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Site Studies – Various Sites

Expert support Ecology

Annex 5b

Scope of Work

Colophon

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Introduction

Scope document

This document details the Scope of Work (SoW) to provide RVO with Ecological expert support services for a number of sites in the Dutch North Sea, which will be investigated for the development of Offshore Wind.

Background

The Ministry of Climate and Green Growth is responsible for the legislative framework for the development of offshore wind farms in the Netherlands. Within this framework (a) (concession) tender(s) for subsidy for construction and operation of (a) wind farm(s) will be organised. As part of the tender documentation, the participants will receive an information package in which detailed information on the offshore site is included. Detailed information about soil and ecological conditions at the site will be part of this information package. The Contracting Authority for this assignment is the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland - RVO).

Objective

RVO has been requested to prepare and collect all site characterisation data required for commercial developers to prepare a competitive bid. In order to achieve the highest results from the site characterisation, RVO intends to contract high quality experts who can support RVO in managing the site characterisation. The objective of this tender is to conclude an agreement with Tenderers who can support RVO on the different site characterisation studies regarding contracting, quality control and operational support.

RVO is looking for an expert support Contractor who can support RVO with managing the site characterisations for potential future wind farm sites / zones, and who is able to support RVO with managing the interfaces between different site characterisations.

RVO is specifically looking for expertise in the field of soil investigations (Lot 1) and ecological investigations (Lot 2).

This SoW is in relation to Lot 2: providing expert support services for ecological investigations.

Site Description

There are several ecological site characterisation studies ongoing and a number of studies will be initiated in the upcoming future. The order in which the different ecological studies will be initiated is still being discussed with The Ministry of Climate and Green Growth, although a general outline is anticipated.

As such, the contractor will provide expert support for the following potential sites (but not limited to):

- Doordewind (DDW)
- Search area 6/7 (Sa67)

The expert services will not consider the full characterisation of all the listed areas but will contain a selection of works. This selection can be adjusted due to the course of the execution of the WORK to the needs and priority as set by the Contracting Authority.

Section below will provide some information about the two (2) sites.

Doordewind

DDW is located to the North-East border of the Dutch shelf of the North Sea. The site is located North-West of the Ten noorden van de Waddeneilanden Wind Farm Zone. In total it is expected that this site can accommodate a maximum of 4 GW of offshore wind divided over multiple sites. Figure 1 below is presenting the different wind farm zones and search areas, including SA 6/7 and DDW.

Search area 6/7

Search area (SA) 6/7 is located approximately 94 km off the northwest coast of the Netherlands. There is no designated wind farm zone in this area yet. A wind farm zone in area 6/7 will be designated in the Partial Revision of the North Sea Programme, which is expected mid-2025. The aim is to find space for 23-26 GW of wind farms total. The search area has a total surface area of approximately 4638 km². This tender relates to quality expert support for part of SA 6/7, encompassing an area of around 800-1000 km², or about 6-10 GW.



Figure 1: Dutch wind farm zones and search areas.

Scope of Work

The Contracting Authority intends to conclude the contract with one contractor for Lot 2.

For the ecological investigations of the future sites, the following expertise is requested from the expert support:

1. Expertise with offshore benthic surveys
2. Expertise with bat sound recording assessments
3. Expertise with bird sound recording assessments
4. Expertise with marine mammal sound recording assessments

The SoW is to provide RVO with 1200 hours of expert support.

Main scope: 960 hours are specified for predetermined areas and investigations.

Optional scope: 240 hours of expert support. The 240 hour scope is not-specified for predetermined areas or - investigations. RVO would like to use the 240 hours of expert support for a wide array of investigations/enquiries, which have yet to be determined. During the contract RVO might need support with a new study or help with a new tender for a new selected (demonstration) site. These hours are not predefined for a specific area of expertise. As such, RVO wishes to reserve the right to use the optional hours with some degree of flexibility. Using them for sites and studies not listed/specified in this SoW. The optional scope might be used (in part) by RVO, but might also not be used. The use of the optional scope is to the discretion of RVO.

Various sites in SoW

The SoW has been subdivided into the following works:

1). Providing expert support for offshore benthic surveys:

The aim of these surveys is to establish a T0-situation of benthic life in the dedicated areas, as input for developers to use in their design, and as input for monitoring studies on the impact of offshore wind.

The dedicated areas are:

- DDW
- Sa67

Task of expert support for the benthic surveys in DDW and Sa67: drafting the Scope of Work, assisting with the MoI, evaluation of proposals and examination and verification of the contractors work.

2). Providing expert support for bat sound recordings:

The aim of this study is to have a better understanding of bat occurrence over the Sa67 region.

- Sa67 (one measuring campaign is collecting data for bat sounds using SM4BAT-FS Ultrasonic Recorder from Wildlife Acoustics)

Task of expert support for bat sound recordings consists of examination and verification the contractors work.

3). Providing expert support for bird sound recordings:

The aim of this study is to have a better understanding of bird occurrence over the Sa67 region.

- Sa67 (one measuring campaign is collecting data for bird sounds using a Song Meter SM4 Acoustic Recorder from Wildlife Acoustics)

Task of expert support for bird sound recordings consists of examination and verification of the contractors work.

3). Providing expert support for marine mammal sound recordings (PAM):

The aim of this study is to have a better understanding of the occurrence of marine mammals in the SA67 region.

- Sa67 (all three measuring campaigns in this area are collecting data for marine mammal sounds using F-PODs)

Task of expert support for marine mammal sound recordings consists of examination and verification of the contractors work.

4). Optional scope:

- 240 Hours that are reserved for support for new unforeseen developments, as helping with a tender or support for a study for a new wind farm.

This scope of work is divided in 3 sections;

1. Project set-up;
2. Roles and responsibilities;
3. Schedule and key dates.

The schedules for the upcoming ecology studies are presented in Table 3, chapter 3.

1. Project set-up

The ecological package in Lot 2 will contain the site characterisation studies as indicated by the red outline in Figure 1.

General expert support will comprise of supporting RVO with selecting a contractor, assessing project documentation and quality assurance in relation to reporting and provided deliverables (data/reports) for the separate parts of the ecological site studies.

The contractor providing expert support will also deliver a lead expert (see roles and responsibilities) managing the interfaces between the different studies and the different site study Contractors.

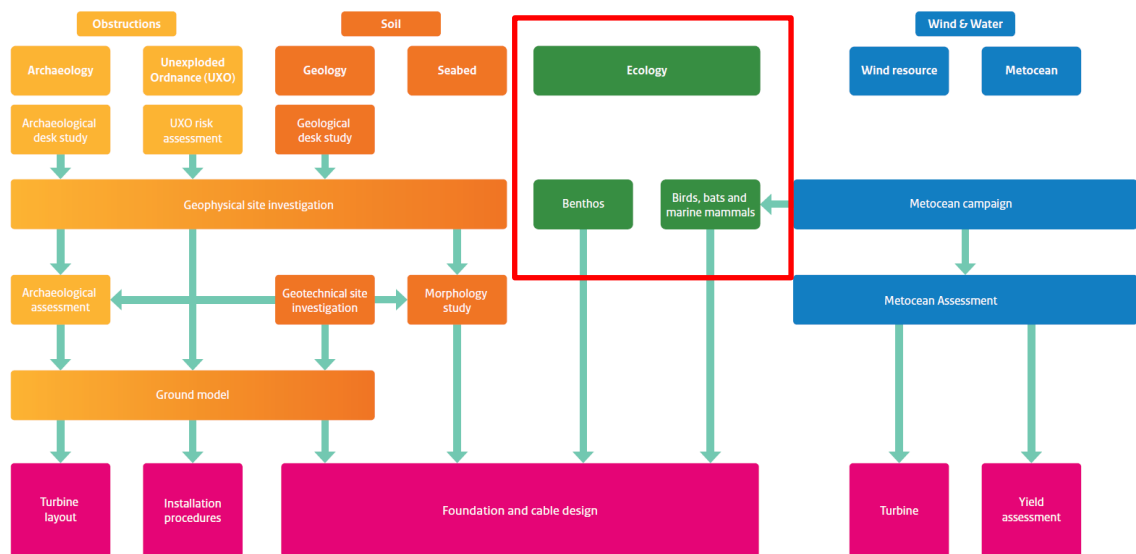


Figure 1: Ecology site characterisation package

RVO will manage the Ecology site characterisation for the different sites, hereafter called PROJECT. Expert support will be required to assist the RVO team with in-depth knowledge.

To visualise the PROJECT team set up an organisation chart is presented in Figure 2.

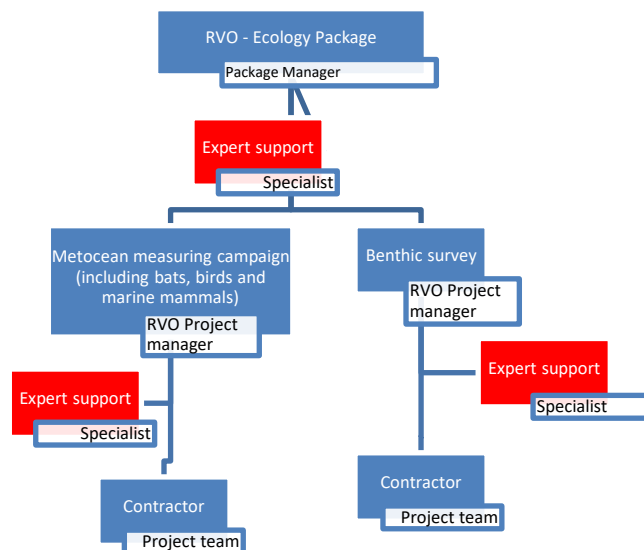


Figure 2: Organisation chart Ecology studies

Items marked in red are presenting the areas where in-depth knowledge support by external experts is requested by means of this SoW.

The PROJECT organisation will be built under supervision of a package manager from RVO. The package manager will be responsible for interfaces between studies, overall planning and overall budget.

In addition to the package manager from RVO there will be multiple RVO project managers assigned to the PROJECT to manage the individual studies. A single RVO project manager can be assigned to multiple studies and can be adjusted during the PROJECT.

The expert support Contractor is expected to supply a lead expert and specialists in the sectors as presented in Figure 2. The lead expert will need overall knowledge to participate into the different studies and to advise the RVO package manager where necessary. The main task of the lead expert will consist of interfacing between the studies. For in-depth discussions, reviews and support through the PROJECT the lead expert (and the RVO project managers) can call in the specialist experts. For detailed roles and responsibilities of the requested expert support reference is made to section 2 of this SoW.

Aim of the project set up as described is to optimise the interfaces and optimise the use of the specialist knowledge.

During the execution of the PROJECT all the communication between the different parties as described above and site study Contractors will be managed by the RVO project manager. The communication lines are visualised in Figure 3.

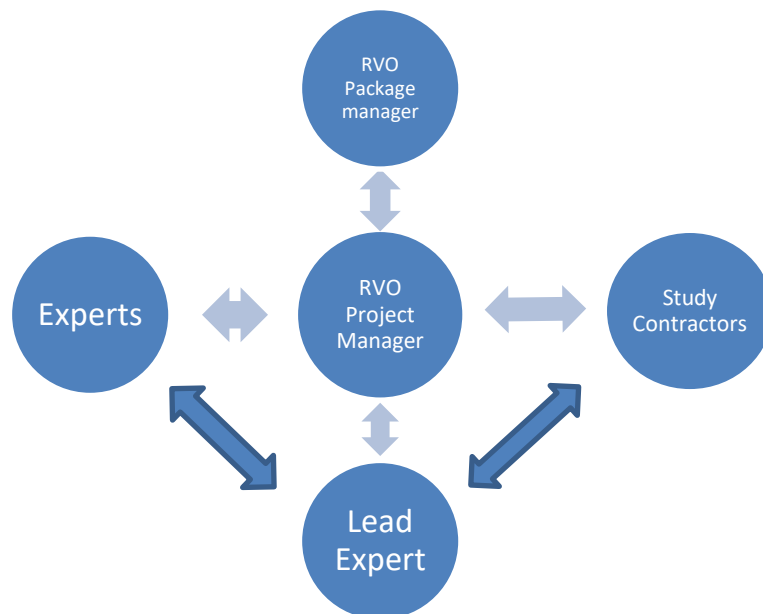


Figure 3: Communication lines

Note: If required during the PROJECT direct communication lines can be established between the Experts and site study Contractors upon discretion of the RVO project manager(s).

2. Roles and Responsibilities

This section describes the roles and responsibilities for the expert support during the PROJECT. The optional scope of 240 hours under work package 3 can be assigned to a single or multiple experts roles.

Table 1: Hours for the main and optional Scope of Work, divided per required expertise.

Role	Hours main scope (960 hours)	Hours optional scope (240 hours)
Lead expert	200	240
Specialist Expert benthos	400	

Specialist Expert birds	120	
Specialist Expert bats	120	
Specialist Experts marine mammals	120	
Total amount	1.200	

Lead Expert (200 hours in main scope)

This expert must have a good understanding of offshore ecological studies. The lead expert will be the interface during progress meetings with RVO and the site study Contractors. The lead expert shall be capable to participate during the calls as representative of all specialist experts. The lead expert should be able to answer questions related to the studies or be able to capture the essence and transfer them to the experts to arrange follow up.

To improve interfaces and consistency it is important that a single lead expert will supervise and participate in all studies together with the RVO project managers.

If required a deputy (temporary) lead expert can be assigned to support the lead expert during absence or when workload requires.

Required know-how;

The lead expert will need to have general knowledge regarding ecological studies within the North Sea. For detailed in-depth knowledge the lead expert can consult the specialist experts in the team, but the lead expert will need the following required know-how:

- a. Project management and interface skills;
- b. General knowledge of the North Sea ecosystem, above and below water;
- c. General knowledge of measuring techniques for different species (groups);
- d. Insight in the ecological data required for wind farm engineering design.

Activities and responsibilities (but not limited to)

- Drafting the scope of work for contractors to execute the studies;
- Assessing the contractor's bids;
- Participate in meetings related to different studies;
- During the meetings it is expected that the lead expert can represent the expert group and participate in discussions;
- Manage interfaces between studies, experts and RVO;
- The lead expert will have to share information between the teams so that all experts have all the required information. When questions arise the lead expert will arrange follow up with the correct party;
- Quality assurance and quality control;
- Participate in webinars;
- Help define strategy for future ecological studies.

Expert support contractors are requested to offer **one** senior expert for the lead expert position. Additional experts offered will be assessed as back-up experts.

Specialist Expert offshore benthic survey (400 hours in main scope)

RVO is considering to contract a site study Contractor(s) to execute two offshore benthic surveys. These surveys may include (but not limited to) boxcoring, eDNA and ROV. Support during the tender process is included in this SoW.

The expert(s) must have experience in acquiring benthic data, preferably in the North Sea.

Required know-how:

- a. The benthic conditions in different parts of the North Sea;
- b. State of the art methods and equipment for benthic data acquisition by using various methods (including boxcoring, eDNA, ROV);
- c. Understanding of the impact of offshore wind farms on benthos;
- d. Assessing and interpretation of data;

Activities (but not limited to):

- Preparation of the procurement documents for benthic survey tender;
- Help define strategy for future benthic surveys;
- Review and evaluate proposals of the tender;
- Support in managing the benthic survey: check the planning, assist in document control (including check on required actions from progress meetings);
- Review and assess quality of deliverables;
- Attend progress meetings with the contractor;
- Disclosure of information to the market (publication at offshorewind.rvo.nl, contribution to the project and site description, market questions, webinars, etc.).

Expert contractors are requested to offer **two** available experts. One of them should be a senior expert and one (back-up) should be a medior or junior expert. Additional experts offered will be assessed as back-up experts.

Specialist expert bats (120 hours in main scope)

RVO has contracted EOLOS to incorporate an acoustic bat recording device in their (one) floating lidar campaign in Sa67. These measurements will be made available every 6 months during the 2 year campaign. The deliverables will be assessed on quality.

The expert(s) must have experience in acquiring acoustic bat recording data, preferably in the North Sea.

Required know-how:

- a. Familiar with different bat species in the North Sea (land) area and their behaviour;
- b. of SM4BAT-FS Ultrasonic Recorder from Wildlife Acoustics;
- c. Understanding of the (possible) impact of offshore wind farms on bats;
- d. Assessing and interpretation of data.

Activities (but not limited to):

- Help define strategy for future bat surveys;
- Support in managing the bat measurement campaign: check the planning, assist in document control (including check on required actions from progress meetings);
- Review and assess quality of deliverables;
- Attend progress meetings with the contractor;
- Disclosure of information to the market (publication at offshorewind.rvo.nl, contribution to the project and site description, market questions, webinars, etc.).

Expert contractors are requested to offer **one** available senior expert. Additional experts offered will be assessed as back-up experts.

Specialist Expert birds (120 hours in main scope)

RVO has contracted EOLOS to incorporate an acoustic bird recording device in their (one) floating lidar campaign in Sa67. These measurements will be made available every 6 months during the 2 year campaign. The deliverables will be assessed on quality.

The expert(s) must have experience in acquiring acoustic bird recording data, preferably in the North Sea.

Required know-how:

- a. Familiar with different bird species in the North Sea (land) area and their behaviour;
- b. Use of the Song Meter SM4 Acoustic Recorder from Wildlife Acoustics;
- c. Understanding of the (possible) impact of offshore wind farms on birds;
- d. Assessing and interpretation of data.

Activities (but not limited to):

- Help define strategy for future bird surveys;
- Support in managing the bird measurement campaign: check the planning, assist in document control (including check on required actions from progress meetings);
- Review and assess quality of deliverables;
- Attend progress meetings with the contractor;
- Disclosure of information to the market (publication at offshorewind.rvo.nl, contribution to the project and site description, market questions, webinars, etc.).

Expert contractors are requested to offer **one** available senior expert. Additional experts offered will be assessed as back-up experts.

Specialist Expert marine mammals (120 hours in main scope)

RVO has contracted EOLOS and Fugro to incorporate an acoustic marine mammal recording device (PAM) in their floating lidar campaigns (3) in Sa67. These measurements will be made available every 6 months during the 2 year campaigns. The deliverables will be assessed on quality.

The expert(s) must have experience in acquiring acoustic marine mammal recording data, preferably in the North Sea.

Required know-how:

- a. Familiar with different marine mammal species in the North Sea area and their behaviour;
- b. Use of F-PODs to acquire marine mammal acoustic recordings;
- c. Understanding of the (possible) impact of offshore wind farms on marine mammals;
- d. Assessing and interpretation of data.

Activities (but not limited to):

- Help define strategy for future marine mammal surveys;
- Support in managing the marine mammal measurement campaign: check the planning, assist in document control (including check on required actions from progress meetings);
- Review and assess quality of deliverables;
- Attend progress meetings with the contractor;
- Disclosure of information to the market (publication at offshorewind.rvo.nl, contribution to the project and site description, market questions, webinars, etc.).

Expert contractors are requested to offer **one** available senior expert. Additional experts offered will be assessed as back-up experts.

Table 2: Required experts for Scope of Work

Role	Senior expert	Medior/junior expert
Benthos expert	1	1
Bat expert	1	-
Bird expert	1	-
Marine mammal expert	1	-

It should be clear in the project plan who the above mentioned main experts per position are and which experts are offered as back-up per position.

3. Schedule Key Dates upcoming ecological studies

Table 3: Schedule and interfaces related to the delivery of the Works

Type of study	Estimated Schedule for delivery	Site/area	Task included in SoW
Providing expert support for offshore benthic survey			
Benthic	Q2 2025	Sa67 + DDW	Drafting tender documents
Benthic	Q2 2025	Sa67 + DDW	Evaluation of proposals
Benthic	Q3 2025	Sa67 + DDW	Start contract
Benthic	Q3 2025 – Q1 2028	Sa67 + DDW	Review deliverables
Providing expert support for bat acoustic recordings			
bat	Q3 2025	Sa67	Review 6 months data delivery
bat	Q1 2026	Sa67	Review 6 months data delivery
bat	Q3 2026	Sa67	Review 6 months data delivery
bat	Q2 2027	Sa67	Review 6 months data delivery
Providing expert support for bird acoustic recordings			
bird	Q3 2025	Sa67	Review 6 months data delivery
bird	Q1 2026	Sa67	Review 6 months data delivery
bird	Q3 2026	Sa67	Review 6 months data delivery
bird	Q2 2027	Sa67	Review 6 months data delivery
Providing expert support for marine mammal acoustic recordings			
Marine mammals	Q3 2025	Sa67	Review 6 months data delivery
Marine mammals	Q1 2026	Sa67	Review 6 months data delivery
Marine mammals	Q3 2026	Sa67	Review 6 months data delivery
Marine mammals	Q2 2027	Sa67	Review 6 months data delivery
<i>This table provides an estimation of the dates. Tenders cannot derive any rights from the provided information.</i>			