**STATE OF MAINE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**RFP AMENDMENT #1 AND**

**RFP SUBMITTED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SUMMARY**

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| **RFP NUMBER AND TITLE:** | RFP 202401015 - Gulf of Maine Aerial Surveys and Marine Mammal Observers |
| **RFP ISSUED BY:** | Department of Marine Resources |
| **SUBMITTED QUESTIONS DUE DATE:** | 29 March 2024, no later than 11:59 p.m., local time |
| **AMENDMENT AND QUESTION & ANSWER SUMMARY ISSUED:** | April 9, 2024 |
| **PROPOSAL DUE DATE:** | 19 April 2024, no later than 11:59 p.m., local time |
| **PROPOSALS DUE TO:** | proposals@maine.gov |
| **Unless specifically addressed below, all other provisions and clauses of the RFP remain unchanged.** |
| **DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES IN RFP (if any):** * Part II, Section A, Task 2 ai. (pg. 7) is amended to match the Period of Performance start date.
 |
| **REVISED LANGUAGE IN RFP (if any):**1. **Task 2: Broad-Scale Line Transect Aerial Surveys**
	* 1. Broad-Scale Line-Transect Aerial Surveys
			1. The Contractor must conduct monthly line-transect aerial surveys for marine species, with a focus on North Atlantic right whales, along track lines pre-determined by MEDMR. Surveys of specified track lines will be conducted on an as-needed basis, based on other ongoing survey efforts, to ensure total monthly coverage of the broad scale survey area (**Appendix F**, Figure 1). Beginning in May2024, one (1) survey per month (9) shall be conducted within the area depicted in **Appendix F**, Figure 2. *LMA 1 Zone A Extension.*
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**Provided below are submitted written questions received and the Department’s answer.**

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| **1** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, Section D (pg. 6) | If the Period of Performance extends to a longer range than 12 months + 2 weeks, will there be an option to amend costs? |
| **Answer** |
| Should the Period of Performance be extended, the Contract will be amended at the discretion of MEDMR to address any amendment of costs.  |

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| **2** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, Section D (pg. 6) *and* Part II, Section A, Task 2ai (pg. 7) | The Period of Performance is stated as commencing on May 15, 2024 (Part I, Section D); however, under Part II, Section A, Task 2ai, the RFR states that surveys will begin in April 2024. Please clarify. |
| **Answer** |
| The Period of Performance is May 15th, 2024 through May 31st, 2025. This is corrected in Amendment #1.  |

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| **3** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A (pg. 7, paragraph 1) | Does DMR expect the Contractor to contract the fixed-wing, twin-engine bubble window aircraft or is DMR planning to use their twin otter for aerial surveys?  |
| **Answer** |
| The Contractor will be responsible for securing a contract for aviation services. |

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| **4** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A (pg. 7, paragraph 2); Part II, Section A, Task 2ai (pg. 8); Part II, Section B, Part 1b (pg. 11); and Appendix F (pg. 29) | What is the nature of "as requested” and “as needed" with regard to the aerial survey track lines? Does that mean that the Contractor shall conduct aerial surveys along *every* track line depicted in Figure 1 each month, as stated in the narrative of the RFP? Or will there be a subset the Contractor is directed to complete by DMR? If the latter, for costing and duration purposes, can DMR provide a maximum number of lines per monthly survey or some quantification of line lengths? |
| **Answer** |
| MEDMR will direct the Contractor to complete a subset of the predetermined aerial survey track lines in coordination with other research agencies to ensure total monthly coverage of survey track lines. The total requested track line length per month shall be up to the amount of the entire survey grid, totaling 2039 nautical miles (not including cross legs or transits).  |

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| **5** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A (pg. 7, paragraph 3) | Please confirm that the Contractor is required to provide all digital cameras/lenses necessary for aerial-based visual surveys. |
| **Answer** |
| MEDMR will provide digital photography equipment (camera body and lens) for aerial surveys. |

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| **6** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A (pg. 7, paragraph 3) and Part II, Section B, Part 2b (pg. 11) | Will DMR provide access to the data collection software, Mysticetus, for both the vessel and aerial surveys and for post-survey generation of the summary report? Or should the Contractor plan on including costs for this subscription? |
| **Answer** |
| A subscription for Mysticetus LLC. software will be provided by MEDMR. |

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| **7** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A (pg. 7, paragraph 4) | Does DMR expect the Contractor to contract the vessel for both and July and November surveys or will DMR contract the survey vessel? |
| **Answer** |
| MEDMR has contracted the survey vessels for the inshore and offshore surveys in both July and November. |

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| **8** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A, Task 1a and 1b (pg. 7) | Is it amenable to DMR to combine the initial pre-aerial survey meeting with the initial pre-cruise meeting or are these two separate meetings? |
| **Answer** |
| The pre survey meetings for aerial surveys and vessel-based surveys will need to occur at different times, with the aerial survey meeting occurring in May and the vessel-based survey meeting occurring at a later date (prior to the July survey). |

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| **9** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A, Task 1 (pg. 7) | Are some or all the meetings between the Contractor and DMR under Task 1 required to be in person, or are virtual meetings an option to address this task? |
| **Answer** |
| Virtual meetings are an option to address this task. |

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| **10** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A, Task 2aii (pg. 8) | Is a video belly camera requested/required for the aerial surveys? |
| **Answer** |
| A video belly camera is not required for the aerial surveys. |

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| **11** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A, Task 2aii (pg. 8) | Would DMR prefer for North Atlantic right whale pictures to be taken at 800 ft vs. 1,000 ft, as allowed in our permit? |
| **Answer** |
| DMR would prefer all photography operations occur at 1000 ft or above to mitigate impacts to right whales and ensure the safety of flight operations. |

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| **12** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A, Task 2cii(1) (pg. 8) | The link provided for survey protocols is a link to the landing webpage for the NARWC. Is there a more specific link to the protocols referenced that could be provided? |
| **Answer** |
| Specifics regarding data collection protocols, including an observer manual, will be communicated/provided by MEDMR. The NARWC Sighting Database User Guide can be found here; [Sightings Database - NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE CONSORTIUM (narwc.org)](https://www.narwc.org/sightings-database.html). |

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| **13** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A, Task 2ciii(1) (pg. 9) | Please confirm that DMR will provide all digital cameras/lenses necessary for vessel-based visual surveys. |
| **Answer** |
| MEDMR will provide all necessary camera(s), lenses, and accessories for photographic data collection. |

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| **14** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A, Task 2ciii(1) (pg. 9) | The link for the DIGITS database provided in the RFP is not accessible by the public. Will DMR provide access to this information to the Contractor? |
| **Answer** |
| MEDMR will provide instructions for photography best-practices, data storage, labeling and formatting for data submission to the DIGITS database during pre-survey meetings and within an Observer Manual. |

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| **15** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A, Task 3a (pg. 9) and Part II, Section B, Part 2a (pg. 11) | Does DMR require the Contractor to provide 9 total Marine Mammal Observers (3 for inshore surveys + 6 for offshore surveys), or is the Contractor able to use the 3 inshore Marine Mammal Observers to serve as a subset of the required 6 offshore survey Marine Mammal Observers? |
| **Answer** |
| DMR may require up to 9 total observers, should the inshore and offshore vessel surveys overlap temporally. However, if surveys to not overlap, the same subset of three observers may be used for both surveys. |

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| **16** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A, Task 3a (pg. 9) | The proposal narrative references Figure 3 but there is no Figure 3 provided in the RFP. Please clarify. |
| **Answer** |
| MEDMR Figure 3 depicting predetermined vessel survey lines was decidedly not included as the survey layout may change slightly prior to commencement of these surveys. If further information regarding survey track lines is required, example survey track lines for the vessel based surveys can be provided upon request. |

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| **17** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A, Task 3a (pg. 9) | Each survey event specifies two separate cruises: one inshore, consisting of day trips; and one offshore, consisting of multi-day, overnight trips. Does this necessitate two separate PAM / Marine Mammal Observer vessels or is one vessel being used for both the inshore and offshore legs for one simultaneous survey each in July and November? |
| **Answer** |
| DMR has contracted two separate vessels to complete the inshore and offshore survey work based on varying survey area requirements and operational capacities.  |

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| **18** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A, Task 3a (pg. 9) | If two separate cruises are planned, will there be an opportunity to onboard the additional Marine Mammal Observers during a port call? |
| **Answer** |
| Marine Mammal Observers will be boarded daily in port at the start of each inshore survey day. Marine Mammal Observers will be boarded during the mobilization of the offshore survey and remain aboard until survey completion. |

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| **19** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A, Task 3b (pg. 9-10) | Will the on-watch Marine Mammal Observer be expected to simultaneously record their data (e.g., enter into laptop software in real time), or record their data into a tape recorder then enter it into Mysticetus later, or will a separate Marine Mammal Observer be required (in real time) to enter sighting data? |
| **Answer** |
| On-watch observers will be responsible for entering data into Mysticetus software in real time. |

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| **20** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A, Task 3biii (pg. 9) | The RFP states, “A minimum of two (2) observers will be employed on either side of the vessel during pre-determined track-lines and cross legs, and a minimum of one (1) observer will be stationed on watch during transits to/from survey track lines or during PAM array servicing activities.” Is this the required shift staffing for Marine Mammal Observers for both inshore surveys and offshore surveys? |
| **Answer** |
| This describes the minimum number of observers who will need to be on watch during different survey leg types, however 3-4 observers may be on-watch during a predetermined track line in order to effectively accomplish survey goals (for example; one observer as a dedicated data recorder, two observers on ‘big eye’ binoculars, and one observer as photographer during offshore surveys when sightings occur). |

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| **21** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A, Task 3biv (pg. 9) | What is the minimum duration of a Marine Mammal Observer’s required break, and can they transcribe their data during this period? |
| **Answer** |
| On-watch observers will be responsible for entering data into Mysticetus software in real time. No data transcription will be required, and preliminary data QA/QC can occur at the end of each shift. Watch shifts will last up to 2 hours. Observers will have a minimum of 1 hour off between watch shifts. |

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| **22** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section B, Part 1a (pg. 11) | How many other periodic meetings, in addition to the initial, pre-survey meetings, are required? Is DMR able to provide a timeline for or suggest the number of coordination meetings needed for planning purposes? |
| **Answer** |
| Initial pre survey meetings should be scheduled for the month of May following the start of the Period of Performance and prior to vessel-based surveys or aerial surveys. At least one additional meeting prior to the November vessel surveys should occur, as well as a survey debrief meeting following each of the vessel survey months. Approximately 3 additional aerial survey meetings will be required during the Period of Performance.  |

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| **23** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section B, Part 2c (pg. 12) | Please define what is required by the statement, “The Contractor will work with MEDMR to process all photographs for submission to the … (NARWC) Identification Database.” |
| **Answer** |
| Photographic data collected during survey activities will require proper storage, labeling by date, sighting, and/or individual and conversion from RAW to JPEG format for submission to the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium Identification Database. Marine Mammal Observers provided by the contractor will assist MEDMR with these tasks. |

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| **24** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section B, Part 3 (pg. 13) | Are there any analyses required as part of the Final Aerial Survey Report or is this just a compounded table of 12 months of sightings and metadata (with no introduction, methods, discussion, or conclusion)? |
| **Answer** |
| The full format and content of the Final Aerial Survey Report will be provided by MEDMR at a later date, prior to completion of the Period of Performance. This report will not require complex statistical analyses, but may require sighting per unit of effort (SPUE) analysis. |

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| **25** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Appendix D | Should the aerial survey pricing only reflect aerial monthly surveys from May to December 2024 based on the specific dates provided for aerial surveys on Page 7 paragraph 2? |
| **Answer** |
| Aerial survey pricing should reflect monthly surveys from May to December 2024. Also, see answer to Question 26, below. |

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| **26** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Appendix D | Will the Contractor have a chance to account for additional costs beyond the per day pricing provided in Appendix D if the survey extends into 2025? |
| **Answer** |
| The Appendix D Cost Proposal Form can be modified to include a line item for additional costs during the Period of Performance in 2025. |

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| **27** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, A., 4th paragraph, pg 7 | RFP states “Equipment for data collection, including digital photography equipment, will be provided by MEDMR.”Will MEDMR be providing a computer and data collection program for the vessel surveys? If so, what type of computer and which data collection program will be provided? What type of visual observation equipment will be provided (e.g., handheld binoculars with reticles, “big eye” mounted binoculars)?Will MEDMR be providing a computer and data collection program for the aerial surveys? If so, what type of computer and which data collection program will be provided? |
| **Answer** |
| MEDMR will provide Dell Rugged laptop computers with marine species data collection software (Mysticetus LLC.) for both vessel-based and aerial surveys, as well as digital photography equipment (camera body and lens). MEDMR will also supply all other equipment needed for data collection, including Fujinon 7x50 reticle binoculars, external hard drives, camera memory cards, a card reader and inclinometers. The offshore survey vessel will supply “big eye” mounted binoculars. |

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| **28** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, A.2.c.ii.(3), pg 8 | RFP states “sightings of all marine species shall be recorded…”.Does this mean species other than marine mammal species? If so, please provide a list of species and/or animal groups that are to be recorded during the aerial surveys. |
| **Answer** |
| Marine Mammal Observers will record all marine species visible at the surface, including: cetaceans, pinnipeds, sea turtles and fishes. A full list of Northwestern Atlantic species can be found on the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium website Sighting Database Guide ([Sightings Database - NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE CONSORTIUM (narwc.org)](https://www.narwc.org/sightings-database.html)) |

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| **29** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, A.2.c.iii.(1), pg 9 | RFP states “MEDMR-provided photography equipment and camera settings…”. Is MEDMR providing a camera, telephoto lens, and camera accessories for the contractor to use during all aerial surveys? If so, what type of camera and lens will be provided? |
| **Answer** |
| MEDMR will provide photography equipment and accessories for aerial surveys, including a Canon Mark II EOS 7D camera body with a fixed 300 mm lens. |

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| **30** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, A.3.a. pg 9 | The RFP cites Palka 2023. Please provide the citation and a link to the document if it is publicly available. If the document is not publicly available, please provide a copy of the document. |
| **Answer** |
| Please see document; Palka, 2023. [Cetacean Abundance in the U.S. Northwestern Atlantic Ocean, Summer 2021 (noaa.gov)](https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/50424) |

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| **31** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, B.2.d. pg 11 | A survey report is required for each aerial survey day. How do we account for this deliverable in the Appendix D Cost Proposal Form? |
| **Answer** |
| The Appendix D Cost Proposal Form can be modified to include a line item for personnel costs associated with this task. |

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| **32** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, B.2.a. pg 11 | The RFP states that the maximum number of MMOs needed will be 3 for inshore surveys and 6 for offshore surveys and that vessel surveys will include one inshore and one offshore cruise in July and November 2024. In order to complete the Appendix D Cost Proposal Form, we need to know how many MMOs and how many survey days to include based on MEDMR’s needs. For the two inshore surveys (one in July and one in November), how many total survey days and how many total MMOs should we include for each inshore survey? For the two offshore surveys (one in July and one in November), how many total survey days and how many total MMOs should we include for each offshore survey? How many mobilization/demobilization days (e.g., non-survey days when MMOs need to be onsite) do we include for each inshore and offshore survey? |
| **Answer** |
| The two inshore surveys (July and November), will operate for 4 days per survey month (8 total days) and require 3 Marine Mammal Observers. This does not include standby days for weather, which can occur with vessel-based survey work. A standby rate for Marine Mammal Observers can be provided on the Cost Proposal Form (Appendix D).The two offshore surveys (July and November) will operate for 10-12 days per survey month (20-22 days total) and require 6 Marine Mammal Observers. This does not include standby days for weather, which can occur with vessel-based survey work. A standby rate for Marine Mammal Observers can be provided on the Cost Proposal Form (Appendix D).Survey mobilization for each inshore survey will require 1 day, and survey demobilization will require 1 day. Survey mobilization for each offshore survey will require 1 day, and survey demobilization will require 1 day. |

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| **33** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, B.2.a. pg 11 | The RFP states “The Contractor shall also provide Marine Mammal Observers for research surveys in 2025 as required.” How do we account for the unknown survey days and unknown number of MMOs needed for these additional surveys in the Appendix D Cost Proposal Form? |
| **Answer** |
| There will be one additional inshore survey and one additional offshore survey within the Period of Performance (March 2025), therefore costs may be accounted for based on the possible requirement of the same number of survey days and Marine Mammal Observers detailed for the July and November surveys in the answer to Question 32, above. |

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| **34** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, B.2.b. pg 11 | The RFP states “The Contractor shall be available for consultation of data collected during the week following each completed survey.” How do we account for these consultations in the Appendix D Cost Proposal Form? |
| **Answer** |
| The Appendix D Cost Proposal Form can be modified to include a line item for personnel costs associated with this task. |

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| **35** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, B.2.b. pg 12 | The RFP states “The Contractor will work with MEDMR to process all photographs for submission to the New England Aquarium for processing…”. Will the Contractor be completing the data submission forms or just providing the photos and sighting data to the MEDMR so that MEDMR can complete the necessary documentation and MEDMR submits the photos and necessary documentation to the New England Aquarium? |
| **Answer** |
| Photographic data collected during survey activities will require proper storage, labeling by date, sighting, and/or individual and conversion from RAW to JPEG format for submission to the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium Identification Database. Marine Mammal Observers provided by the contractor will assist MEDMR with these tasks. |

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| **36** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, B.3 pg 13 | A Final Aerial Survey Report is required after completion of all aerial surveys. How do we account for this deliverable in the Appendix D Cost Proposal Form? |
| **Answer** |
| The Appendix D Cost Proposal Form can be modified to include a line item for personnel costs associated with this task. |

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| **37** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Appendix D, Cost Proposal Form, pg 27 | For the aerial surveys, how many total survey days do we include in order to calculate the Total Proposed Cost? |
| **Answer** |
| Aerial surveys will operate for at least 5 days per month from the Period of Performance start date through December of 2024, weather pending, to ensure total monthly coverage of the proposed predetermined track lines. As-needed coverage between January 1, 2025 and the Period of Performance end date may be entered as a daily or hourly rate, with the maximum number of survey days during 2025 equal to 5 survey days per month. |

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| **38** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Appendix D, Cost Proposal Form, pg 27 | If we are using an hourly rate for any line item, where do we include the estimated hours? Can we add a column for that? |
| **Answer** |
| The Appendix D Cost Proposal Form can be modified to include a line item for estimated hours. |

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| **39** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Appendix D, Cost Proposal Form, pg 27 | The table for Marine Mammal Observers line item includes a column for “Hourly Rate On-Vessel” and “Hourly Rate Off-Vessel”. What work is the off-vessel rate to be used for? |
| **Answer** |
| The off-vessel rate may be used to summarize costs for survey mobilization and demobilization days, per-survey meeting(s), survey debrief(s) and/or standby rates. |

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| **40** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Appendix D, Cost Proposal Form, pg 27 | Where do we include travel-related expense estimates for the aerial and vessel survey personnel? |
| **Answer** |
| The Appendix D Cost Proposal Form can be modified to include a line item for travel costs for survey personnel.  |

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| **41** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Appendix D, Cost Proposal Form, pg 27 | Where do we include costs related to project management (e.g., Task 1 Survey Planning and Coordination)? |
| **Answer** |
| The Appendix D Cost Proposal Form can be modified to include a line item for personnel costs and/or travel costs associated with this task. |

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| **42** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Appendix D, Cost Proposal Form, pg 27 | For the vessel surveys, how many total survey days and how many total MMOs should we include for each of the two inshore surveys? |
| **Answer** |
| The two inshore surveys (July and November), will operate for 4 days per survey month (8 total days) and require 3 Marine Mammal Observers. This does not include standby days for weather, which can occur with vessel-based survey work. A standby rate for Marine Mammal Observers can be provided on the Cost Proposal Form (Appendix D). |

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| **43** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Appendix D, Cost Proposal Form, pg 27 | For the vessel surveys, how many total survey days and how many total MMOs should we include for each of the two offshore surveys? |
| **Answer** |
| The two offshore surveys (July and November) will operate for 10-12 days per survey month (20-22 days total) and require 6 Marine Mammal Observers. This does not include standby days for weather, which can occur with vessel-based survey work. A standby rate for Marine Mammal Observers can be provided on the Cost Proposal Form (Appendix D). |

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| **44** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Appendix D, Cost Proposal Form, pg 27 | For the vessel surveys, how many total mobilization/demobilization days (non-survey days) should we include for each of the two inshore surveys? |
| **Answer** |
| Survey mobilization for each inshore survey will require 1 day, and survey demobilization will require 1 day.  |

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| **45** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Appendix D, Cost Proposal Form, pg 27 | For the vessel surveys, how many total mobilization/demobilization days (non-survey days) should we include for each of the two offshore surveys? |
| **Answer** |
| Survey mobilization for each offshore survey will require 1 day, and survey demobilization will require 1 day. |

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| **46** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Appendix D, Cost Proposal Form, pg 27 | Will lodging and meals be provided to the MMOs during the inshore surveys (including during mobilization/demobilization days)? |
| **Answer** |
| Lodging and meals will not be provided for MMOs during the inshore surveys or during mobilization/demobilization. Travel costs for MMOs can be included as a line item in the Proposed Cost Form. |

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| **47** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Appendix D, Cost Proposal Form, pg 27 | Will lodging and meals be provided to the MMOs during the offshore surveys (including during mobilization/demobilization days)? |
| **Answer** |
| Lodging and meals will not be provided for MMOs during mobilization/demobilization of the offshore survey. Lodging and meals will be provided by the contracted research vessel while at sea during the offshore survey. Travel costs for MMOs can be included as a line item in the Proposed Cost Form. |

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| **48** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Appendix D, Cost Proposal Form, pg 27 | Where will mobilization/demobilization take place for the inshore and offshore surveys (e.g., where will the MMOs board the vessels)? |
| **Answer** |
| Mobilization for the inshore survey will occur in Boothbay Harbor, ME, and demobilization will occur in Bar Harbor, ME. Mobilization/demobilization for the offshore survey will occur in either Portland, ME; Rockland, ME; or Belfast, ME pending port availability. |

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| **49** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Appendix D, Cost Proposal Form, pg 27 | The RFP states “All additional costs should be itemized in a manner that provides clarity regarding proposed costs and add into the fixed Total Proposed Cost.” What do you mean by “fixed” Total Proposed Cost? Does this mean that the contract would be a fixed price contract and not a time and materials type of contract? |
| **Answer** |
| The Contract will be awarded as a fixed price contract, based on the information provided in the Proposed Cost Form (Appendix D). Said Contract may be amended to cover additional unforeseen costs at the discretion of MEDMR. |