**Expression of Interest - P-37676**

**For the provision of biosecurity support at large aquatic sporting events**

**Background**

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and works on behalf of the Scottish and Welsh Government. They work to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

Their responsibilities include but are not limited to: -

* identifying and controlling endemic and exotic diseases and pests in animals, plants and bees, and surveillance of new and emerging pests and diseases
* scientific research in areas such as bacterial, viral, prion and parasitic diseases and vaccines, and food safety; and act as an international reference laboratory for many farm animal diseases
* facilitating international trade in animals, products of animal origin, and plants
* protecting endangered wildlife through licensing and registration
* managing a programme of apiary (bee) inspections, diagnostics, research and development, and training and advice
* regulating the safe disposal of animal by-products to reduce the risk of potentially dangerous substances entering the food chain

**Overview of Requirement**

This particular requirement is looking at how we can minimise and reduce the spread of invasive non-native species (INNS) in and around our waterways. Sadly, in recent years the rate of new introductions of invasive freshwater species to Great Britain (GB) has increased dramatically. These species can have harmful environmental and economic impacts and can carry diseases which kill fish, and many aquatic plants which can then block up waterways preventing navigation.

A likely cause of this could be via recreational water use, i.e. on contaminated clothing and/or equipment used by anglers, boaters and other water users. The [**Check Clean Dry**](https://www.nonnativespecies.org/what-can-i-do/check-clean-dry/) (CCD) campaign was launched in 2010 to provide simple biosecurity guidance for recreational water users, asking them to Check, Clean and Dry boats, clothing and equipment after leaving the water to prevent the spread of invasive non-native species (INNS). Pathway Action Plans (PAPs) for[**boating**](https://www.nonnativespecies.org/biosecurity/pathway-action-plans/recreational-boating-pap-for-great-britain/) and [**angling**](https://www.nonnativespecies.org/biosecurity/pathway-action-plans/angling-pap-for-great-britain/)have been developed with stakeholders to further address these pathways.

**Heightened Awareness**

There is a call for heightened awareness (actions 7/7A of the angling PAP, and 6/6A of the boating PAP) for such biosecurity demonstrations to be carried out at priority angling and boating competitions. This is because there is an increased risk of the introduction and spread of INNS at these types of large-scale events. This is due to:

* Participants travelling from other areas of GB or the world who may spread INNS on their kit, including potentially introducing new INNS not yet found in GB.
* An increased number of recreational water users visiting a site during an event.
* Different levels of biosecurity knowledge and behaviour among participants.

**What we plan to do – Our objective**

The GB NNSS, part of the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is commissioning a contractor to provide biosecurity support at eight large aquatic sporting events (including angling, boating, paddling and rowing competitions) across England between May 2025 and end of March 2026.

**Events planned to provide biosecurity support to are: -**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Event name** | **Location** | **Dates** | **Type** |
| 1 | Eric Twiname Junior Sailing Championships | Rutland Sailing Club, Rutland | May 3rd to 5th | Sailing |
| 2 | National Regatta | National Watersports Centre, Nottingham | May 31st to June 1st | Paddling |
| 3 | British Rowing Masters Championships | National Watersports Centre, Nottingham | June 14th to 15th | Rowing |
| 4 | ECA Cup | National Watersports Centre, Nottingham | June 14th to 15th | Paddling |
| 5 | British Rowing Club Championships | National Watersports Centre, Nottingham | July 18th to 21st | Rowing |
| 6 | Euro Open | National Watersports Centre, Nottingham | August 30th to 31st | Paddling |
| 7 | TBC |  |  | Angling |
| 8 | TBC |  |  |  |

If a planned event is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances the NNSS and CCD partners will work with the contractor to find a replacement event.

**What will happen at each event**

At each event the contractor will run a biosecurity station to:

* Help participants clean their boat and equipment on arrival, and / or before they leave (depending on the specific event requirements). The contractor is expected to provide all equipment required. An example kit list for a previous paddling event is four sets of:
  + Jet washers (battery operated)
  + Sponges
  + Drying cloths
  + Water bowsers
  + Canoe supports

See the [paddling](https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/uploads/documents/Biosecurity-at-paddling-Events-Toolkit.pdf) and [angling](https://www.nonnativespecies.org/assets/J37240_BCAN_Angling_Trust_Biosecurity_Toolkit_V4.pdf) event biosecurity guides for further examples of kit lists.

* Raise awareness of biosecurity and the CCD campaign. The NNSS will provide awareness raising materials to use at the events including pop up banners, flyer flags, posters, leaflets, waterproof stickers etc which the contractor should display and disseminate to visitors as appropriate.

**What we expect from our successful contractor**

We would expect our successful contractor to: -

* Provide three members of staff to attend an average of two days of each event.
* Work closely with the NNSS, Check Clean Dry partners (including Paddle UK, British Rowing and RYA) and event organisers to plan and run each biosecurity station. See above for details of what is expected from the contractor at events.
* Provide an overall risk assessment before each event to demonstrate how the events to be held will comply with your Health and safety policy.

**Express an interest**

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) would like to hear from any suitably skilled and experienced contractors who would be interested in delivering the services required for any number of these aquatic events detailed above.

Please note that for events 3 & 4, as they are scheduled to take place on the same days, we would require two separate groups, one group to cover each event.

At this present time, we would just like to gage whether there is interest in the market, who is interested and whether all events could be covered by various contractors.

**Please ensure that all expressions are emailed to Alison Dyson directly via** [**alison.dyson@defra.gov.uk**](mailto:alison.dyson@defra.gov.uk) **on or before the closing date of 12:00pm (midday) on 19/03/2025.**

Your expression should detail your: -

* contact name
* email address
* telephone number
* Company Name
* Which events you could deliver