**STATE OF MAINE**

**Department of Environmental Protection**

Division of Environmental Assessment, Marine Unit



**RFP# 202412220**

**2025 National Coastal Condition Assessment Survey for Maine Estuarine Waters**

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| *All communication regarding the RFP must be made through the RFP Coordinator.* | | |

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| --- | --- |
| **Submitted Questions Due Date** | January 13, 2025, no later than 11:59 p.m., local time |
| *All questions must be received by the RFP Coordinator by the date and time listed above.* | |

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| **Proposal Submission Deadline** | **DATE:** | Proposals must be received by the Division of Procurement Services by: January 27, 2025, no later than 11:59 p.m., local time. |
| **TO:** | [Proposals@maine.gov](mailto:Proposals@maine.gov) |
| *Proposals must be received electronically by the Office of State Procurement Services by the date and time listed above.* | | |

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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**State of Maine**

**Department of Environmental Protection**

**RFP# 202412220**

**2025 National Coastal Condition Assessment Survey for Maine Estuarine Waters**

The State of Maine is seeking proposals to prepare for and complete a survey of Maine’s Estuarine waters.

A copy of the RFP and all related documents can be obtained at: <https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/vendors/rfps>

Proposals must be submitted to the Office of State Procurement Services, via e-mail, at: [Proposals@maine.gov](mailto:Proposals@maine.gov). Proposal submissions must be received no later than 11:59 p.m., local time, on January 27, 2025. Proposals will be opened the following business day.

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**RFP TERMS/ACRONYMS with DEFINITIONS**

The following terms and acronyms, as referenced in the RFP, have the meanings indicated below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Term/Acronym** | **Definition** |
| **Alternate site** | Sampling locations to be substituted when a “primary site” cannot be sampled |
| **DD** | Decimal Degrees |
| **Department** | Department of Environmental Protection |
| **Feature Name** | Name of localized embayment or estuary in which a “Site ID” is located |
| **FOM** | Field Operations Manual |
| **Index period** | Period during which field survey must occur (June 1 – Sept 30, 2025) |
| **NCA** | National Coastal Assessment |
| **NCCA** | National Coastal Condition Assessment |
| **PAR** | Photosynthetically Active Radiation |
| **Primary revisit site** | Of the “primary sites” those to be sampled on two separate dates |
| **Primary site** | Sampling locations intended for inclusion in the field survey |
| **RFP** | Request for Proposals |
| **Site ID** | Unique identifier for each sampling location |
| **Site Type** | Denotes “alternate”, “primary revisit”, or “primary” site |
| **State** | State of Maine |
| **US EPA** | United States Environmental Protection Agency |
| **Waterbody Name** | Name of larger embayment or estuary in which a “Site ID” is located |
| **X-Site** | Location signifying the point at which sample collections are targeted |

**State of Maine**

**Department of Environmental Protection**

Bureau of Water Quality

**RFP# 202412220**

**2025 National Coastal Condition Assessment Survey for Maine Estuarine Waters**

**PART I INTRODUCTION**

1. **Purpose and Background**

The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) is seeking proposals to complete a survey of estuarine waters in Maine as part of the Environmental Protection Agency’s National Coastal Condition Assessment (NCCA) as defined in this Request for Proposals (RFP) document. This document provides instructions for submitting proposals, the procedure and criteria by which the awarded Bidder will be selected, and the contractual terms which will govern the relationship between the State of Maine (State) and the awarded Bidder.

The NCCA is an estuarine water assessment program being conducted by states, tribes, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other partners (<http://water.epa.gov/type/oceb/assessmonitor/ncca.cfm> ). The NCCA currently occurs on a five-year rotation with the 2025 survey being the subject of this RFP, and was completed previously in 2020, 2015, 2010, and annually on a smaller scale as the National Coastal Assessment (NCA) from 2000-2006. The purpose of the NCCA is to generate statistically-valid reports to:

* Assess the condition of the Nation’s coastal and estuarine waters at national and regional scales, including the Great Lakes;
* Identify the relative importance of selected stressors to coastal and estuarine water quality; and
* Evaluate changes in condition from previous NCA and NCCA surveys.

The NCCA is designed to be completed during the index period of June 1 through September 30, 2025. Field crews collect a variety of measurements and samples from water, sediment, and tissue at predetermined sites. In 2025, Maine has 23 predetermined sites plus two revisits distributed along the coast.

The Department coordinates Maine participation for the NCCA to additionally enable the Department’s assessment of physical, biological and chemical characteristics of the selected estuarine sample sites. The State’s objective to restore and maintain the integrity of the State’s waters and the need to demonstrate attainment of designated uses in and on Maine’s estuarine waters are addressed through participation in the NCCA.

1. **General Provisions**
   1. From the time the RFP is issued until award notification is made, all contact with the State regarding the RFP must be made through the RFP Coordinator. No other person/ State employee is empowered to make binding statements regarding the RFP. Violation of this provision may lead to disqualification from the bidding process, at the State’s discretion.
   2. Issuance of the RFP does not commit the Department to issue an award or to pay expenses incurred by a Bidder in the preparation of a response to the RFP. This includes attendance at personal interviews or other meetings and software or system demonstrations, where applicable.
   3. All proposals must adhere to the instructions and format requirements outlined in the RFP and all written supplements and amendments (such as the Summary of Questions and Answers), issued by the Department. Proposals are to follow the format and respond to all questions and instructions specified below in the “Proposal Submission Requirements” section of the RFP.
   4. Bidders will take careful note that in evaluating a proposal submitted in response to the RFP, the Department will consider materials provided in the proposal, information obtained through interviews/presentations (if any), and internal Departmental information of previous contract history with the Bidder (if any). The Department also reserves the right to consider other reliable references and publicly available information in evaluating a Bidder’s experience and capabilities.
   5. The proposal must be signed by a person authorized to legally bind the Bidder and must contain a statement that the proposal and the pricing contained therein will remain valid and binding for a period of 180 days from the date and time of the bid opening.
   6. The RFP and the awarded Bidder’s proposal, including all appendices or attachments, will be the basis for the final contract, as determined by the Department.
   7. Following announcement of an award decision, all submissions in response to this RFP will be public records, available for public inspection pursuant to the State of Maine Freedom of Access Act (FOAA) ([1 M.R.S. § 401](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/1/title1sec401.html) et seq.). State contracts and information related to contracts, including bid submissions, are generally public records per FOAA.
   8. In the event that a Bidder believes any information that it submits in response to this RFP is confidential, it must mark that information accordingly, and include citation to legal authority in support of the Bidder’s claim of confidentiality. In the event that the Department receives a FOAA request that includes submissions marked as confidential, the Department shall evaluate the information and any legal authority from the Bidder to determine whether the information is an exception to FOAA’s definition of public record. If the Department determines to release information that a Bidder has marked confidential, it shall provide advance notice to the Bidder to allow for them to seek legal relief.
   9. The Department, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to recognize and waive minor informalities and irregularities found in proposals received in response to the RFP.
   10. All applicable laws, whether or not herein contained, are included by this reference. It is the Bidder’s responsibility to determine the applicability and requirements of any such laws and to abide by them.
2. **Eligibility to Submit Bids**

All interested parties are invited to submit bids in response to this Request for Proposals.

1. **Contract Term**

The Department is seeking cost-efficient proposals to provide services, as defined in this RFP, for the anticipated contract period defined in the table below. The dates below are estimated and may be adjusted, as necessary, in order to comply with all procedural requirements associated with the RFP and the contracting process. The actual contract start date will be established by a completed and approved contract.

Contract Renewal: Following the initial term of the contract, the Department may opt to renew the contract for 0 renewal periods, as shown in the table below, and subject to continued availability of funding and satisfactory performance.

The term of the anticipated contract, resulting from the RFP, is defined as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Period** | **Start Date** | **End Date** |
| Period of Performance | March 15, 2025 | September 30, 2025 |

1. **Number of Awards**

The Department anticipates making one (1) award as a result of this RFP process.

**PART II SCOPE OF SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED**

The Department seeks to retain the services of a contractor/consultant to train, plan for, and conduct the 2025 NCCA survey in Maine estuarine waters on the schedule presented in the Contract Term above. Study design includes sampling between June 1 and September 30 at 23 distinct sites, with a second sampling event at two of the 23 sites. Details of a desktop evaluation required prior to site sampling are provided in the

[“National Coastal Condition Assessment 2020 Site Evaluation Guidelines”](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-09/ncca-2020-seg.20200409_final_v1.1.pdf). Note that the “National Coastal Condition Assessment 2025 Site Evaluation Guidelines”, with only minor updates since the 2020 version, is currently in draft form and unavailable for bidder review; however, it will be available prior to the contractor training event (Region 1 Training) to occur in May 2025.

Details of field operations are provided in the [“National Coastal Condition Assessment 2020 Field Operation Manual”](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-09/ncca_2020_fom_version_1.2.pdf). Note that the “National Coastal Condition Assessment 2025 Field Operations Manual” (FOM) is currently in draft form and unavailable for bidder review, but will available prior to the Region 1 Training event. Differences between 2020 and 2025 field operations are included in the Survey Components list below.

1. **Survey Components**

In addition to spatial and descriptive site information needed for Site Verification, Field Measurement, Sample Collection, EcoFish Collection, and Site Assessment forms, measured parameters and collected samples per site will include the following:

1. **Water:**
   1. Sonde profiles with sensors for at least:
      1. Temperature,
      2. Salinity,
      3. Dissolved Oxygen,
      4. pH,
      5. Chlorophyll,
      6. Turbidity
   2. Photosynthetically Active Radiation (PAR) sensor profiles
   3. Secchi disk transparency readings
   4. Grab samples for:
      1. Enterococci,
      2. Chlorophyll *a*,
      3. Dissolved nutrients,
      4. Total Alkalinity (change from 2020: two smaller bottles will now be one larger bottle),
      5. Microalgal toxin analyses (change from 2020: two bottles will now be one bottle)
2. **Sediment:**
   1. Grab samples for:
      1. Grain size,
      2. Percent moisture,
      3. Organic content (change from 2020: sample now combined with contaminants sample),
      4. Contaminant analyses (change from 2020: sample now combined with organic content sample),
      5. Toxicity,
      6. No nitrogen stable isotopes (discontinued for 2025 survey),
      7. No microplastics (discontinued for 2025 survey)
3. **Biological:**
   1. Grab samples for:
      1. Benthic macroinvertebrate identification and enumeration
   2. Whole finfish for measurement of persistent toxic compounds
   3. Human health fish tissue collection (see 2020 FOM Great Lakes Section for protocols to be used in the NCCA 2025 in estuaries, [https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-09/ncca\_2020\_fom\_version\_1.2.pdf](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.epa.gov%2Fsystem%2Ffiles%2Fdocuments%2F2021-09%2Fncca_2020_fom_version_1.2.pdf&data=05%7C02%7CJames.Stahlnecker%40maine.gov%7C38c197c718a0452143cd08dd12dd3fe1%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638687463647244810%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YP33%2FgkNhUgGTzT6Zw9YiwXF5gD1BHGyv8Sq35ZzR9E%3D&reserved=0)).

Changes for 2025 will include:

* + 1. If suitable fish cannot be collected within 1000 meters of the X-site, crews may move out to a maximum of 1500 meters from the X-site in an effort to collect the human health fish tissue sample.
    2. Two fish sample coolers will be shipped, and fish packaging and shipping methods for human health tissue will require more dry ice (see section 14 of the 2020 FOM for details).
  1. No finfish tissue plugs for mercury contamination (discontinued for 2025 survey),
  2. Crews will conduct enhanced observation of seagrasses from the boat (no sampling, diving, snorkeling or underwater cameras). The tablet app will include this method, which is not expected to require more than 15 minutes per site. Seagrass expertise is not required.
  3. The NCCA field app will be updated to reflect changes for 2025 noted above, will include more data validation screens, and should help with error reduction prior to data submission.

Collection of finfish may require additional site visits for gear deployment and/or retrieval, assistance with procurement of a Maine Department of Marine Resources Special License, and/or collaboration with licensed fishermen. The Department encourages bids to address the most feasible option(s) for finfish procurement from the 23 designated sites and will entertain subcontracts as needed to complete finfish collections.

1. **Material Requirements**

While the selected Bidder will be provided most sampling equipment by EPA contractor staff in the form of base kits and site kits, the selected Bidder will be required to provide the items identified in the [2020 FOM](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-09/ncca_2020_fom_version_1.2.pdf), Appendix A, “Crew Supplied Equipment”, p.p. 127-129. Note that the PAR meter, sensors, cables and lowering frame will be supplied by the Department. In addition to the crew-supplied equipment identified in the FOM, the selected Bidder will need adequate storage space for the base kits and numerous coolers (containing site kits) as well as other sampling gear necessary for project activities.

1. **Tasks**

The selected Bidder will be required to participate in planning tasks outlined in Survey Preparation (Task 1) and field logistics and sampling presented in Survey Implementation (Task 2).

**Survey Preparation (Task 1)**

1. Participate in virtual project kick-off meeting as appropriate with Department Project Manager, James Stahlnecker or designee, within two weeks following contract approval.
2. View NCCA 2025 Site Evaluation Guidelines and YouTube field crew training videos (including post-video quizzes for crew leaders/alternate crew leaders prior to Region 1 Field Training).
3. Attend NCCA 2025 Region 1 Field Training (date/location TBD, likely May in Portsmouth, New Hampshire) and receive base kits.
4. Complete desktop site evaluations of all primary sites and select replacement sites where necessary (Appendices F, G).
5. Identify site sampling order and timeline based on use of one to two field crews and at least one land-based support individual per field crew.
6. Identify locations of all FedEx shipping facilities across coastal Maine.
7. Request site kits and any additional base kits as necessary from EPA contractor.
8. Participate in biweekly field crew calls with EPA contractor starting in mid-June.

**Survey Implementation (Task 2)**

1. Complete field evaluations of questionable sites and select replacement sites where necessary.
2. Mobilize for and sample 23 Maine estuarine sites, plus second sampling events at two sites (Appendices F, G), and demobilize.
3. Process, preserve as appropriate, ship and track samples on a regular basis given sample holding times after completion of site sampling (note: successful Bidder will utilize pre-selected, EPA-contracted analytical lab).
4. Electronically submit all field and sample data, including Site Evaluation Spreadsheets, periodically to EPA based on FOM guidance.
5. Return any superfluous field equipment to EPA or Department as necessary after completion of survey.
6. **Field Crew Expectations**
   1. All field crew members must participate in training events and follow all safety and health guidelines presented in the FOM referenced above.
   2. The Field Crew Leader must be in contact with EPA contractor staff as necessary to accomplish survey actions.
   3. The Field Crew Leader must also be in contact at least monthly with Department Project Manager, James Stahlnecker or designee, to apprise of survey progress, equipment or logistical challenges, etc.
   4. The Field Crew Leader must be willing to include the Department Project Manager or designee in up to three sampling events over the duration of the summer.

**PART III KEY RFP EVENTS**

1. **Questions**
   1. **General Instructions:** It is the responsibility of all Bidders and other interested parties to examine the entire RFP and to seek clarification, in writing, if they do not understand any information or instructions.
      1. Bidders and other interested parties should use **Appendix E** (Submitted Questions Form) for submission of questions. If used, the form is to be submitted as a WORD document.
      2. Questions must be submitted, by e-mail, and received by the RFP Coordinator identified on the cover page of the RFP as soon as possible but no later than the date and time specified on the RFP cover page.
      3. The RFP Number and Title must be included in the subject line of the e-mail containing the submitted questions. The Department assumes no liability for assuring accurate/complete/on time e-mail transmission and receipt.
   2. **Question & Answer Summary:** Responses to all questions will be compiled in writing and posted on the following website no later than seven (7) calendar days prior to the proposal due date: [Office of State Procurement Services RFP Page](https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/vendors/rfps). It is the responsibility of all interested parties to go to this website to obtain a copy of the Question & Answer Summary. Only those answers issued in writing on this website will be considered binding.
2. **Amendments**

All amendments released in regard to the RFP will also be posted on the following website: [Office of State Procurement Services RFP Page](https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/vendors/rfps). It is the responsibility of all interested parties to go to this website to obtain amendments. Only those amendments posted on this website are considered binding.

1. **Proposal Submission**
   1. **Proposals Due:** Proposals must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. local time, on the date listed on the cover page of the RFP.
      1. Any e-mails containing original proposal submissions or any additional or revised proposal files, received after the 11:59 p.m. deadline, will be rejected without exception.
   2. **Delivery Instructions:** E-mail proposal submissions must be submitted to the Office of State Procurement Services at [Proposals@maine.gov](mailto:Proposals@maine.gov).
      1. Only proposal submissions received by e-mail will be considered. The Department assumes no liability for assuring accurate/complete e-mail transmission and receipt.
         1. Proposal submission e-mails that are successfully received by the [proposals@maine.gov](mailto:proposals@maine.gov) inbox will receive an automatic reply stating as such.
      2. E-mails containing links to file sharing sites or online file repositories will not be accepted as submissions. Only e-mail proposal submissions that have the actual requested files attached will be accepted.
      3. Encrypted e-mails received which require opening attachments and logging into a proprietary system will not be accepted as submissions. Bidders should work with their Information Technology team to ensure that the proposal submission will not be encrypted due to any security settings.
      4. File size limits are 25MB per e-mail. Bidders may submit files separately across multiple e-mails, as necessary, due to file size concerns. All e-mails and files must be received by the due date and time listed above.
   3. **Submission Format:**
      1. Bidders are to insert the following into the subject line of their e-mail proposal submission: **“RFP# 202412220 Proposal Submission – [Bidder’s Name]”**
      2. Bidder’s proposal submissions are to be broken down into multiple files, with each file named as it is titled in bold below, and include:

* **File 1 [Bidder’s Name] – Preliminary Information:**

*PDF format preferred*

**Appendix A** (Proposal Cover Page)

**Appendix B** (Responsible Bidder Certification)

All required eligibility documentation stated in PART IV, Section I.

* **File 2 [Bidder’s Name] – Organization Qualifications and Experience:**

*PDF format preferred*

**Appendix C** (Organization Qualifications and Experience Form) and all required information and attachments stated in PART IV, Section II.

* **File 3 [Bidder’s Name] – Proposed Services:**

*PDF format preferred*

All required information and attachments stated in PART IV, Section III.

* **File 4 [Bidder’s Name] – Cost Proposal:**

*PDF format preferred*

**Appendix D** (Cost Proposal Form) and all required information and attachments stated in PART IV, Section IV.

**PART IV PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

This section contains instructions for Bidders to use in preparing their proposals. The Department seeks detailed yet succinct responses that demonstrate the Bidder’s qualifications, experience, and ability to perform the requirements specified throughout the RFP.

Bidders’ proposals must follow the outline used below, including the numbering, section, and sub-section headings. Failure to use the outline specified in PART IV, or failure to respond to all questions and instructions throughout the RFP, may result in the proposal being disqualified as non-responsive or receiving a reduced score. The Department, and its evaluation team, has sole discretion to determine whether a variance from the RFP specifications will result either in disqualification or reduction in scoring of a proposal. Rephrasing of the content provided in the RFP will, at best, be considered minimally responsive.

Bidders are not to provide additional attachments beyond those specified in the RFP for the purpose of extending their response. Additional materials not requested will not be considered part of the proposal and will not be evaluated. Bidders must include any forms provided in the submission package or reproduce those forms as closely as possible. All information must be presented in the same order and format as described in the RFP.

**Proposal Format and Contents**

**Section I Preliminary Information** (File #1)

* 1. **Proposal Cover Page**

Bidders must complete **Appendix A** (Proposal Cover Page). It is critical that the cover page show the specific information requested, including Bidder address(es) and other details listed. The Proposal Cover Page must be dated and signed by a person authorized to enter into contracts on behalf of the Bidder.

* 1. **Responsible Bidder Certification**

Bidders must complete **Appendix B** (Responsible Bidder Certification). The Responsible Bidder Certification must be dated and signed by a person authorized to enter into contracts on behalf of the Bidder.

**Section II Organization Qualifications and Experience** (File #2)

* 1. **Overview of the Organization**

Bidders must complete **Appendix C** (Qualifications and Experience Form) describing their qualifications and skills to provide the requested services in the RFP. Bidders must include three (3) examples of projects which demonstrate their experience and expertise in performing these services, as well as highlighting the Bidder’s stated qualifications and skills.

* 1. **Subcontractors**

If subcontractors are to be used, Bidders must provide a list that specifies the name, address, phone number, contact person, and a brief description of the subcontractors’ organizational capacity and qualifications.

* 1. **Organizational Chart**

Bidders must provide an organizational chart.  The organizational chart must include the project being proposed.  Each position must be identified by position title and corresponding to the personnel job descriptions.

* 1. **Litigation**

Bidders must attach a list of all current litigation in which the Bidder is named and a list of all closed cases that have closed within the past five (5) years in which the Bidder paid the claimant either as part of a settlement or by decree.  For each, list the entity bringing suit, the complaint, the accusation, amount, and outcome.

* 1. **Certificate of Insurance**

Bidders must provide a certificate of insurance on a standard ACORD form (or the equivalent) evidencing the Bidder’s general liability, professional liability and any other relevant liability insurance policies that might be associated with the proposed services.

**Section III Proposed Services** (File #3)

* 1. **Services to be Provided**

Bidders must discuss the Scope of Services referenced above in Part II of the RFP and what the Bidder will offer in the form of concise, narrative responses, including a description of the methods and resources the Bidder will use and how each task involved will be accomplished. Bidders must also describe how the expectations and/or desired outcomes as a result of these services will be achieved. If subcontractors are involved, Bidders must clearly identify the work each will perform.

* 1. **Implementation - Work Plan**

Bidders must provide a realistic work plan that addresses the major tasks associated with the NCCA survey (i.e. site evaluation, gear preparation, survey schedule, field crew and land-based support allocation, sample processing and shipping), with additional focus on strategies to 1) address sample transport from more remote portions of the Maine coastline, and 2) collect finfish from the 23 sample sites. Other than the two identified focus topics, the work plan does not need to address NCCA survey methodology since this is clearly identified in the FOM. Identify in the work plan an approximate implementation schedule, assuming March 15, 2025, contract start date, and September 30, 2025 contract end date. Also identify pertinent staff to be involved in major tasks, including subcontractors if applicable.

**Section IV Cost Proposal** (File #4)

* 1. **General Instructions**
     1. Bidders must submit a cost proposal that covers the entire period of the contract. Please use the expected contract start date of March 15, 2025, and an end date of September 30, 2025, in preparing this section.
     2. The cost proposal must include the costs necessary for the Bidder to fully comply with the contract terms, conditions, and RFP requirements.
     3. No costs related to the preparation of the proposal for the RFP, or to the negotiation of the contract with the Department, may be included in the proposal. Only costs to be incurred after the contract effective date that are specifically related to the implementation or operation of contracted services may be included.

**PART V PROPOSAL EVALUATION AND SELECTION**

Evaluation of the submitted proposals will be accomplished as follows:

1. **Evaluation Process – General Information**
   1. An evaluation team, composed of qualified reviewers, will judge the merits of the proposals received in accordance with the criteria defined in the RFP.
   2. Officials responsible for making decisions on the award selection will ensure that the selection process accords equal opportunity and appropriate consideration to all who are capable of meeting the specifications. The goals of the evaluation process are to ensure fairness and objectivity in review of the proposals and to ensure that the contract is awarded to the Bidder whose proposal provides the best value to the State of Maine.
   3. The Department reserves the right to communicate and/or schedule interviews/presentations with Bidders, if needed, to obtain clarification of information contained in the proposals received. The Department may revise the scores assigned in the initial evaluation to reflect those communications and/or interviews/presentations.
   4. Changes to proposals, including updating or adding information, will not be permitted during any portion of the evaluation process. Therefore, Bidders must submit proposals that present their rates and other requested information as clearly and completely as possible.
2. **Scoring Weights and Process**
   1. **Scoring Weights:** Proposal scores will be based on a 100-point scale and will measure the degree to which each proposal meets the following criteria:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Section I.** | **Preliminary Information**  Proposal materials to be evaluated in this section: all elements addressed in Part IV, Section I of the RFP. | **(No Points)** |
| **Section II.** | **Organization Qualifications and Experience** Proposal materials to be evaluated in this section: all elements addressed above in Part IV, Section II of the RFP. | **(45 points)** |
| **Section III.** | **Proposed Services**  Proposal materials to be evaluated in this section: all elements addressed above in Part IV, Section III of the RFP. | **(30 points)** |
| **Section IV.** | **Cost Proposal**  Proposal materials to be evaluated in this section:all elements addressed above in Part IV, Section IV of the RFP. | **(25 points)** |

* 1. **Scoring Process:** For proposals that demonstrate meeting the eligibility requirements in Section I, if applicable, the evaluation team will use a consensus approach to evaluate and score Sections II & III above. Members of the evaluation team will not score those sections individually but, instead, will arrive at a consensus as to assignment of points for each of those sections. Section IV, the Cost Proposal, will be scored as described below.
  2. **Scoring the Cost Proposal:** The total cost proposed for conducting all the functions specified in the RFP will be assigned a score according to a mathematical formula. The lowest bid will be awarded 25 points. Proposals with higher bid values will be awarded proportionately fewer points calculated in comparison with the lowest bid.

The scoring formula is:

(Lowest submitted cost proposal / Cost of proposal being scored) x 25 = pro-rated score

No Best and Final Offers: The State of Maine will not seek or accept a best and final offer (BAFO) from any Bidder in this procurement process.  All Bidders are expected to provide their best value pricing with the submission of their proposal.

* 1. **Negotiations:** The Department reserves the right to negotiate with the awarded Bidder to finalize a contract. Such negotiations may not significantly vary the content, nature or requirements of the proposal or the Department’s Request for Proposal to an extent that may affect the price of goods or services requested. The Department reserves the right to terminate contract negotiations with an awarded Bidder who submits a proposed contract significantly different from the proposal they submitted in response to the advertised RFP. In the event that an acceptable contract cannot be negotiated with the highest ranked Bidder, the Department may withdraw its award and negotiate with the next-highest ranked Bidder, and so on, until an acceptable contract has been finalized. Alternatively, the Department may cancel the RFP, at its sole discretion.

1. **Selection and Award**
   1. The final decision regarding the award of the contract will be made by representatives of the Department subject to approval by the State Procurement Review Committee.
   2. Notification of conditional award selection or non-selection will be made in writing by the Department.
   3. Issuance of the RFP in no way constitutes a commitment by the State of Maine to award a contract, to pay costs incurred in the preparation of a response to the RFP, or to pay costs incurred in procuring or contracting for services, supplies, physical space, personnel or any other costs incurred by the Bidder.
   4. The Department reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or to make multiple awards.
2. **Appeal of Contract Awards**

Any person aggrieved by the award decision that results from the RFP may appeal the decision to the Director of the Bureau of General Services in the manner prescribed in [5 M.R.S.A. § 1825-E](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/5/title5sec1825-E.html) and [18-554 Code of Maine Rules Chapter 120](https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/policies-procedures/chapter-120).  The appeal must be in writing and filed with the Director of the Bureau of General Services, 9 State House Station, Augusta, Maine, 04333-0009 within 15 calendar days of receipt of notification of conditional contract award.

**PART VI CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION AND CONDITIONS**

1. **Contract Document**
   1. The awarded Bidder will be required to execute a State of Maine Service Contract with appropriate riders as determined by the issuing department.

The complete set of standard State of Maine Service Contract documents, along with other forms and contract documents commonly used by the State, may be found on the Office of State Procurement Services’ website at the following link: [Office of State Procurement Services Forms Page](https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/forms)

* 1. Allocation of funds is final upon successful negotiation and execution of the contract, subject to the review and approval of the State Procurement Review Committee. Contracts are not considered fully executed and valid until approved by the State Procurement Review Committee and funds are encumbered. No contract will be approved based on an RFP which has an effective date less than fourteen (14) calendar days after award notification to Bidders. (Referenced in the regulations of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, [Chapter 110, § 3(B)(i)](https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/policies-procedures/chapter-110).)

This provision means that a contract cannot be effective until at least 14 calendar days after award notification.

* 1. The State recognizes that the actual contract effective date depends upon completion of the RFP process, date of formal award notification, length of contract negotiation, and preparation and approval by the State Procurement Review Committee. Any appeals to the Department’s award decision(s) may further postpone the actual contract effective date, depending upon the outcome. The contract effective date listed in the RFP may need to be adjusted, if necessary, to comply with mandated requirements.
  2. In providing services and performing under the contract, the awarded Bidder must act as an independent contractor and not as an agent of the State of Maine.

1. **Standard State Contract Provisions**
   1. Contract Administration

Following the award, a Contract Administrator from the Department will be appointed to assist with the development and administration of the contract and to act as administrator during the entire contract period. Department staff will be available after the award to consult with the awarded Bidder in the finalization of the contract.

* 1. Payments and Other Provisions

The State anticipates paying the Contractor on the basis of net 30 payment terms, upon the receipt of an accurate and acceptable invoice. An invoice will be considered accurate and acceptable if it contains a reference to the State of Maine contract number, the State of Maine vendor code specific to the Contractor, correct pricing information relative to the contract, and any other specific and agreed-upon requirements listed within the contract that results from the RFP.

**PART VII LIST OF RFP APPENDICES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS**

**Appendices**

**Appendix A** – Proposal Cover Page

**Appendix B** – Responsible Bidder Certification

**Appendix C** – Qualifications and Experience Form

**Appendix D** – Cost Proposal Form

**Appendix E** – Submitted Question Form

**Appendix F –** Survey Location Map

**Appendix G –** Survey Location Table

**Related Links**

U.S. EPA’s National Coastal Condition Assessment 2020 Site Evaluation Guidelines: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-09/ncca-2020-seg.20200409_final_v1.1.pdf>

U.S. EPA’s National Coastal Condition Assessment 2020 Field Operations Manual: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-09/ncca_2020_fom_version_1.2.pdf>

**APPENDIX A**

**State of Maine**

**Department of Environmental Protection**

**PROPOSAL COVER PAGE**

**RFP# 202412220**

**2025 National Coastal Condition Assessment Survey for Maine Estuarine Waters**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bidder’s Organization Name:** | |  | | |
| **Chief Executive - Name/Title:** | |  | | |
| **Tel:** |  | | **E-mail:** |  |
| **Headquarters Street Address:** | |  | | |
| **Headquarters City/State/Zip:** | |  | | |
| *(Provide information requested below if* ***different*** *from above)* | | | | |
| **Lead Point of Contact for Proposal - Name/Title:** | |  | | |
| **Tel:** |  | | **E-mail:** |  |
| **Headquarters Street Address:** | |  | | |
| **Headquarters City/State/Zip:** | |  | | |

* This proposal and the pricing structure contained herein will remain firm for a period of 180 days from the date and time of the bid opening.
* No personnel currently employed by the Department or any other State agency participated, either directly or indirectly, in any activities relating to the preparation of the Bidder’s proposal.
* No attempt has been made, or will be made, by the Bidder to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit a proposal.
* The above-named organization is the legal entity entering into the resulting contract with the Department if they are awarded the contract.
* The undersigned is authorized to enter contractual obligations on behalf of the above-named organization.

*To the best of my knowledge, all information provided in the enclosed proposal, both programmatic and financial, is complete and accurate at the time of submission.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name (Print):** | **Title:** |
| **Authorized Signature:** | **Date:** |

**APPENDIX B**

**State of Maine**

**Department of Environmental Protection**

**RESPONSIBLE BIDDER CERTIFICATION**

**RFP# 202412220**

**2025 National Coastal Condition Assessment Survey for Maine Estuarine Waters**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Bidder’s Organization Name:** |  |

*By signing this document, I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the aforementioned organization, its principals and any subcontractors named in this proposal:*

1. *Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, and declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from bidding or working on contracts issued by any governmental agency.*
2. *Have not within three years of submitting the proposal for this contract been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for:*
   1. *Fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a federal, state, or local government transaction or contract.*
   2. *Violating Federal or State antitrust statutes or committing embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property.*
3. *Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or Local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (b) of this certification.*
4. *Have not within a three (3) year period preceding this proposal had one or more federal, state, or local government transactions terminated for cause or default*.
5. *Have not entered into a prior understanding, agreement, or connection with any corporation, firm, or person submitting a response for the same materials, supplies, equipment, or services and this proposal is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud. The above-mentioned entities understand and agree that collusive bidding is a violation of state and federal law and can result in fines, prison sentences, and civil damage awards.*
6. *Is not a foreign adversary business entity (*[*https://www.maine.gov/oit/prohibited-technologies*](https://www.maine.gov/oit/prohibited-technologies)*).*
7. *Is not on the list of prohibited companies (*[*https://www.maine.gov/oit/prohibited-technologies*](https://www.maine.gov/oit/prohibited-technologies)*) or does not obtain or purchase any information or communications technology or services included on the list of prohibited information and communications technology and services* [*https://www.maine.gov/oit/prohibited-technologies*](https://www.maine.gov/oit/prohibited-technologies) *(Title 5 §2030-B).*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name (Print):** | **Title:** |
| **Authorized Signature:** | **Date:** |

**APPENDIX C**

**State of Maine**

**Department of Environmental Protection**

## QUALIFICATIONS and EXPERIENCE FORM

**RFP# 202412220**

**2025 National Coastal Condition Assessment Survey for Maine Estuarine Waters**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Bidder’s Organization Name:** |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Present a brief statement of qualifications. Describe the history of the Bidder’s organization, especially regarding skills pertinent to the specific work required by the RFP and any special or unique characteristics of the organization which would make it especially qualified to perform the required work activities. You may expand this form and use additional pages to provide this information.** |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Provide a description of projects that occurred within the past ten (10) years which reflect experience and expertise needed in performing the functions described in Part II – Scope of Services to be Provided of the RFP. Contract history with the State of Maine, whether positive or negative, may be considered in evaluating proposals even if not provided by the Bidder.**  *If the Bidder has not provided similar services, note this, and describe experience with projects that highlight the Bidder’s general capabilities.* |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project One** | |
| **Client Name:** |  |
| **Client Contact Person:** |  |
| **Telephone:** |  |
| **E-Mail:** |  |
| **Brief Description of Project** | |
|  | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Two** | |
| **Client Name:** |  |
| **Client Contact Person:** |  |
| **Telephone:** |  |
| **E-Mail:** |  |
| **Brief Description of Project** | |
|  | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Three** | |
| **Client Name:** |  |
| **Client Contact Person:** |  |
| **Telephone:** |  |
| **E-Mail:** |  |
| **Brief Description of Project** | |
|  | |

**APPENDIX D**

**State of Maine**

**Department of Environmental Protection**

**COST PROPOSAL FORM**

**RFP# 202412220**

**2025 National Coastal Condition Assessment Survey for Maine Estuarine Waters**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Bidder’s Organization Name:** |  |
| **Proposed Cost:** | **$** |

Bidders must submit a detailed cost proposal for Task 1 (Survey Preparation) and Task 2 (Survey Implementation), as outlined in Part II, that includes the costs necessary for the Bidder to fully comply with the contract terms, conditions, and RFP requirements. Proposals should include time and materials for all staff associated with attendance at the Region 1 Training Event, office and field support, as well as subcontractor costs for relevant services. Applicable equipment rates, such as for boat and trailer use or water quality sonde rental, e.g., should be itemized. Bidders should add more rows to tables as needed. The proposed cost must be presented as a fixed amount. The fixed amount will be used to score the cost proposal as defined Part V, B, 3 of the RFP.

**Task 1: Survey Preparation**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Professional Services – Employees (Titles/Hourly Rates)** | **Est. Hrs.** | **Projected Costs** |
|  |  | **$** |
|  |  | **$** |
|  |  | **$** |
|  |  | **$** |
|  |  | **$** |
| **Total Staff Costs** | | **$** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Disbursements – Direct Expenses, Equipment & Supplies** | **Projected Costs** |
| **Employee Travel (incl. lodging, MI&E for training)** | **$** |
| **Other (Describe)** | **$** |
|  | **$** |
|  | **$** |
| **Total Disbursements** | **$** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Purchased Services – Non-Staff (if applicable)** | **Est. Hrs.** | **Projected Costs** |
| **Sub-Contractors (including travel, etc.)** |  | **$** |
| **Other (Describe)** |  | **$** |
|  |  | **$** |
|  |  | **$** |
|  |  | **$** |
| **Total Purchased Services** | | **$** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Other Costs (attach list if necessary)** | **Projected Costs** |
| **Indirect Costs** | **$** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Total Task 1 Cost** | **$** |

**Task 2: Survey Implementation**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Professional Services – Employees (Titles/Hourly Rates)** | **Est. Hrs.** | **Projected Costs** |
|  |  | **$** |
|  |  | **$** |
|  |  | **$** |
|  |  | **$** |
|  |  | **$** |
| **Total Staff Costs** | | **$** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Disbursements – Direct Expenses, Equipment & Supplies** | **Projected Costs** |
| **Employee Travel (incl. lodging, MI&E for training)** | **$** |
| **Other (Describe)** | **$** |
|  | **$** |
|  | **$** |
| **Total Disbursements** | **$** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Purchased Services – Non-Staff (if applicable)** | **Est. Hrs.** | **Projected Costs** |
| **Sub-Contractors (including travel, etc.)** |  | **$** |
| **Other (Describe)** |  | **$** |
|  |  | **$** |
|  |  | **$** |
|  |  | **$** |
| **Total Purchased Services** | | **$** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Other Costs (attach list if necessary)** | **Projected Costs** |
| **Indirect Costs** | **$** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Total Task 2 Cost** | **$** |

Bidders are to add Total Task 1 Cost and Total Task 2 Cost together to calculate Total Project Cost.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Total Project Cost** | **$** |

*Please note that Total Project Cost is the only number that will be used in evaluation of Cost Score, and all other numbers are for informational purposes only*.

**APPENDIX E**

**State of Maine**

**Department of Environmental Protection**

**SUBMITTED QUESTIONS FORM**

**RFP# 202412220**

**2025 National Coastal Condition Assessment Survey for Maine Estuarine Waters**

This form should be used by Bidders when submitting written questions to the RFP Coordinator as defined in Part III of the RFP.

If a question is not related to any section of the RFP, enter “N/A” under the RFP Section & Page Number. Add additional rows as necessary.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Organization Name:** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
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**APPENDIX F**

**State of Maine**

**Department of Environmental Protection**

**SURVEY LOCATION MAP**

**RFP# 202412220**

**2025 National Coastal Condition Assessment Survey for Maine Estuarine Waters**

The following map provides location information for NCCA 2025 sites in Maine. Note that blue symbols designate the 23 “primary” sites intended for sampling during the index period, with two of the 23 sites being sampled twice. If a primary site cannot be sampled, a replacement, or “alternate” site (yellow symbols) may be substituted.

Map

Description automatically generated

**APPENDIX G**

**State of Maine**

**Department of Environmental Protection**

## SURVEY LOCATION TABLE

**2025 National Coastal Condition Assessment Survey for Maine Estuarine Waters**

The following table provides location information for NCCA 2025 sites in Maine. Note that “Site\_Type” designates the 23 “primary” sites intended for sampling during the index period, with two of the 23 sites being sampled twice (“Primary Revisit”). If a site cannot be sampled, a replacement, or “alternate” site may be substituted.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SITE\_ID** | **WATERBODY\_NAME** | **FEATURE\_NAME** | **SITE\_TYPE** | **LATITUDE\_DD** | **LONGITUDE\_DD** |
| NCA25\_ME-10001 | Casco Bay | New Meadows River | Primary | 43.89148 | -69.88365 |
| NCA25\_ME-10002 | Casco Bay | Casco Bay | Primary | 43.67636349 | -69.96624125 |
| NCA25\_ME-10003 | Casco Bay | Casco Bay | Primary | 43.67252466 | -70.06217797 |
| NCA25\_ME-10004 | Casco Bay | Casco Bay | Primary | 43.63561812 | -70.10551911 |
| NCA25\_ME-10005 | Casco Bay | Casco Bay | Primary | 43.73904032 | -69.98100698 |
| NCA25\_ME-10006 | Passamaquoddy Bay | Friar Roads | Primary Revisit | 44.89848112 | -66.97215394 |
| NCA25\_ME-10007 | Blue Hill Bay | Union River Bay | Primary | 44.41855889 | -68.4395543 |
| NCA25\_ME-10008 | Muscongus Bay | Muscongus Sound | Primary | 43.92971765 | -69.44988226 |
| NCA25\_ME-10009 | Penobscot Bay | Stockton Harbor | Primary | 44.4711277 | -68.87088323 |
| NCA25\_ME-10010 | Penobscot Bay | West Penobscot Bay | Primary | 44.22401102 | -68.97892394 |
| NCA25\_ME-10011 | Penobscot Bay | East Penobscot Bay | Primary | 44.08842371 | -68.70664006 |
| NCA25\_ME-10012 | Great Bay | Piscataqua River | Primary | 43.15022655 | -70.83200457 |
| NCA25\_ME-10013 | Kennebec\_Androscoggin River | Whiskeag Creek | Primary Revisit | 43.9442148 | -69.82738529 |
| NCA25\_ME-10014 | Muscongus Bay | Muscongus Bay | Primary | 43.89995117 | -69.32360911 |
| NCA25\_ME-10015 | Wohoa Bay | Wohoa Bay | Primary | 44.5172981 | -67.68998405 |
| NCA25\_ME-10016 | Blue Hill Bay | Blue Hill Bay | Primary | 44.28362701 | -68.45726279 |
| NCA25\_ME-10017 | Frenchman Bay | Frenchman Bay | Primary | 44.32204376 | -68.14004343 |
| NCA25\_ME-10018 | Muscongus Bay | Muscongus Bay | Primary | 43.9519055 | -69.40636467 |
| NCA25\_ME-10019 | Narraguagus Bay | Narraguagus Bay | Primary | 44.49441686 | -67.82946579 |
| NCA25\_ME-10020 | Blue Hill Bay | Deer Isle Thorofare | Primary | 44.18253634 | -68.60667177 |
| NCA25\_ME-10021 | Penobscot Bay | East Penobscot Bay | Primary | 44.21946153 | -68.77584477 |
| NCA25\_ME-10022 | Penobscot Bay | West Penobscot Bay | Primary | 44.23859165 | -68.98781081 |
| NCA25\_ME-10023 | Penobscot Bay | East Penobscot Bay | Primary | 44.07982275 | -68.74712823 |
| NCA25\_ME-10024 | Casco Bay | New Meadows River | Alternate | 43.78286632 | -69.87769176 |
| NCA25\_ME-10025 | Casco Bay | Casco Bay | Alternate | 43.78394907 | -70.10102486 |
| NCA25\_ME-10026 | Casco Bay | Casco Bay | Alternate | 43.76169635 | -70.05861494 |
| NCA25\_ME-10027 | Casco Bay | Casco Bay | Alternate | 43.72860734 | -70.10565508 |
| NCA25\_ME-10028 | Casco Bay | Casco Bay | Alternate | 43.63057561 | -70.0413657 |
| NCA25\_ME-10029 | Casco Bay | Casco Bay | Alternate | 43.72223717 | -70.07397477 |
| NCA25\_ME-10030 | Great Bay | Piscataqua River | Alternate | 43.12945793 | -70.82441871 |
| NCA25\_ME-10031 | Great Bay | Piscataqua River | Alternate | 43.13308574 | -70.82778645 |
| NCA25\_ME-10032 | Blue Hill Bay | Blue Hill Bay | Alternate | 44.32792255 | -68.40970341 |
| NCA25\_ME-10033 | Western Bay | Eastern Harbor | Alternate | 44.50782823 | -67.73371126 |
| NCA25\_ME-10034 | Blue Hill Bay | Blue Hill Bay | Alternate | 44.39806523 | -68.4954892 |
| NCA25\_ME-10035 | Englishman\_Machias Bay | Chandler River | Alternate | 44.61742338 | -67.53847009 |
| NCA25\_ME-10036 | Blue Hill Bay | Jericho Bay | Alternate | 44.17417247 | -68.56725011 |
| **SITE\_ID** | **WATERBODY\_NAME** | **FEATURE\_NAME** | **SITE\_TYPE** | **LATITUDE\_DD** | **LONGITUDE\_DD** |
| NCA25\_ME-10037 | Damariscotta River | Linekin Bay | Alternate | 43.85788733 | -69.59298699 |
| NCA25\_ME-10038 | Passamaquoddy Bay | South Bay | Alternate | 44.888153 | -67.07218741 |
| NCA25\_ME-10039 | Blue Hill Bay | Blue Hill Bay | Alternate | 44.16078547 | -68.37977433 |
| NCA25\_ME-10040 | Muscongus Bay | Pleasant Point Gut | Alternate | 43.95602984 | -69.29808061 |
| NCA25\_ME-10041 | Frenchman Bay | Frenchman Bay | Alternate | 44.44506553 | -68.21728126 |
| NCA25\_ME-10042 | Saco Bay | Saco Bay | Alternate | 43.50779072 | -70.34455339 |
| NCA25\_ME-10043 | Penobscot Bay | East Penobscot Bay | Alternate | 44.26296018 | -68.68087563 |
| NCA25\_ME-10044 | Penobscot Bay | Penobscot River | Alternate | 44.57578798 | -68.80877487 |
| NCA25\_ME-10045 | Penobscot Bay | West Penobscot Bay | Alternate | 44.05151806 | -68.99870157 |
| NCA25\_ME-10046 | Penobscot Bay | East Penobscot Bay | Alternate | 44.10896428 | -68.75695701 |
| NCA25\_ME-10047 | Penobscot Bay | West Penobscot Bay | Alternate | 44.16347609 | -68.88744341 |
| NCA25\_ME-10048 | Penobscot Bay | West Penobscot Bay | Alternate | 44.2178655 | -69.01813907 |
| NCA25\_ME-10049 | Penobscot Bay | Penobscot Bay | Alternate | 44.35902166 | -68.91657362 |