

## **Arbroath and Montrose Static Gear Association**

Marine Scotland  
Licencing Operations Team  
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To Whom It May Concern

### **APPLICATION FROM INCH CAPE OFFSHORE LIMITED FOR CONSENTS UNDER SECTION 36 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 AND MARINE LICENCES UNDER PART 4 OF THE MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE OFFSHORE WINDFARM**

Firstly, may I say this is not written by an academic but by a fisherman who is representing a group of fishermen who are committed and passionate about their chosen profession, so where I fail in punctuation and grammar, I will more than make up in substance giving? The views of the fishermen that our association represents.

It will be no surprise that the Arbroath and District Static Gear Association are totally opposed to the planning application for the offshore development. Our objections to the development are based on the following factors:

#### **1. Effect on future stocks**

We can accept there is no scientific evidence to suggest that the construction and operation of the turbines will have any effect on the lobster, crab and fish stock. However until we do have the evidence can we afford to take the chance? We think not and strongly believe that taking the chance with men's livelihoods and the local community infrastructure is totally unacceptable and tantamount to be immoral.

#### **2. Area of sea lost to the fishing fleet**

The loss of fishing grounds to both the inshore and offshore fleets is significant. Fishing opportunities throughout the North Sea are diminishing year on year. If you look at the areas currently closed to fishermen: closed areas, seasonal closures, real time closures, oil and gas installations etc. we cannot afford to loose anymore

#### **3. Destruction to sea bed during construction**

The general disturbance and destruction to the seabed from concrete and noise pollution is causing the utmost concern. We have grave concerns that the noise and vibration will drive marine life away.

#### **4. Increased marine traffic during construction and maintenance**

Marine traffic during construction will undoubtedly increase considerably with the potential to cause damage/loss of fishing gear i.e. pots and endanger boats and crews themselves. It is inevitable that there could be numerous incidents.

#### **5. Heritage.**

The members of the association all have one thing in common, our total commitment to the fishing industry. We take very seriously the responsibility we have to look after our seas to pass on to the next generation and to make sure that nothing or no-one threatens the sustainability of our rich fishing grounds.

Make no mistake about it, if the development goes ahead and it has an adverse effect on the marine life we will witness a coastal clearance that would be on a scale never witnessed before on the east coast of Scotland.

We as an association cannot have that on our conscience. Can you?

Yours Faithfully



Chair  
Arbroath & Montrose Static Gear Association

5/4/13