Clarifications to Bidder’s Questions:

Margate and Long Sands SAC benthic surveys

**Q. For the Margate and Longsands SAC subtidal surveys, a number of options for costs have been requested regarding different survey elements and potentially also geographical areas.**

**How should this be addressed within the ‘Commercial Response template’ – do you want each of these elements to be reflected as different line items within this cost template, or do you require a different commercial response template for each option?**

**Mobilisation costs for each survey will have to be taken into account also, applicable for each survey if they are treated separately, or potentially one mob/demob rate can be given which can be applied to each combination of surveys that might be taken at one time?**

A. Could the elements that you are able to deliver please be given as different line items within the same response, it wouldn’t need a separate commercial response for each element.

Is it possible to supply a mobilisation/demobilisation rate as its own line item, that could be applied to either separate or combined surveys, please?

**Q. I understand the above SAC project has some grab sampling involved.  Are the benthic samples collected to be released as a separate tender (as should be the case) to those labs on the EA framework agreement which covers all samples taken for Natural England and Environment Agency as well as other CMA’s.**

A.That’s right, the sample analysis will most likely be a separate tender agreement and labs on the EA framework will be approached first to check for capacity. We’ve asked if a quote for sample analysis could be provided as part of this application, if this a service that consultants can provide, to allow us to gain an accurate quote of the cost of the project as a whole.

**Q. Are costs for surveys included in the outlined budget?**

A. We would like to ask for the quote for surveys and analysis to be broken down into the different elements, with the elements that you are able to deliver to please be given as different line items with individual quotes within the response. This approach will allow us to determine the total budget and draw out deliverable elements.

**Q. Would you be able to share any shapefiles or available GIS data as presented in the figures (e.g. the MMO and IFCA bylaw areas), to help us determine an achievable survey extent?**

A. I’ve requested if the shapefiles are able to be added to the Request for Tender online. The publicly available survey information on Margate and Long Sands SAC is available to view on [Magic Map Application (defra.gov.uk)](https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx).

**Q. We have further reviewed the tender documentation and the Q&A document on Public Contracts Finder, but please could you provide some further clarification.**

* **We understand that the scope of work includes:**
  + **Survey plan and sampling strategy**
  + **Swathe bathy, video, grab and water quality sampling surveys, with each methodology costed separately, and split by geographic area if appropriate**
  + **Technical report detailing the work undertaken**
* **You also request that video analysis and sample analysis costs are to be provided separately to inform the cost of the project as a whole, but are likely to be undertaken by labs under the EA framework.**

**Therefore, we are unclear regarding the reporting on habitat distribution and quality as well as analytical findings, which is requested in the tender document, in the ‘Objectives’ section (particularly the section ‘overall outputs of the combined approach’ – with no definition of the ‘combined approach’?).**

**Should the video and sample analysis be undertaken under a different contract or at another time, and with data collection strategies to be decided (e.g. the size/number of geographical areas chosen, the heterogeneity of those areas, and the survey strategies finally employed), it is difficult to give a cost for:**

* **habitat mapping**
* **descriptive report of the site**
* **report on quality of the benthic habitats**
* **temporal comparison with previous datasets**

**Please could you clarify if this is part of the scope at this stage and how this could be costed, or we could provide day rates for this type of work?**

A. For the ease of costing for reporting and mapping, with the size/number of geographical areas not determined, could please you provide a day rate for the following:

* habitat mapping
* descriptive report of the site
* report on quality of the benthic habitats
* temporal comparison with previous datasets

In addition to the day rate, can an indication be provided of the number of days that will be required for reporting and mapping a suggested geographical area, to allow us to estimate potential costs.

**Q. We are in the process of preparing a quotation for the NE Margate and Long Sands SAC subtidal survey.**

**I am planning the MBES bathymetric survey acquisition and to facilitate this I really need the exact coordinates for the closure areas indicated in the appended chart.**

**I’d be very grateful if you could provide the exact coordinates for each of the closure areas or provide a link to the published information.**

**I will be very happy to receive these in WGS84 Latitude and Longitude.**

A. Here is a link to the MMO byelaw covering the 2 most northern byelaw areas, with WGS84 coordinates. [Margate\_and\_Long\_Sands\_European\_Marine\_Site\_\_Specified\_Areas\_\_Bottom\_Towed\_Fishing\_Byelaw.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a954f4240f0b67aa5087aad/Margate_and_Long_Sands_European_Marine_Site__Specified_Areas__Bottom_Towed_Fishing_Byelaw.pdf)

This link is to the IFCA byelaw that covers the 3 southern byelaw areas – Pan Sand Hole, Knob Channel and East Margate Sand. [keifca-bottom-towed-gear-byelaw-2017-signed-1678364786.pdf (kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk)](https://www.kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk/website-content/keifca-bottom-towed-gear-byelaw-2017-signed-1678364786.pdf)