

## **Appendix D. Questions and Answers**

*The following answers and clarifications to the RFP are provided based on questions received and should be added/considered when completing your proposal:*

- Q. Can NEIWPCCC share any updates as to whether NYSDEC and CT DEEP have addressed project site data limitations described in the Phase 1 2024 final report?
- A. Based on information currently available to NEIWPCCC, the project site data limitations identified in the Phase 1 2024 final report have not been comprehensively addressed by NYSDEC and CT DEEP. Applicants should assume that the data limitations described in the Phase 1 report remain relevant and should consider them when developing their proposed approach.
- Q. Will the contractor be responsible for digitizing the spatial footprints of the 286 NYSDEC project sites, which according to the Phase 1 2024 final report, are available as tabular data with point-coordinate information?
- A. Yes. Under Task 2, the contractor is expected to develop GIS shapefiles for existing New York restoration and land acquisition projects using available information and datasets.
- Q. Does NEIWPCCC expect the contractor to use already developed connectivity models and associated datasets for this work?
- A. The use of existing connectivity models and associated datasets, or new models, is acceptable.
- Q. Can NEIWPCCC expand on what they mean by a “qualitative model metric” in Task 3?
- A. For the purposes of this RFP, “qualitative model metrics” refers to metrics, indicators, classifications, or assessment approaches used to characterize habitat connectivity between habitat patches. We are not prescribing a specific methodology or connectivity metric. Applicants may propose quantitative, qualitative, or hybrid approaches, provided they clearly describe how the proposed metrics will assess habitat connectivity and support identification and prioritization of restoration, conservation, or enhancement opportunities within the Long Island Sound priority coastal habitats.
- Q. Is NEIWPCCC open to an accelerated timeline on this project (i.e., less than 23 months)?
- A. Yes, given that all deliverables are completed and approved in accordance with the project requirements and scope described in the RFP.
- Q. Can NEIWPCCC expand on their preferred capabilities for the ESRI AGOL data management application?

A. NEIWPCCC expects the application to utilize standard, out-of-the-box ArcGIS Online (AGOL) capabilities to manage, access, and standardize site data for New York and Connecticut restoration and land acquisition projects. Preferred capabilities include a standardized data schema and a workflow tailored for experienced AGOL users that allows for easy migration. Applicants should recommend workflows, data management strategies, and configurations based on their expertise.

Q. Can NEIWPCCC confirm that for situations where existing connectivity models are not publicly available, the contractor will need to propose an approach to address this challenge that relies on existing publicly available datasets and modeling tools while remaining in scope and budget?

A. Yes, provided the proposed approach remains within scope and budget, and effectively assists the Long Island Sound Partnership in determining connectivity and developing metrics to communicate those levels.