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Award

UK Cetacean Bycatch Observation Scheme – Assessment of Bycatch of Protected Species in UK Fisheries

Defra Network eTendering Portal

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-024261

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-02e634

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Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Defra Network eTendering Portal

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Bristol

BS1 5AH

Contact

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Telephone

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Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://defra.bravosolution.co.uk>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Environment

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

UK Cetacean Bycatch Observation Scheme – Assessment of Bycatch of Protected Species in UK Fisheries

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 90700000 - Environmental services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The contract provides estimates of the accidental catches in UK fisheries. This is certain key groups of protected species, which by monitoring a selected sample of fishing operations and by analysis of fleet behaviour, can provide an understanding of the conservation threat posed by fisheries to these groups. The project focuses mainly on marine mammals, birds and sharks. The main object of the contract is to generate annual bycatch estimates for the marine mammal species recorded and to provide at least summary indicators of the scale of seabird and shark bycatch in the fisheries observed. The project produces annual reports at the end of every April (every year) tabulating fishing effort by key fishery and by region. This summarises the bycatch observations and associated estimates of protected species in each yearly bycatch.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Value excluding VAT: £1,093,938.22

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Contractor will: undertake monitoring for 318 days on a range of fishing vessel types, the proportional composition of which will initially follow existing targets already established but which will be modified as appropriate in consultation with Defra and the PSG if and as changing policy objectives suggest refocusing observational effort in a different way. Sampling will continue to follow targets previously agreed to address requirements of Council Regulations 812/2004, 2019/1241 and Council Directive 92/43/EEC, but as UK has now left the EU, policy objectives are likely to change, so monitoring targets will be flexible such as monitoring can be refocused as deemed necessary over the life of the contract and beyond. Data collection will be added to customized statistical models developed to explore trends in bycatch rates for key species and in key fisheries, to look for geographical or other relevant patterns and to generate total bycatch estimates for common dolphins, harbour porpoises and grey seals in the annual reports for 2021 and 2022 and if data are sufficient for other protected species. Analysis uses General Additive Model (AGM) and ten of more fishery associated co-variates. Annual reports will be published by combining the results of observations during the year, combined as appropriate with data from previous years, with derived data on fishing effort from the iFish database and using GAM's, which is the same approach which has been used annually since 2006.

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

The contract started on the 14/04/2017 and ran for an initial term, ending on 30/06/2019. It was extended for three, further 12-month increments, ending on 30/06/2021. The Authority is now extending the contract for a further 10-month period (30/06/2021 – 30/04/2022) in order to run a procurement exercise, re-tendering this requirement and ensuring a new contract is in place prior to the end of the extension deadline date. Increasingly consumers and retailers are demanding that high standards of environmental protection apply in food production; this project aims to provide consumers and retailers with confidence that fisheries are not inadvertently compromising the conservation status of protected or vulnerable species, identifying fishery practices where mitigation measures are required to protect vulnerable species.

All fisheries have a certain degree of unwanted and unintended catch (bycatch), some of which may involve protected or sensitive species whose population status might be compromised if bycatch rates are too high. Such species are typically not commercial and therefore cannot be landed. It is necessary therefore to monitor bycatch during actual fishing operations across a wide range of gears/fisheries to estimate bycatch rates, in order to examine the cumulative impact across fisheries and where necessary, identify specific fisheries and areas where measures to reduce accidental bycatch rates might be needed.

Data is currently captured and recorded quarterly with an annual report being published every April. However, there have recently been changes in legislation and due to this we are now considering objectives and requirements that better fulfil policy needs, filling gaps in existing evidence and developing more effective policies as a result. We are looking to expand the monitoring programme to include a wider range of species (including seabirds and water birds), laying different monitoring processes to increase data collection. We also wish to review and consider the Joint Nature Conservation Committee's (JNCC) recently released interim report, to ensure any additional factors are also captured within our specification. Future budget spend is unclear and therefore whether focus will stay predominantly within UK waters or also include international waters. Hence the extension will give the Authority time to take stock of its requirement, allowing sufficient time for a Tendering process via Find a Tender Service (FTS). The additional variation will be issued on the grounds of PCR 2015 Clause 72 (1) (e) which permits modifications without the need for a new procurement.

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Contract No

ecm_49790

Title

UK Cetacean Bycatch Observation Scheme – Assessment of Bycatch of Protected Species in UK Fisheries

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

14 April 2017

V.2.2) Information about tenders

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

University of St Andrews

College Gate,

St Andrews, Fife

KY16 9AJ

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot/concession (excluding VAT)

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £1,093,938.22

V.2.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract/lot/concession is likely to be subcontracted

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The Courts of England and Wales

London

Country

United Kingdom