



### PROCUREMENT JUSTIFICATION FORM (PJF)

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$5,000 submitted to the Division of Procurement Services.

*INSTRUCTIONS: Please provide the requested information in the white spaces below. All responses (except signatures) must be typed; no hand-written forms will be accepted. See the guidance document posted with this form on the Division of Procurement Services intranet site (Forms page) for additional instructions.*

PART I: OVERVIEW				
Department Office/Division/Program:		Marine Resource/Marine Mammal Research		
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Erin Summers		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:		N/A		
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)		\$ 359,870	Advantage <u>CT</u> / RQS #:	13A 20240709000000000037
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	7/1/2024	Proposed End Date:	6/30/2026
AMENDMENT	Original Start Date:		Effective Date:	
	Previous End Date:		New End Date:	
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:	
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:	
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:		Stony Brook University Stony Brook, NY		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Create a Risk Assessment Tool to assess the potential entanglement risk for North Atlantic right whales due to the Maine lobster fishery. The Risk Assessment Tool will incorporate potential shifts in risk in the future under different climate change scenarios.		

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION			
Check the box below for the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	A. Competitive Process	<input type="checkbox"/>	G. Grant
<input type="checkbox"/>	B. Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/>	H. State Statute/Agency Directed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor	<input type="checkbox"/>	I. Federal Agency Directed
<input type="checkbox"/>	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents	<input type="checkbox"/>	J. Willing and Qualified

<input type="checkbox"/>	E. Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	K. Client Choice
<input type="checkbox"/>	F. University Cooperative Project	<input type="checkbox"/>	L. Other Authorization

Please respond to ALL of the questions in the following sections.

**PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.

The purpose of this Contract is to support the creation of a Risk Analysis Tool for use in managing the Maine lobster fishery for entanglement risk to endangered North Atlantic right whales. There is a growing need to understand climatically-induced changes in the biogeography, ecology, and dynamics of American lobster fisheries (i.e., lobster population, habitat and traps) through the development of predictive and analytical modeling frameworks to reveal possible consequences and management implications of such changes on spatial interactions with endangered NARW. Currently there is a critical knowledge gap in the evaluation of the synergistic impacts of possible changes in lobster fishery (i.e., lobster, habitat and traps) spatial distributions to inform fisheries management and NARW conservation. This timely and coordinated study will provide a framework for comparing lobster habitat, abundance and subsequent trap distribution shifts with NARW distribution to quantify and project the potential risk of marine mammal entanglements. The project will significantly improve our knowledge of this valuable lobster fishery spatial dynamics (i.e., lobster, traps, and habitats) under different climate scenarios, allowing for more targeted and informed management strategies to minimize potential spatial overlapping between the lobster fishery and NARW and reduce the threat to both NARW conservation and the vitality of the lobster fishery.

Objective I: Refine existing models to improve our understanding of and project GOM and GBK lobster suitable habitat and distribution across current and future climate scenarios.

Objective II: Quantify the relationship between fishing efforts (traps) and lobster habitat suitability and population distribution, and how this relationship may change with shifting conditions in the GOM and GBK.

Objective III: Adapt the Duke NARW distribution model for lobster distribution compatible projections of NARW distribution in the GOM and GBK area that supports the majority of American lobster fishery.

Objective IV: Develop a Risk Analysis Framework based on the models and information derived from Objectives I-III to evaluate the current and potential future spatial overlaps between the distributions of NARW and lobster fishery (i.e., suitable habitat, abundance and fishing efforts) under different climate change scenarios to inform management decisions that reduce entanglement risk for NARW while maintaining a healthy lobster industry.

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

The selected vendor is an established expert in the field of modeling, specifically in regard to lobster populations and biological assessments, fishery characterization and management, and climate change projections. Dr. Yong Chen and his students and post docs have many scientific publications directly applicable to the work that DMR needs to be done through this contract. Additionally, DMR and Stony Brook already have other related collaborative projects that this

**PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

contract will build from, including the development of spatial lobster trap density layers that will be used in the modeling work proposed here. No other entity has this direct expertise. Additionally, Dr. Yong Chen, has a unique and extensive knowledge of the management and scientific needs that the science projects proposed here will inform. Dr. Chen is a member of the Atlantic Scientific Review Group, reviewing all marine mammal stock assessments, serves to peer-review many related models and assessment tools, and has a rich history building lobster stock assessment models and contributing to other scientific needs for the management of this fishery.

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

Stony Brook developed a Scope of Work and related budget based on DMR's needs and timeframes for conducting this work, which includes hiring new personnel. The Scope of Work and budget use negotiated indirect rates and benefits packages, etc. for the staff that will be hired.

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

There is a timeline associated with this work because of the pressure of regulations that are coming for the lobster fishery. Analyses need to be completed within the next couple of years to be included in this management process, so there may not be sufficient time for a full competitive process but this tool is of paramount importance to DMR.

**PART IV: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) / MAINE JOBS & RECOVERY PLAN (MJRP)**

Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

- Yes, MJRP funds (023) – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).
- Yes, ARPA funds (025) – If Yes, please be aware of the requirements from awarding federal agencies.
- No – If No, proceed to Part V.


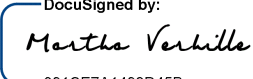
**PART V: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (COI); CONTRACT WITH THE STATE**

*Maine law contains Conflict of Interest statutes directed to State Departments, State Officers, and Employees Generally under MRS Title 5, §18 and §18-A, in harmony with MRS Title 17, §3104.*

- The requesting department signatory understands and acknowledges Maine's Conflict of Interest statutes.

**PART VI: APPROVALS**

The signatures below indicate approval of this procurement request.

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):		
Typed Name:	Patrick Keliher, Commissioner	Date: 9/9/24
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	DocuSigned by:  Martha Verhille <small>891CE7A1493D45B...</small>	
Typed Name:	Martha Verhille	Date: 9/18/2024