Q. The RfQ states “The survey design and sampling approach should establish a baseline to achieve the best power to detect trends/changes in the eiders’ population over time.” Can NE provide some clarification on the parameters for power analysis – is 80% power (the common standard) acceptable as “best power” and can you advise on the time window within which change is detected (e.g. between one year to the next or within 5 years etc)? (noting that a range of values for magnitude of the change have been suggested)

A. 80% power (the common standard) is acceptable. The timeframe over which there may be an opportunity to detect changes in abundance over time by comparison of digital aerial surveys of the MCZ in future years with the results of the survey being planned currently, is likely to be 5 years.

Q. Can you provide documentation to support our understanding of the analyses that sit behind the RTD app *-* [*https://rtd-displacement-project.shinyapps.io/RTDDisplacementProject/*](https://rtd-displacement-project.shinyapps.io/RTDDisplacementProject/) ?

A. Unfortunately the supporting documentation behind the power analyses app mentioned in the RfQ has been submitted by its author to a journal and is going through the peer review process and cannot yet be made available. However, there is a useful report at the following hyperlink which deals with survey design and power analyses which may be a useful source of information on the topic: [Seabird Survey Designs for the East Coast of Scotland: Scottish Marine and Freshwater Science Vol 11 No 19 - Seabird Survey Designs for the East Coast of Scotland | Marine Scotland Data Publications](https://data.marine.gov.scot/dataset/seabird-survey-designs-east-coast-scotland/resource/5f37d733-9e53-41f5-bb25-2090251ac686)

Q. The RFQ talks about Eider ducklings, however these do not appear till late June. This may mean that April/May surveys are less or a priority, or even not required?

A. Natural England is interested in understanding how the distribution of eiders of different ages/sexes changes over the course of the breeding season as well as how the distribution and abundance of ducklings change once they leave the nest. Thus, should funds become available separate to the currently planned contract, NE wishes to conduct repeat surveys between March and July, although the optimal spacing of these over time may be subject to further refinement.

Q. With the initial survey target time being March, we would also suggest early March as being optimal as birds move onshore from late March which will raise issues for detectability.

A. Natural England would be content if the March survey can be conducted early in that month.