

Annex One

MD-LOT Basking Shark Licence Case Handling Report

Licence Number: 00010536/00010744

Licensing Officer: [Redacted]

Site	Eastern Green Link 2 (EGL2): Peterhead to Scottish - English sea-border
Company	Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission PLC 10 Henderson Road Inverness IV1 1SN
Applicant	[Redacted]
Brief Description of Project	As part of the UXO survey undertaken for the Eastern Green Link 2 cable route, Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission PLC (SHET) propose to deploy sub-bottom profiling (SBP) in addition to the geophysical survey methodologies detailed in the original licences EPS 00010242 and BS 00010241. No other changes are proposed.
Associated Licences	Variation to EPS -00010537 & BS-00010536

Species	Basking Shark (<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>)
Inshore/Offshore	Inshore/Offshore

TEST 1	Purpose of licence
	preserving public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment
Comments	
<p>The applicant has demonstrated that a specific need is being addressed. The cable for the wider EGL 2 project cannot be installed without a detailed inspection of the seabed to identify any potential UXO as their presence represents a significant risk, and therefore a scenario whereby the surveys are not undertaken is not an option in this instance. The surveys ensure the safety of the crew and wider preservation of the surrounding marine environment. The survey results will inform the applicant whether there is a need for future UXO clearance.</p> <p>The survey is required to support the installation of a new subsea HVDC cables (EGL 2) that are needed to provide additional network capacity and greater power transfer capability across the Anglo-Scottish border. The EGL 2 HVDC cables cannot be installed prior to potential UXOs in the marine installation corridor being identified, for which this survey is required.</p> <p>The application for UXO surveys are not in relation to specific government targets or policies however, they do tie in to the wider program of works for the EGL 2 HVDC cables to increase transmission and support broader renewables targets.</p>	

Test 1 satisfied?	YES
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TEST 2	Other Satisfactory Solutions
Comments	
<p>Section 16(1A)(a) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 requires the Scottish Ministers to be satisfied that there is no other satisfactory solution before a Basking Shark Licence can be issued for the Licensable Operations.</p> <p>The applicant has demonstrated that reasonable effort has been made to consider alternatives that would achieve the same result but with less / no impact on EPS. For the survey data that is required to be collected to show potential UXO positions the proposed methods and equipment must be used. There are no other technological alternatives.</p> <p>By not performing the UXO surveys, the applicant could be endangering human life and environmental preservation during cable installation activities if the location of UXOs within the marine installation corridor are unknown and potentially disturbed.</p> <p>The survey must take place within the marine installation corridor for the planned EGL 2 HVDC cables to inform later installation activities and must be completed prior to EGL2 installation which is planned to commence in 2025. The specified equipment and methods are required to collect the necessary data needed to determine UXO positions.</p>	
Test 2 satisfied?	YES

TEST 3	Favourable Conservation Status ("FCS")
Comments	
<p>In their response dated 28 September 2023, NatureScot advised that the proposed activities pose a low risk to basking sharks and will not have an adverse impact on the conservation status of this species.</p> <p>In their response dated 18 April 2024 NatureScot confirmed that the advice provided for BS-00010536, detailed above, remains valid.</p>	
Test 3 satisfied?	YES

Date original application received: 23 January 2023

Date variation application received: 19 February 2024

Consultation start date: 11 September 2023

Consultation end date: 28 September 2023

Variation consultation start date: 09 April 2024

Variation Consultation end date: 23 April 2024

Notes

Date	Text	Created By
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Awaiting Information

Start date	End date	Duration (days)	Waiting for	Waiting on Information From
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Licence issue date: 13 October 2023

Date report due: 23 June 2025

Variation issue date: 09 May 2024