Clarifications to Bidder’s Questions:

Marine recreational vessels as a pathway for the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species (INNS) in the UK

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| 1 | It would be good to clarify whether the project results could be incorporated into a PhD in some capacity, or to take forward and build upon and/or trial a particular aspect of the method developed. | In terms of using the outcomes of the methodology development (the subject of this 2025-2026 RFQ) that Natural England is funding, I can confirm that we would be happy for the results to be incorporated into PhD work and would welcome its wider application. The only point to note is the requirement that the report is made available on Natural England’s Access to Evidence database first before being published elsewhere (this usually takes around 3 months after the final report is submitted). |
| 2 | A 60% technical and 40% commercial split is referenced on page 20. A 70% technical (page 20) and 30% commercial (page 23) split is also referenced.  Can you please confirm the technical and commercial split please? | Apologies this is an error on page 20. The split is 70% technical and 30% commercial. |
| 3 | Deliverable 2 refers to 'estimated cost options/recommendations for data collection in stage 2'.  Is it possible to provide more clarity on expectations with respect to estimated costs please? For example, do you require actual cost estimates or an indication of relative, or ballpark costs for each option please? | It is envisaged that this would be an indication of relative or ballpark costs rather than actual costs – for example based on a ‘minimal option’ i.e. what the minimum data collection required to make robust estimates might be plus a ‘gold standard’ option. Cost estimates based on who might carry out the data would also be useful e.g. volunteers or staff networks or external contractors. This information is required as a deliverable of the final report and estimated costs for data collection in stage 2 are not expected as part of the bid submission. |
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