

**SINGLE SOURCE DETERMINATION USING
SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION PROCEDURES (SAP)
FOR AN ACTION NOT EXCEEDING THE SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD
(AUTHORITY: FAR 13.106-1(b)(1))**

143021-25-0084

1. **Agency and contracting activity.** Department of Commerce, NOAA Acquisition and Grants Office (AGO), NMFS/NEFSC, Protected Species Division, RAM Team.
2. **Description of supplies or services required to meet agency needs (including the estimated value).** A contract is requested for a base plus (4) option years, for up to (30) location marking Farallon Smart Buoys that will alert the fishermen and researchers to the traps when they surface that will integrate with our field testing of various ropeless systems. We are developing technologies to reduce right whale entanglements in pot and trap fisheries. The total independent government cost estimate for base plus all options is
3. **Identification of the single source or the brand name to be solicited.** Blue Ocean Gear, Inc., 914 Edgecliff Way, Redwood City, CA 94061, Kortney Opshaug, PH: (650) 823-1704
4. **Supporting rationale.** Only one source or brand name is reasonably available as detailed below:

- ☐ Compatibility to existing systems or equipment - The required supplies and service must be compatible in all aspects (form, fit, and function) with existing systems or equipment, and the source is uniquely qualified to meet the requirement.

The Blue Ocean Gear's Smart Buoy Device to Locate Ropeless Fishing Gear has been developed under NOAA's grant #NA21OAR0210101. This unit is designed specifically to work with ropeless systems to both alert fishermen when the gear surfaces and to alert if the gear moves in a manner that is indicative of an entanglement. Blue Ocean Gear Smart Buoy has been trialed with multiple fishermen testing ropeless systems. It is a trusted device that has proven effective at providing fishermen with an immediate location signal upon surfacing, allowing them to find and haul their gear more reliably and efficiently and providing fishermen with an alert, along with retrieval coordinates, if their gear has come to the surface without being signaled due to failure of the hold-down mechanism or an inadvertent activation of the release mechanism. These systems are needed to appease concerns regarding ropeless fishing in closed areas. Because these systems have been extensively tested by the NEFSC gear team and others, it is both the only system that will provide the needed information and is the only system we have confidence will perform as described.

- ☐ Other - Only one source is capable -

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5. Market Research.

There are various companies that currently provide smart buoys. Walsh Marine Buoys, LimnoTech, Essi Corporation, SofarOcean.com, Notilo Plus, PartnerPlast to name a few. The issue with most is:

- They are not submersible - no communication or chart mapping.
- They are simply a marking buoy

The buoys that we are requesting have specific applications that make them unique. The most important is that these are submersible, and transmit location information upon surfacing. The market research only displayed companies whose buoys are designed to stay at the surface. These systems have been developed specifically for this application through a BREP grant to Blue Ocean Gear.