

# European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre

## Fisheries Mitigation Strategy

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1	04/07/2017	JK	AWG
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3	16/08/2017	AWG	FB
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5	21/08/2017	JK	FB
6	25/08/2017	JK	FB

## 1. Introduction

### Background

On 26 March 2013, Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm Limited (AOWFL) received consent from the Scottish Ministers under Section 36 (S.36) of the Electricity Act 1989 for the construction and operation of the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC - also known as the Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm) and on 15 August 2014 a Marine Licence was attained under section 25 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (reference 04309/16/0). This Marine Licence was most recently varied on 30 September 2016 (reference 04309/16/1).

The Development is located approximately 2 to 4.5 km offshore to the north east of Aberdeen, Scotland, within Aberdeen Bay. The Offshore Export Cables (OECs) will each be between 3.7 – 4.4 km long (maximum total length ~8 km) and will reach landfall at the adjacent coastline in Aberdeen Bay located at Blackdog.

AOWFL is a company wholly owned by Vattenfall and was established to develop, finance, construct, operate, maintain, and decommission the EOWDC.

AOWFL has commissioned Brown and May Marine Ltd (BMM) to prepare a Fisheries Mitigation Strategy (FMS). BMM has been acting as the Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) for the EOWDC since May 2016. A list of communications undertaken with commercial fisheries stakeholders can be found in Section 4.

### Purpose of FMS

The purpose of this FMS is to facilitate coexistence between the EOWDC and Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City commercial fishing interests during the construction, operation (including maintenance programmes) and decommissioning phases of the EOWDC. AOWFL regards coexistence as the joint presence of both industries. An approach of avoiding and reducing impacts to both the commercial fishing and offshore wind farm industries is considered to be the most sustainable approach to coexistence, as recommended in the Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet renewables (FLOWW) guidelines.

## 2. Introduction to the Fisheries Mitigation Strategy

This FMS sets out the roles and responsibilities of AOWFL and the commercial FLO undertaking communication with commercial skippers.

This document will be updated as the EOWDC develops through construction, operation and decommissioning.

The FMS has been compiled with reference to:

- FLOWW Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewable Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison 2014;
- Meetings with local fisheries stakeholders;
- Direct liaison with individual skippers, vessel owners and landing agents; and
- Consultation as required with bodies such as Marine Scotland, Scottish Fisheries Federation (SFF) and the North & East Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (N&EC RIFG).

The main elements of AOWFL's commercial fisheries liaison activities are on the basis that information dissemination and clear communication are key to constructive engagement with local fisheries stakeholders. A detailed description of the individual roles and responsibilities of AOWFL and the FLO is given in Section 3.

The main channel for communication and discussing fisheries concerns related to the EOWDC is via the FLO through the EOWDC's life, currently BMM. In accordance with FLOWW guidelines, the FLO will also update individual fishermen via emails, letters and Notice to Mariners (NTMs) / Marine Safety Notices (MSNs) covering offshore activities. Details of commercial fisheries stakeholder communications undertaken to date can be found in Section 4 and planned future consultation in Section 5.

The FLO will contact fishermen directly to ensure updates are given to the relevant stakeholders, particularly when assessing the gear location or removal with regard to the EOWDC construction, operations or decommissioning activities. There may be a legitimate requirement to relocate static fishing effort outside of a survey / construction (operation or decommissioning) area given appropriate prior notification as specific circumstances allow (ideally seven days although notice may be shorter as some activities should not be stopped once started).

With regards to commercial fishing, the following safety management elements will be included:

- A Code of Good Practice for contracted vessels will be established to minimise negative interaction and aid coexistence.
- An emergency response plan and procedures will be executed in the event of an emergency.
- Arrangements will be agreed with affected commercial fishing interests for fishing gear lost as a result of the works undertaken in respect of the EOWDC based on procedures already in place for the oil and gas industry.

An outline of the guidance to be used to assess any mitigation measures can be found in Section 6.

### 3. Roles and Responsibilities

This section sets out roles and responsibilities with regards to Fisheries Liaison during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the EOWDC and details of how AOWFL proposes to liaise with commercial fisheries stakeholders.

#### 3.1 Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm Ltd

The primary responsibilities of AOWFL are:

- To use current best industry practice to construct, operate and decommission the EOWDC in coexistence with fishing activities;
- To maintain employment of a FLO throughout the construction and decommissioning of the EOWDC and as necessary throughout its lifetime; and
- To provide information to the FLO and local fisheries stakeholders to assist with the coexistence with the EOWDC.

#### 3.2 Fishing Liaison Officer

The primary responsibilities of the FLO are:

- To be the key point of contact for local fisheries stakeholders;
- To identify individual commercial vessels and skippers operating in the offshore area;
- To establish and maintain a strong working relationship with the local fishing industry;
- To have a detailed understanding and awareness of the local fishing industry;
- To understand the potential impact of the EOWDC on fishing activities; and
- To communicate clearly and accurately with the fishing industry on behalf of AOWFL.

The current contact details of the FLO are provided in Appendix A and the key duties are:

- To maintain the fisheries stakeholder database which contains the following details of fishing vessel operation within the area of the EOWDC:
  - The vessel's name, registration and base port
  - Skipper and crew details
  - Vessel radio call sign
  - Vessel/skipper mobile phone number
  - Method(s) of fishing and static gear surface marker details
  - Target species
  - Fishing grounds relevant to the EOWDC
  - Fishing periods and operating practices
  - Skipper concerns
- To organise and minute meetings with local fisheries stakeholders;
- To maintain regular liaison with local fisheries stakeholders as required;

- To prepare and distribute the required information and notices of EOWDC related activities which could potentially interact with fisheries stakeholders. This will include:
  - A description of the works to be undertaken including charts illustrating construction areas.
  - The schedule of works.
  - Details of the vessels involved in the works including a photograph of each and the vessels' contact details.
  - Coordinates of operations (longitude and latitude).
- To inform AOWFL of the fishing activities in the areas of work and provide details of vessel and gear types which could be present, any relevant fishermen's sensitivities and channels and contact details for communicating with fishing vessels at sea.
- To obtain and transmit to AOWFL, all relevant fishermen's concerns in respect of the various activities associated with the EOWDC;
- To advise fishermen of proposed EOWDC design and scheduling and any potential changes, if required; and
- To monitor fishing activities within the EOWDC area in conjunction with AOWFL.

#### 4. Commercial Fisheries Consultation to Date

Since being appointed as FLO in May 2016, BMM has undertaken a range of communication with stakeholders including emails, phone calls, face to face visits and regular issuing of EOWDC updates such as Notice to Mariners (NTMs). Stakeholders were identified during communication with the Scottish Fishermen Federation (SFF) and known local vessel owners/ skippers. The fishing vessels, Boy Gordon and Johnny II were identified as the only vessels regularly operating in the area of EOWDC.

Date	Consultee	Issues discussed and outcomes
22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2016	John Watt (SFF)	Giving an overview of EOWDC and asking about levels of activity in the area. Response was that there was very little.
22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2016	John Watt (SFF)	Asking for clarification of commercial fisheries stakeholders in relation to Aberdeen Bay for general communication and NTMs
26 <sup>th</sup> June 2016	SFF, Iain Mathieson , Ricky Greenhowe, Sid/Kevin McLean, Andrew Mack,	NTM and covering letter introducing BMM as FLO and asking if there were additional fishermen who should be sent the NTM.
2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2016	SFF, Iain Mathieson , Ricky Greenhowe Sid/Kevin McLean, Andrew Mack,	NTM issued
25 <sup>th</sup> August 2016	SFF, Iain Mathieson , Ricky Greenhowe Sid/Kevin McLean, Andrew Mack,	NTM issued
7 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	SFF, John Davison, Iain Mathieson, Ricky Greenhowe, Sandy Ritchie	NTM issued
16 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	SFF, John Davison, Iain Mathieson, Ricky Greenhowe, Sandy Ritchie	NTM issued
27 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	SFF, John Davison, Iain Mathieson, Ricky Greenhowe, Sandy Ritchie	NTM issued
12 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	SFF, John Davison, Iain Mathieson, Ricky Greenhowe, Sandy Ritchie	NTM issued
20 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	SFF, John Davison, Iain Mathieson, Ricky	NTM issued

	Greenhowe, Sandy Ritchie	
25 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	SFF, John Davison, Iain Mathieson, Ricky Greenhowe, Sandy Ritchie	NTM issued
28 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	SFF, John Davison, Iain Mathieson, Ricky Greenhowe, Sandy Ritchie	NTM issued
7 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	John Watt ( SFF)	Requesting details for fishermen's contacts
12 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	SFF, John Davison, Iain Mathieson, Ricky Greenhowe, Sandy Ritchie	NTM issued
21 <sup>st</sup> February 2017	Gordon Penny	Details of EOWDC. General fishing activity of his vessel (Boy Gordon) and his son's vessel (Johnny II). Gordon has new vessel ordered for Sept 2017 allowing him to undertake pots. Confirmed there weren't any other commercial vessels working in the area. Provided with all NTMS.
21 <sup>st</sup> February 2017	Ricky Greenhowe	Details of EOWDC. General fishing activity of his vessel (Skua). Confirmed that he doesn't work north of Aberdeen so not near site.

In addition, AOWFL issues NTMs directly to a range of statutory and interested stakeholders including:

- Dee and Don District Salmon Fishery Board;
- Mr Gary Fraser – Blackdog Salmon Fishings Limited ; and
- Aberdeen District Fishery Office.

## 5. Future Stakeholder Consultation

BMM intends to continue to communicate with commercial fisheries stakeholders via regular face to face meetings or phone calls as required as well as by providing updates about the EOWDC and continued issuing of NTM.



## 6. Fisheries Liaison and Potential Disruption Settlements

AOWFL and their appointed FLO are keen to work towards good practice in fisheries liaison and the application of mitigation measures to minimise levels of disruption or displacement.

In line with this it is proposed to follow the guidance as outlined in the following documents:

- FLOWW Best Practise Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations of Fisheries liaison; and
- FLOWW Best Practise Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries distribution settlements and community funds.
- Scottish Government: Good practice principles for community benefits from offshore renewable Energy developments.
- SeaFish: Best Practice Guidance for Fishing Industry Financial and Economic Impact Assessments.

The key principles in establishing any settlements will include:

- Transparency
- To be evidence based

AOWFL will adhere to standard procedures as outlined in the FLOWW (2014) best practice guidance, which states:

*“Commercial compensation should only be used as a last resort when there are significant residual impacts that cannot otherwise be mitigated. Compensation should only be paid on the basis of factually accurate and justifiable claims. There is therefore an obligation upon affected fishermen to provide evidence (such as three years’ worth of catch records and VMS data) to corroborate any such claims”.*

## 7. Appendix A-Fisheries Liaison Officer's Contact Details

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