



Are you on board?

Request for Information (RFI)

For a boat launch service for the Boston Harbor Islands, National & State Park

Date Issued: January 26, 2026

Issued By: Boston Harbor Now, Inc

Introduction

Boston Harbor Now, the non-profit partner of the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park, is seeking information from qualified marine operators to provide **launch and mooring field management services** for the Boston Harbor Islands.

This RFI is issued to gather information, concepts, and preliminary interest from qualified companies capable of managing the Park's **mooring fields** and providing **reliable launch transportation** between those moorings and nearby islands. The purpose of this RFI is to gather details on available capabilities, equipment, scheduling, costs, and operational considerations to support future procurement planning for reliable and safe access to the islands.

This RFI is for information-gathering purposes only and **does not constitute a solicitation or offer**. Responses to this RFI will assist in developing a potential Request for Proposal (RFP) or other procurement documents.

Background

The Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park

Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park is the largest recreational space in Eastern Massachusetts, attracting over a million visitors annually and providing over 1,600-acres of recreational, historic, and educational opportunities. The Boston Harbor Islands encompasses 34 islands and peninsulas within Boston Harbor. Several of these islands—**Spectacle, Peddocks, Georges, and Gallops**—have public mooring fields that support recreational boating access to park lands.

The Boston Harbor Island is a top destination for locals and tourists alike, while also functioning as an important ecological habitat for local wildlife. It is a unique recreational opportunity, as it is located within proximity to public transportation in Boston, and allows visitors to experience a

remote environment that also includes an area of designated wilderness. Many locations in the Park are open year-round, but public ferry service, visitor amenities, and programming on the most visited islands are offered seasonally from mid-May to mid-October (Indigenous Peoples Day).

[A map of the Park](#) can be found here.

Mooring Fields

Georges, Gallops, Peddocks and Spectacle Islands all have mooring fields for private boaters to reserve through the Dockwa platform during the Park season usually between May - October. There are 66 moorings on Peddocks Island, 12 moorings on Spectacle Island, and 20 moorings between Georges & Gallops Island. While the moorings provide boaters with an ideal location with unbelievable views of the Boston Harbor and Islands, currently there is no marina, or public docking for boaters to use and access the Islands. A transportation and launch service for private boaters will provide an additional amenity needed to make the Boston Harbor Islands even more accessible.

Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) Management

DCR owns and manages many of the Boston Harbor Islands including Peddocks, Georges, Gallops and Spectacle Island. Spectacle Island is also jointly owned by DCR and the City of Boston. Boston Harbor Now supports the DCR's operations on the Islands through various activities including procurement and management of contractors.

Objectives

The purpose of this RFI is to:

- Identify potential service providers or operators with relevant experience, capable of managing clients, reservations, launching and transporting passengers from the mooring fields to Spectacle, Georges, Gallops and Peddocks Island
- Gather information about vessel types, capacity, safety features, and operational procedures
- Understand availability, scheduling flexibility, and emergency response capabilities of the service providers or operators
- Estimate potential pricing models, partnership and cost structures including but not limited to staffing, equipment and maintenance
- Inform the design and considerations of a potential future solicitation (Request for Proposals or Cooperative Agreement)

Respondents are encouraged to provide a creative and practical approach based on their expertise and experience in marine passenger transport, mooring management, waterfront operations and customer service.

Desired Service Overview

Boston Harbor Now on behalf of Boston Harbor Islands Partnership is interested in launch mooring services that would include, but not limited to the following functions:

Mooring Field Management

- Administer and oversee reservations and customer check-ins/check-outs (using Dockwa or similar system)
- Track mooring occupancy and report usage data to DCR
- Maintain accurate and transparent customer service records
- Report and replace missing or damaged pennants as needed and with DCR-supplied line and tackle

Launch Operations

- Provide safe, dependable passenger service between moored vessels and Spectacle, Peddocks, Georges, and Gallops Island (with the possibility of transits to Hingham Shipyard and Pemberton Pier, Hull for logistical support).
- Operate seasonally, Mid-May through Indigenous Peoples Day (with the possibility of approved extensions based on weather, performance and available funding), on a regular and published schedule
- Maintain access to a backup vessel to ensure continuity of service
- Employ qualified, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)-credentialed operators and maintain USCG compliant vessels

Customer and Safety Standards

- Deliver professional, courteous service to all park visitors.
- Adhere to all applicable safety, environmental, and navigation regulations.
- Coordinate operations with DCR and other Boston Harbor stakeholders.

Scope of Information Requested

Interested parties are requested to provide but not limited to the following details:

Company Overview

- Company name, address, and primary contact
- Years in operation and relevant experience in marine, boating or launch services
- Website & social media handles

Vessel and Equipment Details

- Description of available vessels (model, size, passenger and cargo capacity), including capacity, safety and accessibility features, USCG certification (including authorized

route), and suitability for Boston Harbor operations – including maximum operational draft (fully loaded).

- Backup vessel and contingency planning approach – including maximum response time to have a substitute launch vessel operational in the harbor.
- Identify plan for mid-day refueling to ensure continuous service during peak hours.

Operations

Launch and docking locations, services and experience managing mooring reservations, harbor services, or similar customer systems

- Operational base or mooring location needs (and assumption of liability) and accompanying process to access and store company vessel(s). Include planning factors for storm contingency
- Proposed service schedule availability and frequency (hours, days of week, seasonal operations)
- Staffing qualifications and certifications
- Methods for customer communication, Emergency protocols for safe operations, and incident management
- Any innovative ideas for improving customer experience through access to the island parks, or operational efficiency

Pricing and Terms

- General description of potential operating or revenue models (e.g., fee-for-service, concession arrangement, partnership) and previous experience with any model suggested for consideration.
- Additional fees (fuel surcharge, standby, after-hours)
- Payment terms and conditions; Any assumptions about pricing, revenue sharing, or required support

References & Experience

- Summary of previous or current similar contracts
- References with contact information (if available)

Additional Comments

- Feedback on potential challenges, infrastructure needs, or regulatory considerations
- Suggestions for structuring a future RFP or public-private partnership

Submission Instructions

Please submit responses electronically (PDF preferred) by **2/27/2026** to:

Contact: PhuongDuy Tran, Manager of Operations & Partnerships, Boston Harbor Now, Inc.

Email: ptran@bostonharbornow.org

Subject Line: *RFI Response – Boston Harbor Islands Launch Services*

Responses should not exceed 10 pages (excluding addendums and attachments such as photos or vessel documentation)

If submitting by mail, please send to the address below. The stamp must be dated no later than **2/27/2026**

PhuongDuy Tran
Boston Harbor Now
15 State Street, Suite 1100
Boston, MA 02109

Questions or requests for clarification should be submitted no later than **2/13/2026**, via the contact information above.

Review and Next Steps

This RFI is for information and planning purposes only. Boston Harbor Now, on behalf of the Boston Harbor Island Partnership will review all responses to assess market capacity, potential partnership structures, and operational feasibility.

Based on responses received, we may:

- Develop and issue a formal Request for Proposals (RFP);
- Pursue a concession, cooperative agreement, or pilot program; or
- Conduct follow-up discussions with qualified respondents.

Respondents may be invited to present or discuss their ideas in an informal interview or workshop setting.

Disclaimer

This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes and does not constitute a solicitation or obligation from Boston Harbor Now, Inc. or the Department of Conservation & Recreation. Respondents are responsible for all costs incurred in the preparation of responses to this RFI.