
From: Kingdom Seafood [<mailto:sales@KingdomSeafood.co.uk>]
Sent: 29 November 2013 14:24
To: Tait A (Adrian) (MARLAB)
Subject: Seagreen Alpha & Bravo and Inchcape Windfarms and Transmission Works

Good Afternoon Adrian

I forward for your perusal the response to the above, as expressed by the members of the Fishermen's Mutual Association (Pittenweem) Ltd and Fife Fishermen's Association.

Kind Regards



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APPLICATION FOR THE CONSENT AND LICENCE TO ERECT THE SEAGREEN ALPHA & BRAVO OFFSHORE WINDFARMS AND TRANSMISSION ASSET PROJECT – INCORPORATING “SAFEGUARDING FISHING RIGHTS”.

The fishermen of Fife are represented by the Fishermen’s Mutual Association (Pittenweem) Ltd, the Fife Fishermen’s Association, the Fife Fish Producer’s Organisation, the 10 Metre and under Association and the Fife Creel Association.

“Fishermen’s Mutual” has freedom to speak for all parties concerned but it is likely that some Associations will respond individually.

As a precursor to stating my fishermen’s position on the above, I would like to comment that the members of the Association are not against the construction of windfarms but feel that irrevocable action must be taken to protect their future and the future of the village fishing industry in Pittenweem and the wider Firth of Forth.

Commercial fishing has existed in the “Forth” since the 12th Century and it is hoped that a policy of co-operation with other Forth users will allow fishing to continue for many decades to come.

However, I can confirm that the fishermen of the “South Firth” are not convinced that offshore windfarms will be the answer to all our energy problems, nor are they convinced that the building, commissioning and operating of the turbines will not be detrimental to commercial fishing, in and around the windfarm sites.

Bearing this in mind, they feel it is incumbent upon the Scottish Government and by implication Marine Scotland Renewables to ensure that all efforts are made to mitigate the effects that any windfarm development may have on fisheries.

This can only be done through a support mechanism for the fishing industry being built into any licence, before consent is given.

The renewable companies have made verbal commitments to the fishing industry but written assurance must be given to protect fishermen’s rights and livelihoods. Failure to have words supported by documentation could leave the industry without a sustainable future.

No-one knows who will own windfarms after they are commissioned. The vagaries of the financial markets could see a windfarm purchased by a private equity firm, with profit being the only motive and a fishing industry deemed irrelevant. This must not be allowed to happen.

I will now progress to a list of subjects raised by my fishermen, which they feel must be addressed if ongoing support is to be given to Renewable Companies.

1) Windfarm developers or successive operators cannot exclude towed gear from a windfarm, except during construction.

2) Any exclusion zone is limited to 50 metres from a turbine or other structure, except during construction and cable laying works when the zone shall be a maximum of 500 metres.

3) All cable laying must be trenched and back filled, accepting that difficult areas may be subject to appropriate mattress cover.

A schedule of inspecting the cable route must be put in place throughout the life of a windfarm and any remedial/repair work must be completed, as necessary and without delay.

In the event of cable laying or the cable corridor causing loss of earnings to fishermen, a daily rate of compensation must be agreed.

4) Any equipment or debris falling from a ship, turbine or other structure must be reported immediately to local fishing vessels and to local F.I.R.

In the event of an item causing destruction to fishing gear, appropriate compensation will be paid to fishermen.

5) A data gathering programme for commercial species in the inner and outer Forth will be set up and run by Marine Scotland. It will continue throughout the lifetime of any windfarm. Such action will allow fishermen's incomes to be supported, if the figures show that a windfarm, both in the construction period or the operational period or the decommissioning period has caused a decline in stocks, which by the laws of fishing, will have caused fishermen a loss of earnings.

The RBS system of recording catches plus fish salesmen's records, plus harbour authority records can be used to verify fluctuations in catches. The programme costs must be met by the renewable companies.

6) A careful watch should be kept on fishing catches during the period when piling commences as this may have a huge affect on catches and as a result fishermen's earnings. Financial support for fishermen may be inevitable.

7) A working group must be set up in line with what has been offered by the FTOWDG.

- 8) The system of F.L.O. and F.I.R. consultations and reporting must continue. A local F.L.O. must be trained accordingly and deployed on a ship working in the Forth.
- 9) Any monitoring, environmental and decommissioning plan can only be agreed after consultation with the fishing industry.
- 10) During any decommissioning period the benthic seabed must be returned to its original state and work will only be considered to be completed after consultation with the fishing industry.

In conclusion, it should be understood, that with the advent of MPA's, MCZ's, SPA's, SAC's, SSSI's and Offshore Windfarms, fishermen must protect their interests vigorously, or there may soon be no inshore areas left to fish.

I leave you with this thought,

“What is a fisherman if he cannot fish?”