



Request for Proposal RFP # 26-01

River Herring (Alewife) Harvest

Advertised Date: January 6, 2026 and January 13, 2026

Proposal Due Date and Hour: January 22, 2026

Melissa L. Doane, Bradley Town Manager

165B Main Street

PO Box 517

Bradley ME 04411

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Town of Bradley, Maine
Request for Proposal RFP # 26-01
River Herring (Alewife) Harvest

GENERAL INFORMATION FORM
(TO BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED)

QUESTIONS: All inquiries for information and all communications regarding this solicitation should be directed to: Melissa L. Doane, Bradley Town Manager: (207) 827-7725, faxed to (207) 827-7072, or e-mailed to: mldoane@townofbradley.net.

DUE DATE: Sealed proposals/bids will be opened on January 22, 2026. Failure to submit proposals/bids to the correct location by the designated date and time will result in disqualification. Proposals/bids will be reviewed by the Town Manager and discussed at a regularly scheduled public meeting of the Town Council. The meeting date is scheduled for January 27, 2026.

ADDRESS: Proposals/bids should be mailed to: **Bradley Town Office, P.O. Box 517, Bradley, ME 04411, or hand-delivered to: Bradley Town Office, 165 B Main Street, Bradley, ME 04411.** The RFP reference number should be in the lower left corner of the return envelope or package.

COMPANY INFORMATION/SIGNATURE:

Full Legal Name (print):	Federal Taxpayer Number (ID#)
Business Name / DBA Name / TA Name and Address:	Payment Address Purchase Order Address:
Contact Name/Title:	Telephone Number:
Signature (ink) Date:	Fax Number E-mail Address:

Town of Bradley, Maine
Request for Proposal RFP # 26-01
River Herring (Alewife) Harvest

1. INTRODUCTION

The Town of Bradley (hereinafter referred to as "Town") is seeking proposals/bids from experienced commercial fishers/harvesters who may wish to contract with the Town of Bradley for the right to harvest alewives from the Chemo Pond Watershed, specifically Blackman Stream in Bradley. The initial contract will be for one year due to the newness of the project; however, the Town intends to extend the contract to a longer-term agreement with the selected vendor once all relevant factors are determined.

In 2025, the State of Maine granted the Town the exclusive rights to harvest the river herring (alewife and blueback herring) within the Chemo Pond Watershed. This newly established municipal fishery will be managed conservatively with the dual goals of increasing the size and health of the returning spawning run and generating revenue from the Town of Bradley through the sustainable commercial harvest of river herring.

2. DISCLAIMER

Requirements for the taking of alewives shall be in accordance with the Town of Bradley River Herring Harvest Plan. This plan may, however, be subject to change, based on management objectives, actions by the Maine Department of Marine Resources, and the Town of Bradley.

3. HARVEST SITE

The Town owns a parcel of land that is adjacent to Blackman Stream and the Penobscot River. This site is located within an undeveloped portion of Knapp Cemetery, a town cemetery. Knapp Cemetery is located on Route 178/Main Street and is identified as Town of Bradley Tax Map 23 Lot 4.

Given the site's proximity to the Knapp Cemetery, it must be kept clean and orderly at all times. Parking on cemetery property is permitted only during active harvest hours. All trucks and equipment must be removed from the site during non-harvest periods. If additional parking is required, the Town offers an alternative location at 696 Main Street. Other conditions regarding the site access, maintenance, and safety are detailed in the Harvest Plan. Minor modifications and clearing may be made to the undeveloped parcel to accommodate harvest gear and equipment. All modifications must receive prior approval from the Town.

If the harvester has access to, or the ability to make, another site work, that option may be considered, provided it is mutually agreed upon.

4. OPTIONAL PRE-PROPOSAL/BID SITE VISIT

Pre-proposal/Bid site visits are encouraged, but are optional. Visits to the location will be at the entrant's own risk. The Town of Bradley will hold no liability

5. TERMS OF PROPOSAL AND CONTRACT PROVISIONS

- The Town of Bradley reserves the right to reject any irregular or incomplete proposals/bids.
- The Bradley Town Council reserves the right to act in the best interest of the Town at its sole discretion. This includes, but is not limited to, the ability to modify, reject, or accept proposals in a manner that best serves the public good, ensures the effective use of public resources, and meets the Town's long-term objectives. The Town Council's decision is final and binding.
- The contract will initially be for one year. Should the harvest prove successful, the Town may extend the contract.
- All state laws, regulations and Harvest Plan rules concerning river herring (alewife) harvesting must be followed.
- Any failure to comply with the provisions of the Harvest Plan or the DMR rules and regulations will result in the immediate suspension of all harvest activities for the remainder of the season, and may jeopardize the harvester's eligibility for future contracts.
- The payment rate to the Town will be determined through the RFP process and formalized in the contract. The harvester is responsible for establishing a customer market for the daily catch. The

sale price of alewives will be set by the harvester at the time of sale, based on current market prices, to maximize financial benefit to both the Town and the harvester.

- Weekly payments for the harvest must be submitted to the Bradley Municipal Office by 4:00 PM on the Tuesday following each harvest week. Payments must include copies of sequentially numbered sales slips for all bushels or crates of alewives harvested and sold. Each slip must indicate:
 - Date of transaction
 - Buyer's name and address
 - Total number of bushels or crates sold
 - Sale price

6. REQUIRED PROPOSAL/BID CONTENT

Proposals/bids must address the following items:

A. General Information Form

The return of the RFP general information form, signed and completed as required.

B. Proposal/Bid Form

The proposer/bidder is encouraged to submit detailed information. The Town will consider all proposals and bids.

C. Insurance Requirements

The bidder shall maintain, at their own expense, the levels of insurance described below. A certificate of insurance is required with the bid. A certificate of insurance, naming the Town as additional insured, shall be furnished to the Town within ten (10) days of the notification of the receipt of the proposal/bid award.

- Comprehensive General Liability insurance, including contractual insurance, automobile liability insurance, and property damage insurance. All above must be \$1,000,000 each occurrence.
- Workers' Compensation in accordance with the laws of the State of Maine.

7. REVIEW OF PROPOSALS/BIDS

The proposal will be opened and read publicly at the Bradley Municipal Building on January 22, 2026 at 2:00 pm. The proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by the Bradley Town Council in a publicly held meeting; the meeting date will be announced at the opening. The criteria for evaluating the proposals will include, but not be limited to, the following items:

- A. Qualifications and Experience
- B. Personnel and Equipment
- C. Work Plans and Schedules
- D. Revenue Estimates (amount per to be paid per bushel)
- E. Reviewer's Intuition

8. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS/BIDS

Proposals/bids must be submitted using the enclosed "Proposal/Bid Form" and be received at the Bradley Municipal Building no later than January 22, 2026 on 2:00 pm. The Town reserves the right to reject all proposals/bids, to negotiate elements of the proposals/bids, and to enter a contract for services that it deems to be in the best interest of the Town.

Copies of the Request for Proposals/Bids and related documents may be obtained at the Bradley Municipal Building or by visiting the Town of Bradley website at townofbradley.net.

ATTACHMENT A

Town of Bradley River Herring Harvest Plan 2026 Season Chemo Pond Watershed

Background

In 2025, the State of Maine granted the Town of Bradley the exclusive rights to harvest river herring (alewife and blueback herring) within the Chemo Pond Watershed. This newly established municipal fishery will be managed conservatively with the dual goals of:

- Increasing the size and health of the returning spawning run, and
- Generating revenue for the Town of Bradley through the sustainable commercial harvest of river herring.

The following plan establishes the conditions and management requirements for the 2026 harvest season.

Harvest Location

The 2026 harvest will likely take place on an undeveloped parcel of land owned by the Town of Bradley. This parcel is adjacent to the Knapp Cemetery and Blackman Stream along Route 178 (Main Road) in Bradley. Minor modifications may be made to the forested area to accommodate harvest gear and equipment, but all changes must receive prior approval from the Town of Bradley.

If a more suitable site is identified, it may be considered, provided it is mutually agreed upon. The harvester will likely be responsible for inspecting and cleaning the fishway at the Maine Forest and Logging Museum for debris during fish migration. Any necessary arrangements for this inspection and cleaning shall be made by the harvester.

Recreational Harvest Prohibition

No recreational river herring harvest is permitted within the Town of Bradley or within any waters that flow into the Chemo Pond Watershed.

Harvest Hours and Closures

The harvest site will be closed from Thursday, 6:00 a.m. to Monday, 6:00 p.m.

Biological Conservation Trigger

The harvest will be discontinued immediately if the Maine Department of Marine Resources determines that an insufficient number of river herring are reaching Chemo Pond to spawn.

Season Duration and Extension

The 2026 harvest season will end on June 5, 2026. All gear must be removed from the site by that date unless the Town of Bradley receives a written extension from the DMR Commissioner, allowing harvest through June 15, 2026.

Non-Target Species

All fish other than river herring must be immediately released upstream of the fishing gear.

Gear Specifications

- Any mesh or netting used to construct a trap or weir must have openings no smaller than 1" x 1".
- A 2-foot-wide zone of free passage must be maintained along the shore to allow post-spawn river herring to migrate downstream.

Biological Sampling Requirements

The harvester must collect biological data as directed by the Department of Marine Resources to determine the health of the river herring population returning to Chemo Pond to spawn, including:

- Scale samples, sex, and total length measurements from 25 river herring per week throughout the season.

Harvest Reporting

- A weekly harvest report must be submitted to the Town of Bradley via email at mldoane@townofbradley.net.
- A final season report, including the total catch (in bushels), must be submitted to the Town by June 20, 2026.

Licensing Requirements

The harvester must hold a valid Commercial Pelagic License issued by the State of Maine.

- Only one licensed harvester is authorized to fish this run.
- Helpers may participate only under the crew permit option attached to that license.

Site Considerations

If the Knapp Cemetery area is used, the area must be always kept clean and orderly.

- Parking on cemetery property is permitted only during active harvest hours.
- All trucks and equipment must be removed from the site during non-harvest periods.
- Harvest operations must be conducted respectfully and quietly.
- No operations, loading, or unloading may occur during funeral services. The Town will provide notice when such events are scheduled.
- Parking within the cemetery parcel is permitted only during approved harvest hours.
- The harvester shall work with the Town to ensure cemetery access and appearance are maintained throughout the season.
- Access to the Knapp Cemetery must always remain open and unobstructed.
- The site must be kept clean of litter, debris, and fish waste. Disposal of fish remains must occur off-site daily.
- Adequate signage must be posted along Route 178 to warn motorists of active harvest operations and truck activity.
- The harvester must maintain safe working conditions; no gear or equipment may pose hazards to the public.
- All workers must wear high-visibility vests when operating near Route 178.

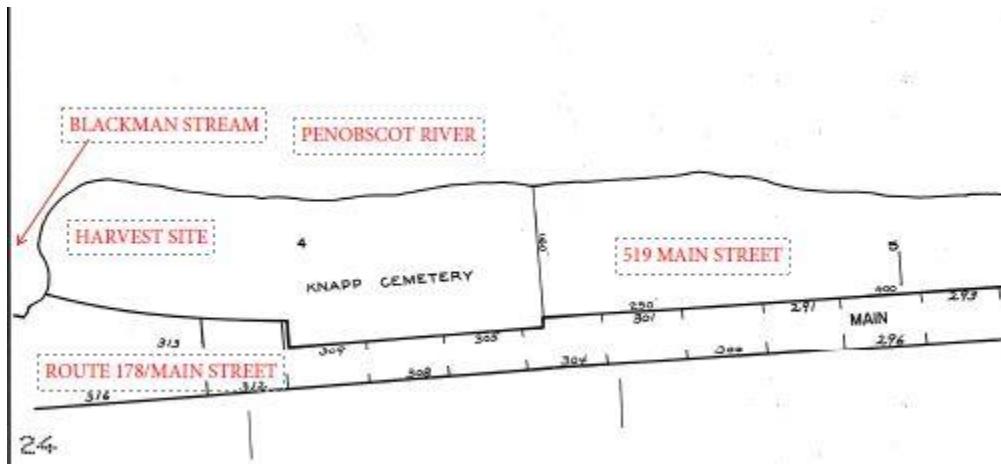
Gear Operation and Oversight

- All gear must be inspected daily during operation to ensure proper function and minimize injury to fish.
- Gear must be designed to allow unimpeded fish passage when not in operation.
- No permanent structures may be installed. Temporary gear, tables, or bins must be removed at season's end.
- Representatives from the Town of Bradley or the Department of Marine Resources may inspect operations, sampling, or gear at any reasonable time.

Compliance and Revocation

- Failure to comply with any provision of this plan or the Department of Marine Resources requirements may result in immediate suspension or revocation of harvest rights.
- The Town reserves the right to modify or terminate harvest operations if environmental, biological, or safety concerns arise.
- Harvest operations may be temporarily suspended to accommodate cemetery events or site maintenance.

ATTACHMENT B SITE INFORMATION



ATTACHMENT C: PROPOSAL/BID FORM

To facilitate the comparison of competing proposals/bids, the Town respectfully requests that applicants complete the following form. Please feel free to attach additional sheets if the requested information is more extensive than the space provided.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT:

THREE BUSINESS REFERENCES WITH CONTACT NUMBERS

WORK PLANS AND SCHEDULES

ATTACHMENT D: OPTIONAL OR ADDITIONAL CONTENT PROPOSAL/BID FORM

To facilitate a comparison of competing proposals/bids, the Town respectfully requests that applicants complete the following form. Please feel free to attach additional information if the information is more extensive than the space provided.

OPTIONAL OR ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL/BID CONTENT

ATTACHMENT E:
PROPOSED CONTRACT
Town of Bradley, Maine
River Herring (Alewife) Harvesting Services

I. PARTIES

This contract (hereinafter referred to as "Agreement") is made and entered into on this _____ day of _____, 2026, by and between the Inhabitants of the Town of Bradley with a mailing address of PO Box 517 Bradley Maine 04411, (hereinafter referred to as "Town"); and _____, with a mailing address of _____ (hereinafter referred to as "Contractor"). In consideration of the mutual promises contained herein, Contractor agrees to perform the following services for the Town.

II. SCOPE OF WORK

In consideration of the compensation set forth herein, the Contractor shall perform the services as outlined in a request for proposal #26-01 dated _____ and attached hereto as Exhibit A and the response attached hereto as Exhibit B.

III. COMMENCEMENT AND COMPLETION

The Contractor will commence work on or before _____, 2026 and will complete work on or before _____, 2026.

IV. PAYMENT TERMS

The rate of payment for alewives is to be \$ _____ per bushel.

V. TERMINATION

Either party may terminate this Agreement for cause after giving the other party written notice and a reasonable opportunity to cure. The Town may terminate without cause by giving the Contractor seven (7) days' notice.

VI. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Any controversy or claim arising out of or related to this Agreement, which cannot be resolved between the parties, shall be submitted to the Maine Superior Court (Penobscot County). This agreement shall be governed by Maine law.

VII. QUALIFICATIONS

The Contractor represents that it holds, and will continue to hold during the term hereof, any qualifications, licenses, and certifications required to perform its services in Maine. The contractor shall perform all services in accordance with professional standards.

VIII. SUBCONTRACTORS

The Contractor shall be fully responsible to the Town for the acts and omissions of any subcontractors, and of persons either directly or indirectly employed by it, and shall hold subcontractors to the same terms and conditions as the Contractor is held under this Agreement. No subcontractors shall be retained on this Agreement without the specific prior written approval of the Town.

IX. INSURANCE

The Contractor shall purchase and maintain Workers' Compensation Insurance, General Public Liability and Property Damage Insurance, including vehicle coverage and professional liability insurance, all with limits and terms satisfactory to the Town. The Town shall be named as an additional insured on the liability policy.

X. INDEMNIFICATION

The Contractor will indemnify and hold harmless the Town, its officers, agents, and employees from and against all claims, damages, losses, and expenses, including attorney's fees, arising out of or resulting from the performance of the Agreement by the Contractor, its officials, employees, agents, and subcontractors.

XI. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This Agreement and its attachments represent and contain the entire agreement between the parties. Prior discussions or verbal representations by the parties that are not contained in this Agreement and its attachments are not a part of this Agreement. Where there is any conflict between the provisions of this Agreement and the provisions of any attachment, the provisions of this Agreement shall control.

Date: _____

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

INHABITANTS OF THE
TOWN OF BRADLEY, MAINE

By: _____

Melissa Doane, Town Manager