

Specification



The Specification

Project Title:	Solway Coast and Marine Project – Oyster Hatchery Feasibility and Recommendations
Service:	Environment Team
Project Owner:	Nick Chisholm

1	INTRODUCTION
<p>Dumfries and Galloway Council and its partners in the Solway Coast and Marine Project – Landscape Connections (SCAMP) wishes to appoint an experienced consultant to provide a feasibility study and recommendations for a small-scale native oyster <i>Ostrea edulis</i> hatchery.</p> <p>The purpose of the study is to establish the viability of developing a hatchery that will maintain high genetic diversity within stocks that are locally adapted and potentially disease resistant. The study will consider the production techniques and scale required for efficient and reliable production of native oyster for local ecological restoration, identify hatchery design options and the costs involved.</p> <p>The successful consultant will provide a report that will recommend options for the delivery of an oyster hatchery that will form part of Phase 1 Development of SCAMP and the results will be used to support the delivery stage application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.</p>	

2	BACKGROUND
<p>Oyster Hatchery Feasibility and Recommendations for the Dumfries and Galloway Solway Coast Phase 1 Development report is expected to be undertaken between June 2026 – November 2026</p> <p>Fixed budget £9,950 max excl VAT</p> <p>Oyster Hatchery Feasibility and Recommendations for the Dumfries and Galloway Solway Coast is part of Phase 1 Development of the Solway Coast and Marine Project (SCAMP). The report will inform the decision to develop an oyster hatchery.</p> <p>SCAMP will deliver an 8-year holistic seascape programme to understand, conserve and develop the potential of the natural, cultural and built heritage for the people of the Solway Firth. It will focus a range of large-scale interventions and activities to deliver a coherent, and co-ordinated approach to reconnect people to the amazing Solway Firth seascape. The project will leave the Solway Firth better understood, protected and will maximise the potential of the</p>	

seascape to respond to today's nature and climate crises. Much of our work will involve new and novel ways of working, research and development, citizen science and co design.

Native oyster beds are known to have existed in the Solway along the Dumfries and Galloway coast and with the exception of Loch Ryan other local oyster beds have declined and probably disappeared largely due to overfishing in the late 1800s. There is thought to be significant potential for restoration effort within the outer Solway Firth.

The purpose of the feasibility study and recommendations report is to establish the viability of developing a hatchery that will assist local ecological restoration of native oyster reefs and inform the application to NLHF for a second-round delivery grant under the Landscape Connections programme.

3 Specification

We are seeking a consultant to deliver a feasibility study and recommendations report for a native oyster hatchery to support local ecological restoration.

The successful consultant will be expected to demonstrate that they have the key skills and knowledge either within their own organisation or by sub-contracting additional expertise. A consortium of different organisations would be acceptable, but the successful applicant will be responsible for delivery.

The consultant will undertake a literature review of production techniques, scale, design and success rate of oyster hatchery projects. The feasibility study will assess the need and viability for a hatchery to aid local ecological restoration in comparison with an alternative source from the Loch Ryan oyster beds. The feasibility study should consider the design principles, safety, compliance and resources required to set up and run the hatchery.

The final report will present options (including whether the natural hatchery of Loch Ryan would be a better alternative than a hatchery), the criteria for assessment and recommend a detailed hatchery design, specifications and costs involved to set up and for future operation.

a) Outputs and Milestones

Contract administration

We anticipate monthly, or as required, online or in person meetings between SCAMP and the consultant that will include a progress report and identify issues and opportunities.

Outputs

- Initial meeting with SCAMP agreeing an approach to feasibility study and detail design report.
- Draft feasibility study and outline recommendations.
- Feasibility study presentation with draft recommendations.
- Final feasibility study and recommendations report including detail design, specification and costings.

Time scale

- Initial meeting June 2026
- Series of meetings / workshops with partners and stakeholders July 2026
- Draft feasibility study and outline recommendations September 2026
- Feasibility study presentation with draft recommendations October 2026
- Final feasibility study and recommendations report including detail design, specification and costings November 2026

b) Fees and Costs

To guide the consultant, we have provided the following supporting documents:

Pricing schedule document – to be completed by the consultant

Pricing Guide: Consultants are invited to submit a fixed fee tender as described in this briefing document and the submission will be assessed on a quality/price (70/30%) basis.

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The budget for the Native Oyster Hatchery Feasibility Study is a maximum of £9,950 ex VAT

4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We are looking for an individual, team or organisation with:

- Experience of working on the development of hatchery facilities (especially native oyster).
- Experience of working with environmental, education and research organisations in the delivery of hatcheries.
- Familiarity with the Solway coast.
- Strong track record of producing clear, well written, high-quality feasibility studies and recommendation reports.

Insurance

The Consultants must confirm and evidence that they have the appropriate Employers Liability Insurance (£5 Million), Public Liability Insurance (£5 Million) and Professional Indemnity (£1million).

Questions to be submitted by via email to: nick.chisholm@dumgal.gov.uk or karen.morley@dumgal.gov.uk

Council contact details

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 SCAMP Coordinator
 Dumfries & Galloway Council
Nick.Chisholm@dumgal.gov.uk

5	SUSTAINABILITY
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Our Council has adopted a ***Sustainable Procurement Policy***, tenders should include a statement as to their approach to carbon reduction, fairtrade and community benefit.

It is a condition of this tender that contractors shall pay, as a minimum, the real living wage to all employees working on the contract and provide an 'effective voice' channel. Tenders should be prepared to evidence this if required.

Reference:	DGC-SCAMP-20260503
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