**Clarifications for Bidders Questions:**

An Intertidal Seagrass Survey of the Solent

**Q: Is there any flexibility to the survey window to allow the completion date for surveying to be delayed from the end of September to the end of October?**

A: Unfortunately, as these surveys are focusing on extent and distribution and the end of October would sit outside of the typical survey period for seagrass I don’t think we can accommodate this request. It would also start to coincide with the period where the best low tides fall partly outside of daylight hours and so from a logistical perspective would reduce the available time making it very difficult to complete the survey.

**Q: One aspect of the tender docs I wanted to clarify is that the maps in the monitoring spec are missing much of the known intertidal seagrass beds, notably at Ryde Sands, Seaview and in the Osborne area. Were the specs and contract details based on the mapped area shown? If the missing areas are included this will increase the amount of survey days required and potentially the cost of delivery.**

A: The maps included within the RFQ are intended to give a broad overview of seagrass location and extent, however, we are aware that the internal mapping system we use has some missing data. It is for this reason that in the request for quotation (RFQ) we recommend referring to the national seagrass layer on [Magic Map Application](https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx) for more detailed maps of current and historical records to inform your survey design. My apologies if this was not clear.

As also stated in the RFQ your response should indicate how you would design a cost-effective sampling strategy to conduct a broader survey of the areas as Natural England are aware of beds that have not been previously surveyed (for example The Kench in Langstone Harbour) so as to provide mapping as extensive and complete as possible of designated (SAC and SPA supporting habitat) intertidal seagrass across the Solent. Therefore, we would encourage the missing areas to be included in your tender offer.