variety of species
- Have experience in Maine and in offshore environments
- Also have experience in permitting offshore wind projects
- Stantec is qualified
- Project 1: Long-Term Bat Monitoring on Islands, Offshore Structures, and Coastal Sites in the Gulf of Maine, Mid-Atlantic, and Great Lakes (US Department of Energy)
 - Pre-cursor study: Self-funded acoustic surveys of bats in Gulf of Maine
 - Pre-cursor: Stantec funded and conducted a survey of bat movement in the Gulf of Maine in 2013 – 2015 using nanotags/installed 5 MOTUS towers
 - After the success of initial pilot study, the U.S. Department of Energy awarded Stantec a grant to continue and expand their research for three more years. Using acoustic bat detectors, they covered 39 sites on the Gulf of Maine, Mid-Atlantic, and Great Lakes coastlines from 2011–2014 and set out to improve understanding of when and where bats

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

DATE: 2/10/25

EVALUATOR NAME: John Perry

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

occur along the coast and offshore in the eastern United States.

- Project 2: Multi-Year Regional Bat Activity Assessment on the West Coast (Electric Power Research Institute)
 - Currently engaged in a multi-year regional assessment of bat activity off the coast of California and Washington state
 - Will deploy acoustic detectors at coastal sites, remote islands, offshore buoys, autonomous offshore vessels, and ships of opportunity to better understanding seasonal, spatial, and temporal distribution of bats offshore (status pending?)
- Project 3: South Fork Wind Farm (Ørsted) (New York)
 - Lead regulatory, permitting, and technical consultant for the South Fork Wind Farm
 - Supported the preparation of technical studies and sections of a Construction and Operations Plan (COP)
 - Technical studies included the preparation of assessment of potential impacts to avian and bat species, including project-specific field surveys (status pending?)
 - Overall quality review of the COP
 - Provided program support for the preparation of the project's associated state and federal applications to permit the construction, operation, and maintenance of the associated utility scale transmission and interconnection facilities permitting, not necessarily offshore wind research-related

2. Subcontractors

- Subcontractor 1: Woods Hole Group
- Brief Description of Anticipated Role and Qualifications
 - a. Conducts computer modeling of ocean and coastal processes and remote sensing data processing
 - b. Responsible for analyzing reconstructed climate data and validation against state-of-the-art satellite imagery to generate spatially explicit hourly wind speed data for the Gulf of Maine
- Subcontractor 2: Wildlife Imaging Systems

STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

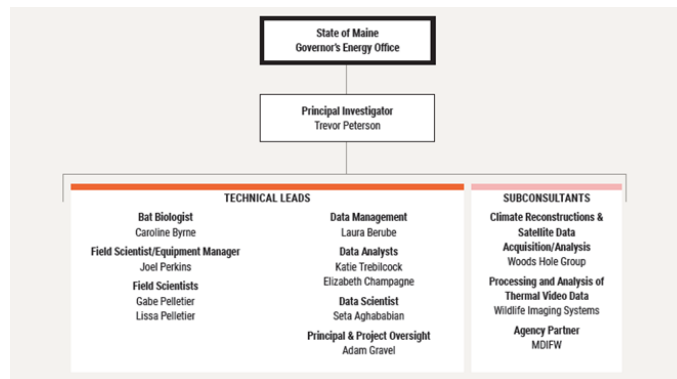
DATE: 2/10/25

EVALUATOR NAME: John Perry

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

- Brief Description of Anticipated Role and Qualifications
 - a. Provide thermal camera expertise and process all the thermal videos into hourly indices of bat activity and 5-minute composite images of bat activity at each site throughout the monitoring period

3. Organizational Chart



4. Litigation (if applicable)

- There are no unsatisfied judgments or arbitration awards outstanding against Stantec. Stantec does have some legal proceedings, lawsuits, or claims pending. These are a normal part of professional services industries. All have been reported to Stantec's insurers who are in the process of adjusting/managing them. None will have a material effect on the financial position of the company or its ability to undertake this assignment.

5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)

- Complete

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Objectives

- Pioneered use of acoustic bat detectors in the offshore environment and previously documented bats at each of 24 sites monitored in the Gulf of Maine from 2009 – 2014 including

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

DATE: 2/10/25

EVALUATOR NAME: John Perry

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

weather buoys, remote islands, research vessels, and coastal sites

- Bat activity peaked in late summer and early fall across all sites and survey years, coinciding with the fall migratory period
- Propose to use acoustic data from the limited points within the Gulf of Maine where monitoring is feasible (e.g., remote islands, buoys, and other platforms of opportunity) to characterize the weather conditions associated with bat presence offshore (and associated risk), and then explore temporal and spatial distribution of such conditions across the Gulf of Maine based on climate reconstructions validated with state-of-the-art satellite data

2. Task 1: Study Plan

- Stantec will facilitate a kick-off meeting with the Governor's Energy Office (GEO), Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), and Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium Advisory Board to coordinate with stakeholders including the MDIFW, Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS), the US Coast Guard, the University of Maine and other academic/research institutions, and land trusts and other NGOs to identify up to 30 sites suitable for acoustic bat monitoring.
- Prioritize offshore sites (e.g., buoys, ships, and other platforms of opportunity not associated with land) but would also attempt to resurvey locations at which previous acoustic bat surveys took place and/or other sites identified by MDIFW
- Subset of up to 10 of these sites would also be selected for thermal video monitoring, with priority given to sites where high levels of bat activity would be expected and where existing infrastructure would make monitoring more feasible.

3. Task 2: Data Collection

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

DATE: 2/10/25

EVALUATOR NAME: John Perry

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

- Passive acoustic monitoring but will supplement acoustics with thermal video observations at selected survey sites to provide behavioral context that will be helpful in interpreting patterns in acoustic bat activity
- Deploy up to 30 full-spectrum acoustic bat detectors and up to 10 thermal video cameras at locations identified in the study plan
- Data collection period will target mid-July through mid-October 2025, covering the season in which most bat activity occurs in the Gulf of Maine

4. Task 3: Data Processing and Analysis

- Acoustic analyses (visually vet all passes assigned to state and federally listed bat species)
- Wildlife Imaging Systems will analyze thermal video data
- Wind speed reconstruction data from the SAR data and model will be used to extrapolate the rate and proportion of bat activity offshore that would be at risk of turbine-related impacts under various turbine operational strategies
- Wind speed measurements (measured empirically at sites or extrapolated) to characterize weather conditions associated with bat presence offshore, then extrapolate the spatial and temporal distribution of such conditions across the Gulf of Maine

5. Task 4: Final Report and Communication Products

- Final technical report summarizing the methods and results of our offshore bat monitoring in the Gulf of Maine, including acoustic data, thermal video data, and climate reconstructions
- Incorporate reanalysis of data collected in 2009–2014 and any data previously collected by MDIFW in their fall 2024 study
- Submission of data to North American Bat (NABat)

III. Implementation – Work Plan

- Budget for up to 20 dedicated trips to retrieve acoustic detectors to supplement previously planned trips

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

DATE: 2/10/25

EVALUATOR NAME: John Perry

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

- Did not included budget for vessel time for dedicated offshore surveys; as explained in our technical scope, we do not feel that the high cost of dedicated vessel survey time for nocturnal transects would generate enough data to meaningfully improve understanding of the distribution of bats offshore (???)

IV. Cost Proposal

1. Task 1: Study Plan

- Estimated hours:
 - Study Plan: 36 (\$5,708.00)
 - Site Selection/stakeholder coordination: 84 (\$12,284.00)
- Cost per hour: \$159 & \$146
- Total cost requested: \$17,992.00

2. Task 2: Data Collection

- Estimated hours:
 - 272 (\$36,176.00)
 - Expenses: \$39,996.00
- Cost per hour: \$133
- Total cost requested: \$76,172.00

3. Task 3: Data Analysis

- Estimated hours:
 - 372 (\$48,032.00)
 - Woods Hole Group: \$150,000.00
 - Wildlife Imaging Systems: \$40,000.00
- Cost per hour: \$129
- Total cost requested: \$238,032.00

4. Task 4: Reporting

- Estimated hours: 248 (\$36,768.00)
- Cost per hour: \$148
- Total cost requested: \$76,172.00
- Total Cost: \$368,964.00

5. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)

- 30 Acoustic Detectors (cost of \$1200/detector) = \$36,000.00

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

DATE: 2/10/25

EVALUATOR NAME: John Perry

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

- 10 Thermal Cameras (cost of \$6000 per camera) = \$60,000.00
Total Cost Sharing: \$96,000

V. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations

- Woods Hole Group (Robert P. Hamilton) Subcontractor
- Wildlife Imaging Systems LLC (Brogan Morton) Subcontractor
- USFWS Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge (Linda Welch)
- Maine Coast Heritage Trust (Amanda P. Devine)

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec

DATE: February 10, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

Directions: Follow the sections of your RFA to develop a bulleted outline for notes. Delete the sample below and these directions and replace with your own outline based on your RFA.

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- Stantec is a global company that focuses on sustainable engineering, architecture, and environmental consulting
- Have a staff of over 250 wildlife biologists that have conducted thousands of surveys targeting a variety of species around the U.S.
- In-house bat researchers pioneered the use of acoustic bat detectors in the offshore environment
- Stantec funded a first-of-its-kind offshore bat monitoring program in the Gulf of Maine from 2009-2011 which was later funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and expanded into the Great Lakes and Mid-Atlantic from 2012-2014
- Stantec is a leader in the environmental analysis, natural resource assessments, and permitting support activities for offshore wind projects on the East Coast, including the UMaine Aqua Ventus floating OSW demonstration project
- Bios of staff are included and demonstrates depth of experience conducting bat surveys

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec

DATE: February 10, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

- Project 1: Long-term bat monitoring on islands, offshore structures, and coastal sites in the Gulf of Maine, Mid-Atlantic, and Great Lakes
 - Following a 3-year pilot run, DOE awarded Stantec a grant to continue its offshore bird and bat study and found that both cave hibernating and migratory bat species were regularly visiting remote island and offshore structures
 - Study was done in anticipation of growth of offshore wind power generation and what potential interactions may be between offshore turbines and wildlife
 - Set up acoustic bat detectors at 39 sites across the Gulf of Maine, Mid-Atlantic, and Great Lakes coastlines from 2011-2014
 - Demonstrates ability to design and manage a multi-year survey effort that included the Gulf of Maine
- Project 2: Multi-year regional bat activity assessment on the West Coast
 - Stantec is partnered with the Electrical Power Research Institute, U.S. Geological Survey, Bat Conservation International, and the Woods Hole Group to conduct a multi-year regional assessment of bat activity off the coast of California and Washington
 - Project will entail deploying acoustic detectors at coastal sites, remote islands, buoys, autonomous offshore vessels, and ships of opportunity
 - This project will provide a baseline dataset to help guide offshore wind development on the West Coast
 - Demonstrates a current project with a similar objective to this project, though less clear what part of the scope if Stantec's responsibility
- Project 3: South Fork Wind Farm
 - Stantec is the lead regulatory, permitting, and technical consultant for the South Fork Wind Farm
 - Supported the preparation of technical studies and sections of a Construction and Operations Plan that included the assessment of potential impacts to avian and bat species, including project-specific field surveys

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec

DATE: February 10, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

- Scope also included program support for the project's state and federal permit applications
- Demonstrates familiarity with the offshore wind permitting process and specifically the necessary requirements around assessing potential impacts to avian and bat species

2. Subcontractors

- Subcontractor 1: Woods Hole Group
 - Woods Hole Group is an environmental services company with expertise in satellite telemetry products and services
 - Responsible for analyzing reconstructed climate data and validation against satellite imagery to generate spatially explicit hourly wind speed data for the Gulf of Maine
 - Stantec and Woods Hole Group are partnered on a similar project in the West Coast
- Subcontractor 2: Wildlife Imaging Systems
 - Wildlife Imaging Systems develops advanced computer vision and machine learning software for wildlife professionals
 - Responsible for processing and analysis of thermal video data

3. Organizational Chart

- Included
- Lists Trevor Peterson as Principal Investigator (PI), staff are listed under their respective roles, chart is fairly flat/doesn't further differentiate between PI and technical leads

4. Litigation (if applicable)

- No unsatisfied judgements or arbitration awards outstanding
- Stantec does have some legal proceedings, lawsuits, or claims pending but all have been reported to Stantec's insurers who are in the process of managing/adjusting them and states none will have a material effect on the financial position of the company or its ability to undertake this project

5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)

- Included

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Objectives

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec

DATE: February 10, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

- Basing plan on the baseline data Stantec collected from 24 sites in the Gulf of Maine from 2009-2014 that found bat activity peaked in late summer and early fall across all sites and survey years
- High level approach is that attempting to measure spatial variation in bat abundance is not feasible offshore without an enormous allocation of resources to do so systematically. Instead propose to use acoustic data from the limited points within the Gulf of Maine where monitoring is feasible (remote islands, buoys, and other platforms of opportunity) to characterize the weather conditions associated with bat presence offshore and then explore temporal and spatial distribution of such conditions across the Gulf of Maine based on climate reconstructions
- Task 1: Study Plan
 - Starts with kickoff meeting with GEO, MDIFW, and the Consortium Advisory Board
 - State that Stantec has already obtained commitments for logistical support and hosting of detectors but letters of support from some of those stakeholders, like U.S. Coast Guard and the University of Maine, are not included in application
 - Key deliverables include project specific health and safety plan, draft study plan, and final study plan
- Task 2: Data collection
 - Propose to primarily rely on passive acoustic monitoring but supplemented with thermal video observations at select sites to provide behavioral context
 - Acoustic detectors will be deployed at up to 30 sites and up to 10 of those sites will include thermal video monitoring
 - Site selection will prioritize offshore structures, vessels, buoys, and remote islands and do not plan to mobilize any new buoys or charter vessel surveys
 - When possible, will collect temperature, wind speed, precipitation, and barometric pressure measurements for each survey location and on-site weather data will be

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec

DATE: February 10, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

supplemented from satellite-based data that Woods Hole Group will obtain

- Satellite-based wind speed data will be used to evaluate the temporal, seasonal, and spatial distribution of wind speed throughout the Gulf of Maine to characterize the seasonal, spatial, and temporal variation in conditions that may be associated with risk of turbine-related impacts to bats
- Plan to collect data targeting July-October 2025 but question around whether 2026 season is included in the project (says determination need/opportunity for second seas will be based on data availability from 2025 monitoring period)
- Key deliverable are monthly email updates to MDIFW on status of data collection
- Task 3: Data processing and analysis
 - Stantec will process all acoustic data using Kaleidoscope Pro software using settings prescribed in USFWS guidelines and in-house acoustic experts will vet all passes. Will use custom code to compile acoustic detector status files to confirm proper detector operation
 - Wildlife Imaging Systems will analyze the thermal video data. Analysis will include hourly indices of bat activity and 10-min composite images of bat activity. The images will provide the basis for qualitative categorization of bat behavior
 - Wind speed reconstruction data will be used to extrapolate the rate and proportion of bat activity offshore that would be at risk of turbine-related impacts
 - Data from the 2025 monitoring effort and, if available, results from MDIFW's 2024 effort will be evaluated using similar methods to Stantec's previous work in the Gulf of Maine to evaluate long-term consistency or lack thereof in patterns of offshore bat presence
 - Task 3 objective is same as Task 2 objective (error?)

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec

DATE: February 10, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

- Key deliverables include monthly email updates to MDIFW on status of data analysis
- Task 4: Final report and communication products
 - Stantec will prepare a final technical report, 1-2 page summaries of results from each survey site to be provided to owners/managers of each survey site, a draft manuscript suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal, and file-level acoustic data summaries for submission to NABat repository
 - Key deliverables include monthly email updates to MDIFW on status of reporting, draft and final technical report, and file-level data submission package for NABat. Does not list the draft manuscript mentioned in the narrative
 - Milestone includes a public presentation summarizing the results but there is no narrative around this presentation or mention of the Consortium Advisory Board

2. Implementation – Work Plan

- No Gantt chart included in application
- Milestones are listed for each Task but lacking timeline details (example: when the draft study plan will be submitted for review)
- No timeline associated Task 4 and minimal timeline details for Task 3

III. Cost Proposal

- Budget narrative emphasizes that where possible, site visits will be coordinated with partnering organizations to reduce costs and resources
- Budget narrative includes a few assumptions, including 20 dedicated trips to retrieve the detectors and zero vessel time for dedicated offshore survey, but otherwise doesn't layout subtasks or provide insight into the budget table
- Unclear how budget may be impacted if it's determined to need a 2026 monitoring campaign
- Budget table has almost no detail- project staff aren't listed out, vague line titled "Expenses"
- Task 1= \$17,992

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec

DATE: February 10, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

- Task 2= \$76,172
- Task 3= \$238,032
- Task 4= \$36,768
- Total cost requested= \$368,964
- Falls below max budget
- 2. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - Offering use of 30 acoustic detectors and 10 thermal cameras
 - In-kind support listed at \$96,000
 - Doesn't specify if applicant or subcontractor is providing the detectors and cameras
- IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support
 - 1. Partnerships/ collaborations
 - Includes letters of commitment from Woods Hole Group and Wildlife Imaging Systems
 - Includes letters of support from USFWS and Maine Coast Heritage Trust
 - Letters from subcontractors and a federal agency and Maine-based organization offering support to deploy monitors on land they control
 - Could include more local support, particularly from Maine fisheries

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Sarah Haggerty

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Maine Audubon

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- Stantec was 1st organization to study bat activity in the Gulf of Maine (GoM) – remote islands, buoys, ships of opportunity. Radio-telemetry study of coastal movements of bats with nanotags and expanded MOTUS network (28 bats, 5 MOTUS towers, 450 km, 43 days)
- Demonstrated seasonally predictable presence of bats offshore in GoM, expanded to Great Lakes and mid-Atlantic and California and Oregon
- Bat bios, data management & analysts, field scientists – appear qualified
- Subconsultants for data analysis
- Project 1 – very relevant
 1. Long-term Bat Monitoring on Islands, Offshore structures, and coastal sites in the GoM, Mid-Atlantic, and Great Lakes
 2. Continuation of pilot project – bird and bat study in GoM
 3. Collected 1st data showing bats are offshore – cave hibernating and migratory species primarily
 4. Laid foundation for offshore bat surveys
 5. Demonstrates ability to conduct bat surveys, experience with bats in GoM
- Project 2 – appears not to have started yet? But very relevant work
 1. Multi-year regional bat activity assessment on West Coast

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Sarah Haggerty

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Maine Audubon

2. Current multi-year regional assessment of bat activity off coast of California and Washington
 3. Acoustic detectors on coastal sites, islands, buoys, autonomous vessels, ships of opportunity
 4. Understand seasonal, spatial, temporal distribution of bats offshore (baseline dataset)
 5. Partnering with multiple entities for multi-year assessment
- Project 3 – somewhat relevant
 1. South Fork Wind Farm
 2. Prepared sections of the Construction and Operations Plan (COP) and technical studies looking at potential impacts to bats and birds including field studies
 3. Environmental permitting; relevant – shows they understand offshore wind environmental permitting requirements
2. Subcontractors
 - Woods Hole Group
 1. Expertise in satellite telemetry products and services
 2. Will create spatially explicit hourly wind speed data, weather data
 3. Working with them on West Coast Project
 - Wildlife Imaging Systems
 1. Develops advanced computer vision and machine learning software for wildlife studies
 2. Processing and analysis of thermal video data
3. Organizational Chart
 - Provided. Not terribly specific about who does what and who relates to whom is there
4. Litigation (if applicable) – global corporation; not surprising to have litigation somewhere in the company
 - “There are no unsatisfied judgments or arbitration awards outstanding against Stantec. Stantec does have some legal proceedings, lawsuits, or claims pending. These are a normal part of professional services industries.”
5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Appears complete

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Sarah Haggerty

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Maine Audubon

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Objectives

- Use acoustic data from limited points within the GoM where monitoring is feasible (islands, buoys, other platforms of opportunity) to characterize weather conditions associated with bats offshore; explore temporal and spatial distribution of such conditions
- Combine previous data with new acoustic data to create long-term baseline dataset to evaluate potential cost and effectiveness of risk reduction measures, to reduce risk to bats from offshore wind
- Interesting proposal, but not exactly what RFA was looking for; this type of project might be good next steps after baseline surveys

2. Task 1

- Study Plan – draft and finalize a tech study plan that describes survey methods, identifies stakeholders and survey locations, describes analytical framework with schedule, go/no-go decision points, and deliverables

3. Task 2

- Data Collection – passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) plus thermal video observations at select sites for behavioral context; monitor acoustic bat activity at 1-2 years July-October
- Will identify environmental conditions using climate reconstructions from satellite weather observations
- Up to 30 acoustic bat detectors + up to 10 thermal video cameras; mid-July thru mid-October 2025; using vessels, buoys, remote islands (existing infrastructure)

4. Task 3

- Data Processing and Analysis – process acoustic bat data and align with weather observations
- Use thermal video data to categorize bat behavior and provide quantitative measure of bat activity comparable to acoustic activity metrics

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Sarah Haggerty

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Maine Audubon

- Analyze wind speeds against bat activity to extrapolate rate and proportion of bat activity that is high risk; characterize weather conditions associated with bat presence offshore
- Extrapolate frequency of high-risk conditions and cost/benefit of minimization efforts

5. Task 4

- Final report and communications products
- Technical report and draft manuscript for peer-reviewed journal and 1-2 page summaries of results for each survey site
- Monthly email updates to Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW); data submittal to North American Bat (NABat)
- No Gantt chart

III. Cost Proposal – hourly rates and times seem appropriate and within normal range; ~\$370,000 (within max budget); not clear if 1 or 2 years of survey

1. Task 1

- Estimated hours = 120
- Cost per hour = \$146-159
- Total cost requested = \$17,992

2. Task 2

- Estimated hours = 272
- Cost per hour = \$133
- Total cost requested = \$76,172

3. Task 3

- Estimated hours = 372
- Cost per hour = \$129
- Additional costs from subconsultant
- Total cost requested = \$238,032

4. Task 4

- Estimated hours = 248
- Cost per hour = \$148
- Total cost requested = \$36,768

5. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)

- In-Kind = 30 acoustic detectors and 10 thermal cameras worth \$96,000

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Sarah Haggerty

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Maine Audubon

- IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support – no involvement with fishing community
1. Partnerships/ collaborations
 - Woods Hole Group
 - Wildlife Imaging Systems LLC
 - United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
 - Maine Coast Heritage Trust
 2. Availability of data
 - NABat

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec

DATE: 2/10/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Zara Dowling

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: RWSC, UMass Amherst

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- The organization overall has ample experience with conducting bat acoustic monitoring, including in Maine and in offshore environments. However, Stantec has over 250 wildlife biologists; it is important that staff working on the project have this expertise.
- The project leads (Principal Investigator, Bat Biologist) appear to have ample experience with bat acoustic monitoring, including offshore.
- The Data Scientist has experience with processing bat thermal video and statistical analysis in R.
- It is not clear if the junior-level field scientists have experience conducting bat acoustic monitoring or thermal video monitoring.
- Relevant projects described are very relevant to the proposed work and demonstrate experience with this type of work. It would be helpful to know what references say about the applicant's work on those projects.

2. Subcontractors

- The role of the Woods Hole Group in the proposal is clear and this organization has stated its expertise in climate data modelling.
- Wildlife Imaging Systems does not describe its expertise in this field in much detail.

3. Organizational Chart

- The organizational chart is not particularly detailed but it is included. The role of each staff person and subcontractor in the project is relatively clear, but it is not clear the relative amount of time different project participants will spend on the project.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec

DATE: 2/10/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Zara Dowling

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: RWSC, UMass Amherst

4. Litigation

- Stantec notes some litigation but does not provide a great deal of detail.

5. Certificate of Insurance

- I don't have the expertise to evaluate a certificate of insurance but it is included.

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Overview

- The broad objectives of the project are well in line with the RFA.
- The acoustic work described is in line with the RFA's expectation that acoustic detectors will be deployed on buoys, vessels, and other offshore sites.
- The use of thermal video monitoring at some locations is an interesting addition which could, as noted, provide some useful behavioral context. However, the overview does not clearly indicate how this would contribute to understanding bat presence and seasonal abundance.
- The project proponent argues that attempting to measure spatial variation in bat abundance would not be feasible offshore without an enormous allocation of resources. The applicant proposes instead to use acoustic data from the limited points within the Gulf of Maine where monitoring is feasible to characterize weather conditions associated with bat presence offshore and explore temporal and spatial distribution of such conditions across the Gulf of Maine based on climate reconstructions.
- In each task, the general scope of work and deliverables are clearly described. However, a specific timeline is not laid out in detail.

2. Task 1

- The proposed scope of work for this task is clearly described and meets the requirements of the RFA.
- The applicant does not include presenting the draft plan to the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC) Offshore Bat

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec

DATE: 2/10/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Zara Dowling

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: RWSC, UMass Amherst

Working Group for review, which would be a helpful group to provide expert feedback on the proposed study plan.

- A timeline for drafting and finalizing the study plan is not provided.

3. Task 2

- The proposal includes deployment of up to 30 stationary acoustic monitoring sites and 10 thermal camera monitoring locations.
- The proposal does not include redundancy – that is, deploying more than one detector at a given location. This is a concern given the harsh offshore environment and relatively inaccessible nature of some sites.
- The proposal does not include changing out microphones, which may be needed regularly in the marine environment.
- This project does not include 24-hour monitoring, which would seem appropriate given potential diurnal activity of bats.
- This project also does not include monitoring outside of the late summer/fall migration season.

4. Task 3

- The main steps of data processing and analysis are clearly laid out.
- More detail on how thermal video data will be interpreted to benefit the RFA's goals would be useful.
- This proposal assumes that there is not a meaningful geographical component to bat distributions and that occurrence is related to weather conditions. The proposal doesn't address whether weather conditions over a timescale will be considered in the analysis. For example, for bats to arrive at a location, they may be affected by wind speeds along the way (e.g., a tailwind supporting movement towards a location).

5. Task 4

- The overview of reporting and communication is in line with the RFA.
- In addition to bat data, an environmental dataset will be produced.
- Monthly e-mails are planned, but no interim report is planned.

III. Cost Proposal – Budget Narrative

- The budget is roughly \$370,000.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Stantec

DATE: 2/10/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Zara Dowling

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: RWSC, UMass Amherst

- \$96,000 of equipment is provided in cost share, including \$36,000 for acoustic detectors.
- \$150,000 is allocated to provide weather data products.
- \$40,000 is allocated to provide thermal data analysis by a subcontractor
- \$40,000 is in unspecified expenses, presumably largely site access.
- Cost share is in the form of equipment use.

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations

- The applicant has identified several project collaborators who could host detectors on their property.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech, Inc.

DATE: 2/11/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: John Perry

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by individual evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is required that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- Tetra Tech's Offshore Wind Team have worked with federal and state resource management agencies and developers, including in the role of Principal Environmental Consultant
- Tetra Tech's Bat Program was founded in Portland and since supported 350+ projects
- Tetra Tech has lots of experience conducting bat acoustic monitoring
- Tetra Tech biologists have worked with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) in Maine
- Tetra Tech is qualified
- Project 1: Dominion Energy Virginia (Dominion Energy) for the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Commercial Project near Hampton Roads, Virginia
 1. Deployed full spectrum acoustic bat detectors on research vessels during offshore geophysical and geotechnical survey activities in 2020-2021 within the Lease Area
 2. The acoustic detectors were deployed on eight geophysical and geotechnical survey vessels, which traversed the Lease Area for 411 nights between April 2020 and May 2021, to assess the presence/absence of bats.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech, Inc.

DATE: 2/11/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: John Perry

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

3. Data was analyzed and presented in a technical report to support permitting activities.
 4. Additionally, Tetra Tech contracted to conduct a baseline bat acoustic survey along the onshore project components for the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Commercial Project near Hampton Roads, Virginia. During the 2022 to 2023 survey, 1,516 detector-nights (the cumulative number of nights surveyed by all microphones) were sampled over the course of 379 calendar nights.
 5. Surveys results from both surveys were well received and approved by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM).
- Project 2: Equinor Empire Wind Project
 1. Deployed full spectrum acoustic bat detectors on a geophysical research vessel to assess presence/probable absence of bats in the offshore lease area
 2. Over 580 bat passes recorded, the surveys generated critical environmental baseline data for offshore bat activity that supported various project permitting activities.
 3. Supporting the procurement and installation of bat monitoring equipment on Empire Wind's offshore wind turbine generators (WTGs). Bat detectors will be deployed on the transition piece and nacelle of three WTGs to comply with the bat monitoring requirements in the Construction and Operations Plan (COP) approval (pending)
 - Project 3: Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)
 1. Since 2015, Tetra Tech has performed passive and active bat acoustic monitoring including habitat assessments and acoustic presence/probable absence surveys on hundreds of separate transportation projects (linear and bridge) for MassDOT
 2. Using full spectrum Wildlife Acoustic detectors to improve the ability to accurately identify northern long-eared bat (and other Myotis species) call sequences using a combination of

STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech, Inc.

DATE: 2/11/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: John Perry

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

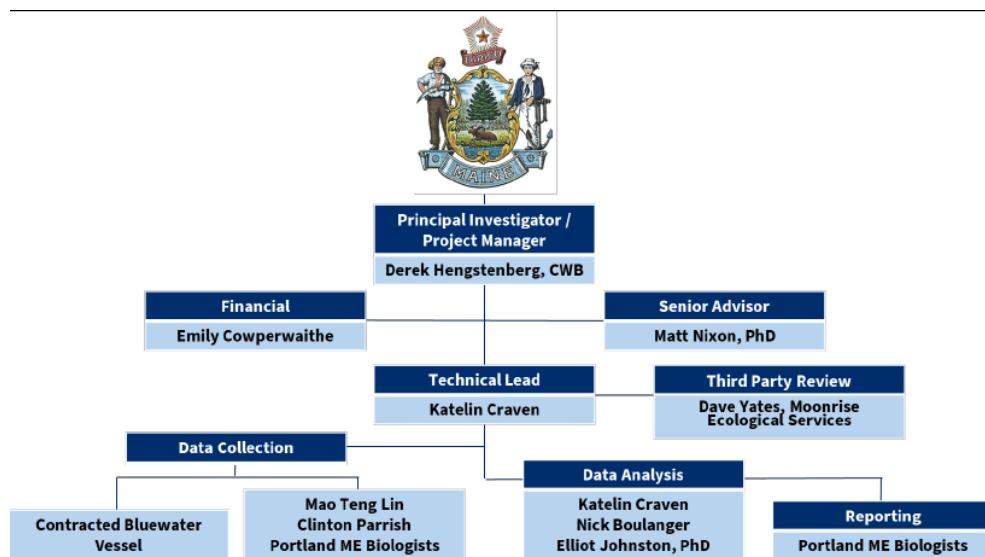
manual analysis techniques, as well as automated classification systems (Sono Bat, Kaleidoscope Pro, and BCID)

3. Performed all phases of the desktop and field planning, assessment, analysis, and reporting associated with these projects

2. Subcontractors

- Subcontractor 1: Cody Gillis
- Brief Description of Anticipated Role and Qualifications
 - a. Contracted Blue Water Vessel that will be support the propped bat survey. Vessel will be equipped with bat acoustic gear and will run along transects in the Gulf of Maine
- Subcontractor 2: Moonrise Ecological Services (Dave Yates)
 1. Brief Description of Anticipated Role and Qualifications
 - a. Supporting the project in Third-party review role of the acoustic data

3. Organizational Chart



**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech, Inc.

DATE: 2/11/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: John Perry

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Qualifications of Portland ME biologists bio's??

4. Litigation (if applicable)

- In the normal course of business, Tetra Tech, Inc. is subject to certain claims and lawsuits typically filed against the engineering and consulting professions, including contractual disagreements, workers' compensation, personal injury and other similar lawsuits. Tetra Tech maintains insurance coverage for its business and operations, subject to certain deductibles and policy limits against such claims. As described in Tetra Tech's most recent quarterly and annual reports filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Tetra Tech believes that the resolution of any such claims will not have a material effect on its financial position or results of operations.

5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)

- Complete

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Objectives

- Tetra Tech will utilize the funding as efficiently as possible by using local qualified staff, local vessel operators, remote sensing technology, and leveraging our relationships with the University of Maine, State of Maine, Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS), Eimskip, Bay Ferries (CAT), and USFWS to execute a robust survey effort within the Gulf of Maine.
- Scope of work strikes a balance between multiple survey methodologies and spatial coverage in the Gulf of Maine (GoM) using our fleet of full-spectrum bat detectors.
- Task 1: Study Plan
- Develop a study plan in coordination with stakeholders that both builds on existing bat research and addresses identified research gaps.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech, Inc.

DATE: 2/11/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: John Perry

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

- Will investigate four research areas:
 1. Bat activity across a nearshore-to-offshore gradient using straight-line acoustic transects across the GoM;
 2. Bat activity in offshore wind lease areas and surrounding areas using line-transect acoustic surveys;
 3. Contemporary versus historical bat activity at buoys, islands, and coastal sites to understand how activity rates and species composition have changed over the past decade as the GoM has continued to warm;
 4. Bat activity along ships-of-opportunity routes to increase spatiotemporal coverage of offshore bat sampling. subset of up to 10 of these sites would also be selected for thermal video monitoring, with priority given to sites where high levels of bat activity would be expected and where existing infrastructure would make monitoring more feasible.
- 2. Task 2: Data Collection
 - Field mobilization will begin in July 2025
 - Nearshore-to-offshore bat activity gradient. We have received verbal agreement from a blue water-capable fishing vessel based out of Portland, Maine, to collect bat acoustic data along the line-transect route depicted in Figure 1
 - We have received verbal agreement from a blue water-capable fishing vessel based out of Portland, Maine, to collect bat acoustic data along the line-transect route depicted in Figure 2 For deployments on metocean buoys, we have secured verbal and letter agreements from NERACOOS for buoy modifications and the RPS division of Tetra Tech for buoy deployments
 - For sites that are difficult to access, duplicate units will be used to protect against equipment failure if they are unable to be monitored often
- 3. Task 3: Data Processing and Analysis
 - Data processing and analysis will occur in two batches

STATE OF MAINE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech, Inc.

DATE: 2/11/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: John Perry

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

- Quality Control- Tetra Tech implements multi-tier data management and quality control throughout the survey effort. Dave Yates, from Moonrise Ecological Services, will provide third party review QA/QC of the acoustic data set.
- Data analyses will focus on three main components: 1) modeling temporal variation in bat activity across different time scales (e.g., daily, seasonally) to understand when bats are most active in the offshore, nearshore, and onshore environment; 2) modeling relationships between bat activity and environmental covariates (e.g., mean nightly wind speed, distance from mainland) to inform future predictive models of offshore bat activity; and 3) spatial density mapping that will be used to produce maps for stakeholders displaying spatial variation in bat activity across the surveyed regions in the GoM

4. Task 4: Final Report and Communication Products

- Four main deliverables:
 1. Interim report (begin data processing and analysis of fall 2025 data once that survey period is complete. This will allow us to deliver an interim report to stakeholders in early 2026 before the beginning of the spring 2026 survey period)
 2. Final report (extensive document that describes the project's justification, approach, methodology, findings, and recommendations for future work)
 3. Two-pager (Aimed at communicating with broad public audiences)
 4. Presentation [final presentation to the Governor's Energy Office (GEO), the Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium Advisory Board, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), and any other interested stakeholders]
- In addition, there will be many touch points with GEO, the Advisory Board, and MDIFW to discuss in-progress work and preliminary findings

III. Cost Proposal

Task 1: Study Plan

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech, Inc.

DATE: 2/11/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: John Perry

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

- Estimated hours:
 - 1. Study Plan: 77(\$11,074)
- Cost per hour: \$144
- Total cost requested: \$11,074
- 2. Task 2: Data Collection
 - Estimated hours:
 - 1. Staff Labor 580 (\$84,7670)
 - 2. Contracted Bluewater Vessel: 580 (\$84,767)
 - 3. Total Travel Costs: \$12,157
 - 4. Other Direct Costs/Equipment: \$21,780
 - Total cost requested: \$197,904
- 3. Task 3: Data Analysis
 - Estimated hours:
 - 1. Staff Labor: 536 (\$70,235)
 - Total cost requested: \$70,235
- 4. Task 4: Reporting
 - Staff Labor: 275 (\$39,768)
 - Total cost requested: \$39,768

Total Cost: \$318,981

Budget available to add more transects/surveys/etc....?

- 5. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - Tetra Tech- Equipment: Tetra Tech will provide a free lease of some Bat Detectors for the survey effort = \$5,000
 - Matt Nixon: Inshore and Coastal vessel transportation to and from island-based-sites = \$4,500
 - Dave Yates, Moonrise Ecological Services: Third party review of data and manual vetting of acoustic data = \$2,500

Total Cost Sharing: \$12,000

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

- 1. Partnerships/ collaborations
 - NERACOOS (Jake Kritzer)
 - No letter from captain...?

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech

DATE: February 11, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- Tetra Tech is a global provider of consulting and engineering services focused on water, environment, sustainable infrastructure, renewable energy, and international development
- Tetra Tech's Offshore Wind Team has worked with developers and federal and state governments over the past decade. The team has developed dozens of survey plans, Site Assessment Plans, and Construction and Operation Plans, including Statoil's (now Equinor) Hywind Maine Floating Offshore Wind Pilot Project in the Gulf of Maine
- Recently acquired RPS Group which has floating offshore wind experience and physical oceanography which strengthens the team's offshore technical offshore remote sensing
- Tetra Tech's Bat Program was founded in Portland in 2008 and has supported over 350 projects, mostly in the renewable energy space with a focus on bat acoustic surveys following U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) guidelines. Team has deployed bat detectors on over 20 geophysical and geotechnical vessels throughout the Gulf of Maine, Atlantic, and Pacific and also with fishermen to deploy detectors on their vessels

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech

DATE: February 11, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

- Have prior experience working with Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife (MDIFW) and with the U.S. Navy at their Culter, ME facility
- Project 1: Dominion Energy Services
 1. Contracted to conduct offshore and onshore baseline bat acoustic survey on behalf of Dominion Energy for their offshore wind farm
 2. Scope included deploying full spectrum acoustic bat detectors on research vessels within the lease area and the data collected over 411 nights in 2020-2021 was analyzed and presented in a technical report to support permitting activities
 3. Demonstrates relevant experience conducting offshore bat surveys for an offshore wind project
- Project 2: Equinor's Empire Wind
 1. Contracted to provide numerous offshore bat monitoring services for the Empire Wind Offshore Wind Farm over the past six years
 2. Scope included deploying detectors on a research vessel to assess the presence/probably absence of bats within the lease area, supporting the procurement and installation of bat monitoring equipment on the turbines to comply with federal requirements, and providing onshore bat monitoring for the export able landfall locations
 3. Demonstrates a wide range of bat surveying in the context of an offshore wind project
- Project 3: Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)
 1. Tetra Tech has performed a variety of support services for MassDOT to understand the impacts to an endangered bat species
 2. Scope has included passive and active bat acoustic monitoring in accordance with recommended guidelines from USFWS
 3. Demonstrates previous experience with a state agency with a scope that included desktop and field planning, assessment, analysis, and reporting (not offshore focused though)

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech

DATE: February 11, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

2. Subcontractors
 - Subcontractor 1: Cody Gillis
 1. Qualifications not listed but appears to be the contact for the blue water vessel to be contracted to run transects in the Gulf of Maine while equipped with bat acoustic gear
 - Subcontractor 2: Moonrise Ecological Services
 1. Dave Yates, owner and senior biologist, will be supporting the project through third-party review of the acoustic data
 2. Dave is recognized by USFWS as a Qualified Indiana Bat Surveyor and holds federal Endangered Species Act permits for multiple bat species
3. Organizational Chart
 - Included
 - Roles are clearly defined with a good sense of how information and decisions will flow through the team
 - "Portland ME Biologists" listed twice- only vague aspect of the chart
4. Litigation (if applicable)
 - Provides statement that through the normal course of business, Tetra Tech, Inc. is subject to certain claims and lawsuits typically filed against the engineering and consulting professions but that Tetra Tech believes the resolution of any such claims will not have a material effect on its financial position or results of operations.
5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Included
- II. Proposed Scope of Work
 1. Objectives
 - Identifies the four following research areas:
 1. Bat activity across a nearshore-to-offshore gradient using straight-line acoustic transects across the Gulf of Maine (GoM)
 2. Bat activity in offshore wind lease areas and surrounding areas using line-transect acoustic surveys
 3. Contemporary versus historical bat activity at buoys, islands, and coastal sites to understand how activity rates and species composition have changed over the past decade as the GoM has continued to warm

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech

DATE: February 11, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

4. Bat activity along ships-of-opportunity routes to increase spatiotemporal coverage of offshore bat sampling.
2. Task 1: Develop study plan
 - Building off the literature that establishes the Gulf of Maine as a migratory corridor for bats, Tetra Tech proposes to develop a study plan in coordination with stakeholders that builds on existing bat research and addresses research gaps
 - Cites being informed by RWSC's Offshore Bat Acoustic Monitoring Guidance
 - Transects focused on period of highest known bat activity (late summer/early fall 2025) and will include redundant detectors in case of equipment failure) and will be informed by MDIFW 2024 survey data
 - Plan to focus on 3 lease areas off Cape Cod to study the extent to which bat activity rates differ inside vs outside lease areas using a dedicated vessel traveling transect lines
 - Plan to deploy acoustic units at a subset of inland coastal sites based on previous studies to determine how bat activity rates may have changed over time
 - Have secured verbal agreements from NERACOOS for buoy modifications, other agreements would be formalized post award
 - Plan to use vessels of opportunity (CAT ferry and Eimskip cargo vessels) to add supplemental offshore data
 - Key deliverables include a study plan that is anticipated to be approved by end of June 2025
3. Task 2: Collect data
 - Anticipate beginning field mobilization in July 2025 and data collection methodologies will be based on approved study plan
 - Plan to follow line-transect route outlined in Figure 1 with two detectors mounted on the vessel and an omni-directional microphone. Includes notes around how the transect will be completed safely. Similar methods will be followed for the proposed lease area transects (Figure 2)

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech

DATE: February 11, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

- Plan to deploy stationary detectors from July 15-October 15 to record 14 hours of data per night. Doesn't specify how many sites will be selected beyond that they will be selected in consultation with GEO and MDIFW
 - Two detectors will be installed on the CAT ferry with a tracker to allow for georeferenced bat passes. Memory cards will be exchanged monthly while the ferry is in Bar Harbor. A similar deployment protocol will be followed for the Eimskip vessel with a note that there will be a spring 2026 deployment to gather data during the spring migration
 - Key deliverables include collection of transect data Aug-Sept 2025, stationary data collected July-Oct 2025 and April-June 2026, and opportunistic vessel data collected July-Oct 2025 and April-June 2026
4. Task 3: Data processing and analysis
- Propose to process and analysis data in two batches- one for 2025 survey period and one for 2026 survey period
 - Includes their quality control and vetting and processing practices
 - Will filter and analyze data using Kaleidoscope Pro, then a trained technician will manually review and validate bat passes using SonoBat, and Moonrise Ecological Services will provide a third-party review of any confirmed Maine endangered species.
 - Note that weather data will be sourced from offshore weather buoys and coastal weather stations
 - Analysis will focus on modeling temporal variation in bat activity across different time scales, modeling relationships between bat activity and environmental covariates, and spatial density mapping
 - Key deliverables include interim report in Feb 2026, meeting with stakeholders to discuss interim report in March 2026, and final data analysis occurring July-Sept 2026
5. Task 4: Final report and communication products
- Propose an interim report to take advantage of the gap between data collection in fall 2025 and spring 2026 and as a change to include stakeholder feedback earlier and quicker delivery of the

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech

DATE: February 11, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Meghan Suslovic

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGINAIZATION: Governor's Energy Office

final report. Final report will include the project's justification, approach, methodology, findings, and recommendations for future work with sections for each of the four objectives

- The 2-pager will be aimed at broad public audiences that will utilize high-impact visuals
- Key deliverables include interim report, final report, two-page summary, a presentation, and data uploaded to NABat and the RWSC portal

6. Implementation – Work Plan

- Gantt chart included
- Good amount of detail and reasonable timeframes for each task

III. Cost Proposal

1. Budget narrative emphasizes Tetra Tech's approach to balance between multiple survey methodologies and spatial coverage in the Gulf of Maine
2. Narrative includes details for how the funds will be spent across each Task
3. Budget table is not particularly detailed- staff labor is lumped together so not sure which staff are contributing to which task
 - Task 1= \$11,074
 - Task 2= \$197,904
 - Task 3= \$70,235
 - Task 4= \$39,768
 - Total cost requested= \$318,981
 - Falls decently below max budget
4. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - Offers the free lease of some bat detectors, inshore and coastal vessel transportation to and from island-based sites, and discount on third party review of data
 - In-kind cost shares total \$12,000

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations
 - Missing Letters of Commitment from the two subcontractors
 - Letter of Support from NERACOOS

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech, Inc.

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Sarah Haggerty

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Maine Audubon

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

I. Organization Qualifications and Experience

1. Organization Overview/ Introduction

- Offshore wind team has developed survey plans, Site Assessment Plans (SAPs), Construction and Operations Plans (COP) for offshore wind developers. Led permitting for Hywind Maine Floating Offshore Wind Pilot Project, permitted Block Island and Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Pilot Project
- Purchased RPS Group with experience in floating offshore wind and offshore physical (wind, wave, water quality) and biological data
- Tetra Tech Bat Program (founded in Portland) – supported >350 projects since 2008; 20 bat specialists; has >100 bat detectors; has deployed them on > 20 vessels in Gulf of Maine (GoM) and Atlantic and Pacific; puts detectors on fishing boats on east and west coasts
- Has conducted avian/bat monitoring, permitting, and/or technical field surveys for 14 offshore projects in Atlantic, off California, Hawaii, and Gulf of Mexico
- Project 1 – relevant project
 1. Dominion Energy Services – deployed acoustic bat detectors on research vessels in Virginia
 2. 8 vessels, 411 nights April 2020 and May 2021

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech, Inc.

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Sarah Haggerty

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Maine Audubon

3. Also conducted baseline bat acoustic surveys offshore and onshore detections
 - Project 2 – relevant project
 1. Equinor's Empire Wind
 2. May – December 2018 deployed bat acoustic detectors on research vessel. In 2024-2025 supporting procurement and installation of bat monitoring equipment on turbines to comply with COP
 - Project 3 – relevant bat survey experience although onshore
 1. Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) bat surveys
 2. Onshore surveys (passive & active bat acoustic monitoring) for transportation projects looking for Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bats (NLEB)
2. Subcontractors
 - Subcontractor 1 = Cody Gillis
 1. Blue Water Vessel will support bat survey; vessel will be equipped with bat acoustic gear and run transects in GoM
 - Subcontractor 2 = Moonrise Ecological Services – Dave Yates
 1. 3rd-party review of acoustic data.
 2. United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) qualified as Indiana Bat surveyor (QIBS), Endangered Species Act (ESA) permits for Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT), NLEB, Virginia big-eared bat, gray bat
3. Organizational Chart
 - Provided – basically makes sense
 - Small organizational chart but very clear for actions and communications
 - Not clear who "Portland ME biologists" are and their expertise
4. Litigation (if applicable) – large corporation; not surprising to have litigation somewhere in the company

"In the normal course of business, Tetra Tech, Inc. is subject to certain claims and lawsuits typically filed against the engineering and consulting professions, including contractual disagreements, workers' compensation, personal injury and other similar lawsuits. Tetra Tech maintains insurance coverage for its business and operations, subject to certain deductibles and policy limits against such claims. As described in Tetra Tech's most recent

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech, Inc.

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Sarah Haggerty

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Maine Audubon

quarterly and annual reports filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Tetra Tech believes that the resolution of any such claims will not have a material effect on its financial position or results of operations.”

5. Certificate of Insurance (complete or not complete)
 - Appears complete

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. Objectives

- Survey the offshore environment systematically to understand bat activity patterns in the GoM and how those patterns vary spatiotemporally and in relation to weather conditions
- 4 research areas
 1. Bat activity across a nearshore-to-offshore gradient using straight-line acoustic transects across GoM [recommended by Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC) bat subgroup; just one transect and not great coverage for such a large area]
 2. Bat activity in offshore wind lease areas and surrounding areas using line-transect acoustic surveys (RFA says not looking for focus on specific areas like lease areas)
 3. Contemporary vs. historical bat activity at buoys, islands, and coastal sites to understand how activity rates and species composition have changed over past decade as GoM has continued to warm
 4. Bat activity along ships-of-opportunity routes to increase spatiotemporal coverage of offshore bat sampling (not really good solid nighttime routes – on ferries)

2. Task 1

- Develop study plan
- Investigate 4 research areas
 1. Bat activity across nearshore-to-offshore gradient w/ straight-line acoustic transect across GoM (see RWSC Science Plan, bat section)
 2. Bat activity in offshore wind lease areas and surrounding areas with line-transect acoustic surveys

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech, Inc.

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Sarah Haggerty

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Maine Audubon

3. Contemporary vs. historical bat activity at buoys, islands, and coastal sites to understand how activity rates and species composition have changed as GoM has warmed
4. Bat activity along ships-of-opportunity routes to increase spatiotemporal coverage of offshore bat sampling (ferry and cargo vessels)

3. Task 2

- Collect Data
- Different methodologies for different objectives; begin data collection July 2025
 1. Conduct line transects through GoM with 2 acoustic bat detectors August - September;
 2. Transects through lease areas (August 1-September 30);
 3. Resample 2016 sites (July 15- October15);
 4. Mount detectors on ferries (May 15- October15)
- Only at low wind speeds and warm temps (timing? For transect surveys, should be nighttime, but for stationary should be 24-hour)

4. Task 3

- Data Processing & Analysis – 2 batches, fall 2025 and spring 2026
- Analysis has 3 components
 1. Modeling temporal variation in bat activity across different time scales (daily, seasonally) to understand when bats most active offshore, nearshore, onshore
 2. Model relationships between bat activity and environmental covariates (wind speed, distance from mainland) to inform future predictive models of offshore bat activity
 3. Spatial density mapping to produce maps of spatial variation in bat activity across GoM
- Weather data will be sourced from offshore weather buoys and weather data stations

5. Task 4

- Final Report and Communication Products – 4 main deliverables
 1. Interim report
 2. Final report
 3. 2-pager aimed at the general public

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech, Inc.

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Sarah Haggerty

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Maine Audubon

4. Presentation to the Governor's Energy Office (GEO), Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium Advisory Board, and Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife (MDIFW)
 - Will report to Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC) and North American Bat (NABat)
 6. Implementation – Work Plan
 - Gantt chart
 - Timeframes seem reasonable
- III. Cost Proposal – ~\$319,000. Hourly rates seem within the normal range for rates. Not utilizing full budget; trying to do many things in small budget. Could have focused more on a few things and spent more money for more useful information
 1. Task 1
 - Estimated hours = 77
 - Cost per hour = \$143.82
 - Total cost requested = \$11,074
 2. Task 2
 - Estimated hours = 580
 - Cost per hour = \$146.15
 - Total cost requested = \$197,904
 3. Task 3
 - Estimated hours = 536
 - Cost per hour = \$131.03
 - Total cost requested = \$70,235
 4. Task 4
 - Estimated hours = 275
 - Cost per hour = \$144.61
 - Total cost requested = \$39,768
 5. Cost sharing plan (if applicable)
 - Use of existing bat detectors
 - Inshore and coastal vessel transport
 - 3rd party review of data and manual vetting of acoustic data
 - Total savings of \$12,000
 - Not clear if Dave Yates is subcontractor or providing in-kind services or both (he's not in budget)

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech, Inc.

DATE: February 7, 2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Sarah Haggerty

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Maine Audubon

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations – no Letters of Support from subcontractors (Dave Yates, Cody Gillis)
 - Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS)
2. Availability of data
 - Data provided to NABat and RWSC

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech

DATE: 2/11/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Zara Dowling

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: RWSC, UMass Amherst

Instructions: The purpose of this form is to record application review notes written by **individual** evaluators for this Request for Applications (RFA) process. It is **required** that each individual evaluator make notes for each application that he or she reviews. No numerical scoring should take place on these notes, as that is performed only during team consensus evaluation meetings. A separate form is available for team consensus evaluation notes and scoring. Once complete, please submit a copy of this document to your Department's RFA Coordinator or Lead Evaluator for this RFA.

Individual Evaluator Comments:

- I. Organization Qualifications and Experience
 1. Organization Overview/ Introduction
 - The organization overall has ample experience with conducting bat acoustic monitoring, including in Maine and in offshore environments. Unfortunately, the specific expertise of the Tetra Tech staff directly involved in the project is not described at all.
 - Relevant work (projects) described individually are very relevant to the proposed work and demonstrate experience with this type of work. It would be helpful to know what references say about the applicant's work on those projects.
 2. Subcontractors
 - The subcontractor roles are clear and their participation makes sense given the scope of work.
 - The expertise of Dave Yates, Moonrise Ecological Services (MES), is described clearly.
 3. Organizational Chart
 - Organizational chart is included.
 - As noted above, the expertise of the various project staff is never described. The role of each staff person and subcontractor in the project is relatively clear based on the organizational chart, but it is not clear the relative amount of time different project participants will spend on the project.
 4. Litigation
 - Tetra Tech acknowledges some litigation but does not provide a great deal of detail.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech

DATE: 2/11/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Zara Dowling

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: RWSC, UMass Amherst

5. Certificate of Insurance

- I don't have the expertise to evaluate a certificate of insurance but it is included.

II. Proposed Scope of Work

1. General Feedback

- The proposed scope is laid out in a somewhat confusing fashion. For example, the fact that only one line-transect is proposed is mentioned under Objective 4 when the methodology applies to Objectives 1 and 2. The study plan finalization timeline is mentioned under Task 2 but not Task 1.

2. Task 1

- The broad objectives of the project are well in line with the RFA.
- The work described is in line with the RFA's expectation that acoustic detectors will be deployed on buoys, vessels, and other offshore sites.
- This project includes systematic transect sampling on a vessel throughout the Gulf of Maine, systematic transect sampling in lease areas, deployment on historic stationary acoustic monitoring sites, and supplemental deployment on ships of opportunity.
- The timeline for drafting and finalizing a study plan is not explicitly provided. (Actually, under Task 2 it appears the goal is to finalize the study plan by June.)
- Buried in the text under Objective 4, it notes that only one line-transect survey is proposed. Given that weather conditions are expected to strongly affect bat activity, this appears to be an inadequate sample size, ignoring obvious variation from night to night. There is no power analysis or estimate of adequate sample size to estimate whether one transect would provide meaningful information about bat presence/absence across the Gulf of Maine.
- The applicant mentions stakeholders but does not specifically include presenting the draft plan to the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC) Offshore Bat Working Group for review,

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech

DATE: 2/11/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Zara Dowling

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: RWSC, UMass Amherst

which would be a helpful group to provide expert feedback on the proposed study plan.

- The supplemental ferry routes could provide interesting information but the actual number of nocturnal ferry trips (that is, the ferry schedule with night routes highlighted) is not clearly described.

3. Task 2

- Only one line-transect is proposed to address Objectives 1 and 2. As mentioned above, this does not appear sufficient.
- Verbal agreements for site hosts and the transect vessel have been obtained, according to the applicant. Only a letter of support from Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS) is included.
- Because the exact vessel route has not been determined, it is difficult to evaluate how much of the Gulf of Maine will be sampled acoustically. There is not an indication of what should be considered adequate sampling coverage.
- The proposal does include redundancy – that is, deploying more than one detector at a given location. This is useful given the harsh marine environment and relative inaccessibility of some sites.
- The proposal does not include changing out microphones, which may be needed regularly in the marine environment.
- This project does not appear to describe the monitoring schedule. Will vessel monitoring only occur at night? (That would be appropriate.) Although comparisons to historic data should focus on nighttime activity (in line with the previous study), the schedule on stationary detectors should be set to 24-hour coverage to capture any diurnal activity.
- The proposal only includes one fall and one spring sampling of stationary sites.

4. Task 3

- The main steps of data processing and analysis are clearly laid out.
- The environmental covariates to be used are to be determined and sources of covariate weather data (important for analysis) are not clearly identified.

**STATE OF MAINE
INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION NOTES**

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

PROJECT: Project #3

APPLICANT NAME: Tetra Tech

DATE: 2/11/2025

EVALUATOR NAME: Zara Dowling

EVALUATOR DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: RWSC, UMass Amherst

- There are some concerns that bats might follow ocean-going vessels, which could bias results from vessel surveys. The plan does not indicate how this might be addressed.

5. Task 4

- The overview of reporting and communication is in line with the RFA.
- An interim report is planned before the final report to allow an opportunity for review and funder input before the completion of the project.
- Submission to North American Bat (NABat) is included in the scope.

III. Cost Proposal – Budget Narrative

- The total budget is roughly \$319,000
- \$79,200 is allocated for the contracted Bluewater vessel. This budget could have accommodated two transects rather than one.
- \$21,780 is allocated for equipment and supplies.
- \$12,150+ is allocated for other travel costs
- Cost share is included but not clearly explained and no letters of commitment from external cost share providers are included. It isn't clear if Dave Yates is purely offering cost share or is also a subcontractor receiving funding from the project.

IV. Partnerships and Letters of Commitment/ Support

1. Partnerships/ collaborations

- The applicant provides one letter of support, but largely reports "verbal agreements."

2. Availability of data

- Sources for weather data, as noted earlier, are not explicitly addressed and would be important for analysis.



STATE OF MAINE
Governor's Energy Office

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Dan Burgess
Director

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

I, Douglas Christel accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Governor's Energy Office. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand and agree that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner without bias or prejudice. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the award decision notices for public distribution.

Signature

January 27, 2025

Date



STATE OF MAINE
Governor's Energy Office

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Dan Burgess
Director

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

I, Erin Wilkinson accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Governor's Energy Office. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand and agree that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner without bias or prejudice. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the award decision notices for public distribution.

Signature

1/24/2025

Date



**STATE OF MAINE
Governor's Energy Office**

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Dan Burgess
Director

**AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFA #: 202410193**

**RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the
Gulf of Maine 2**

I, Kiara Acevedo Martinez accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Governor's Energy Office. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand and agree that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner without bias or prejudice. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the award decision notices for public distribution.

Kiara Acevedo Martinez
Signature

1/23/2025
Date



**STATE OF MAINE
Governor's Energy Office**

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Dan Burgess
Director

**AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFA #: 202410193**

**RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the
Gulf of Maine 2**

I, Meghan Suslovic accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Governor's Energy Office. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand and agree that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner without bias or prejudice. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the award decision notices for public distribution.

Meghan Suslovic
Signature

01/23/2025
Date



STATE OF MAINE
Governor's Energy Office

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Dan Burgess
Director

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

I, Erin Summers accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Governor's Energy Office. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand and agree that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner without bias or prejudice. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the award decision notices for public distribution.

Erin Summers
Signature

1/24/25
Date



STATE OF MAINE
Governor's Energy Office

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Dan Burgess
Director

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

I, Nathan Lubega accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Governor's Energy Office. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand and agree that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner without bias or prejudice. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the award decision notices for public distribution.

Nathan Lubega
Signature

1/23/2025
Date



Janet T. Mills
Governor

Dan Burgess
Director

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

I, Stephanie Watson accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Governor's Energy Office. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand and agree that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner without bias or prejudice. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the award decision notices for public distribution.

Stephanie Watson
Signature

1/24/25
Date



STATE OF MAINE
Governor's Energy Office

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Dan Burgess
Director

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine 2

I, John Perry accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Governor's Energy Office. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand and agree that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner without bias or prejudice. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the award decision notices for public distribution.

John Perry
Signature

1/24/2025
Date



STATE OF MAINE
Governor's Energy Office

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Dan Burgess
Director

AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

RFA #: 202410193

RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the
Gulf of Maine 2

I, SARAH HAGGERTY accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Governor's Energy Office. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand and agree that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner without bias or prejudice. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the award decision notices for public distribution.

Sarah Haggerty
Signature

January 23, 2025
Date



**STATE OF MAINE
Governor's Energy Office**

**Janet T. Mills
Governor**

**Dan Burgess
Director**

**AGREEMENT AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
RFA #: 202410193**

**RFA TITLE: Research to Inform Responsible Floating Offshore Wind Development in the
Gulf of Maine 2**

I, Zara Dowling, accept the offer to become a member of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Evaluation Team for the State of Maine Governor's Energy Office. I do hereby accept the terms set forth in this agreement AND hereby disclose any affiliation or relationship I may have in connection with a bidder who has submitted a proposal to this RFP.

Neither I nor any member of my immediate family have a personal or financial interest, direct or indirect, in the bidders whose proposals I will be reviewing. "Interest" may include, but is not limited to: current or former ownership in the bidder's company; current or former Board membership; current or former employment with the bidder; current or former personal contractual relationship with the bidder (example: paid consultant); and/or current or former relationship to a bidder's official which could reasonably be construed to constitute a conflict of interest (personal relationships may be perceived by the public as a potential conflict of interest).

I have not advised, consulted with or assisted any bidder in the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP nor have I submitted a letter of support or similar endorsement.

I understand and agree that the evaluation process is to be conducted in an impartial manner without bias or prejudice. In this regard, I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no circumstances that would reasonably support a good faith charge of bias. I further understand that in the event a good faith charge of bias is made, it will rest with me to decide whether I should be disqualified from participation in the evaluation process.

I agree to hold confidential all information related to the contents of Requests for Proposals presented during the review process until such time as the Department formally releases the award decision notices for public distribution.

1/27/25

Signature

Date