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## THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

### Application for a Basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) licence for one of the following purposes

- Preserving public health or public safety
- Preventing the spread of disease
- Preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property, or to fisheries.
- Social, economic or environmental purpose

Important: Before completing this form, please read these notes carefully

**Please complete all relevant sections of the form.**

Please ensure that you answer questions fully in order to avoid delays.

The completed application should be sent to Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) at the address below or emailed to [MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot).

We will not process unsigned application forms.

Please ensure that you supply any necessary supporting information e.g. detailed method statements, risk assessments etc.

MD-LOT will aim to determine whether a licence should be issued within 6 to 8 weeks of acceptance of a completed application.

If you experience any problems filling in this form, please contact MD-LOT.

Please use this application form if you wish to undertake works/activities that would affect Basking sharks in the inshore marine area (0 – 12 nautical miles).

Do not use this form if your application relates to scientific, research, conservation or educational purposes. Please contact NatureScot, email [licensing@nature.scot](mailto:licensing@nature.scot), Telephone 01463 725364 or visit the [NatureScot website](#) for a licence application for these purposes.

Before a licence can be granted, it is essential that other relevant licences or consents have been secured for the proposed activity (eg Marine licence).

It is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain any other consents or authorisations that may be required.

**Part A**

**Section 1 Personal details**

Please provide details of the individual, company or partnership you wish to be named on the licence. The licensee is responsible for ensuring compliance with the licence and its conditions. Failure to carry out the work proposed in accordance with the terms of the licence may expose the licensee to criminal liability.

**Section 2 Previous applications**

Please provide details of any previous relevant licences.

**Part B**

**Section 3**

**Location**

Describe the location of the proposed works. Include a list of the latitude and longitude co-ordinates (WGS84) of the boundary points of the proposed project. WGS84 is the World Geodetic System 1984 and the reference co-ordinate system used for marine licence applications. Co-ordinates taken from GPS equipment should be set to WGS84. Coordinates taken from recent admiralty charts will be on a WGS84 compatible datum. Ordnance survey maps do not use WGS84. In a few cases, (e.g. laying of long pipelines) it may only be practicable to supply co-ordinates for the start and end points.

Example: For positions read from charts the format should be as in the example: 55°55.555'N 002°22.222'W (WGS84). The decimal point specifies that decimals of minutes are used and the datum is stated explicitly. If seconds are used then the format should be as in the example: 55°55'44"N 2°22'11"W (WGS84).

It is important that the correct positions, in the correct format, are included with this application, as any errors will result in the application being refused or delayed.

#### **Section 4 Consideration of designated sites**

Please provide details of any designated sites affected by your proposals. You are advised to consult Scottish Natural Heritage, or other appropriate regulator, if the work you propose to do affects a European site, an MPA or a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

#### **Section 5 Activities to be licensed**

Please indicate the activities you intend to undertake that would otherwise be unlawful. Provide details of the proposed commencement and completion dates of the activities. The licence start date will not be backdated, since to commence a project for which a licence has not been obtained may constitute an offence resulting in appropriate legal action.

It is the licensee's responsibility to apply for any further licences or an extension prior to the expiry of the initial licence.

#### **Section 6 Purpose of the licence application**

Please indicate the purpose of the licence application as described in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Part 1, Section 16 (3).

#### **Section 7 Satisfactory alternatives**

Please provide your consideration of why there is no satisfactory alternative. This must include the other options that have been evaluated, the alternative sites that were considered by you and why they were rejected (if no other sites were considered, you must provide the reasons why), or alternative methods of carrying out the work and alternative dates / timings. The 'do nothing' alternative must also be considered.

In relation to each alternative considered, please provide an explanation of why you consider it to be satisfactory or unsatisfactory. In respect of any alternative sites please provide the location(s) and details of the alternative site(s), or your views on how the activity/proposal might have been achieved differently, and any other helpful information; e.g., pros and cons of alternative sites, or whether there is likely to be demand for all suitable sites to be used to meet an identified need. Please explain how this conclusion was reached.

#### **Section 8 Summary of the planning / licensing position**

Detail all consents and licences required for the proposed project and indicate those that you have applied for or received.

#### **Section 9 Noise Monitoring**

Under the Marine Strategy Regulations (2010), there is now a requirement to monitor loud, low to mid frequency (10Hz to 10kHz) impulsive noise. This includes use of seismic airguns, other geophysical surveys (<10kHz), pile driving, explosives and certain acoustic deterrent devices. This monitoring requires completion of a form at the application stage (giving details of the proposed work) as well as completion of a 'close-out' form (giving details of the actual dates and locations where the activities occurred). The close-out form should be returned within 12 weeks of completing the 'noisy' activity or, in the case of prolonged activities such as piling for harbour construction or wind farms, at quarterly intervals or after each phase of foundation installation. These forms are available on the [Marine Noise Registry website](#).

## Section 10 Scotland's National Marine Plan

Scotland's National Marine Plan has been prepared in accordance with the EU Directive 2014/89/EU, which came into force in July 2014. The Directive introduces a framework for maritime spatial planning and aims to promote the sustainable development of marine areas and the sustainable use of marine resources. It also sets out a number of minimum requirements all of which have been addressed in this plan. In doing so, and in accordance with article 5(3) of the Directive, the Marine Directorate has considered a wide range of sectoral uses and activities and have determined how these different objectives are reflected and weighted in the marine plan. Land-sea interactions have also been taken into account as part of the marine planning process. Any applicant for a marine licence should consider their proposals with reference to Scotland's National Marine Plan. A copy of Scotland's National Marine Plan can be found on the [Scottish Government website](#).

Indicate whether you have considered the project with reference to Scotland's National Marine Plan and provide details of considerations made with reference to the policies, including but not limited to General Policy13 (GEN 13), that have been considered. If you have not considered the project with reference to Scotland's National Marine Plan please provide an explanation.

## Section 11 Privacy notice

This section briefly describes the Scottish Ministers' responsibilities in relation to Data Protection based on the requirements the data protection laws and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

### Part D

## Section 12 Declaration and warning

It is important to read the Declaration and Warning sections before signing the application form.

### Site visits and compliance checks

It is possible that the licensing authority may undertake a site visit prior to the issue of a licence. The majority of site visits will be arranged several days in advance and will be conducted in the presence of the licensee (or applicant) however there may be occasions when a site visit will be made at short notice.

Licensees should be aware that they may receive a request for a site visit by the licensing authority, or a person authorised by the licensing authority, to assess site conditions against the conditions of the licence. It is essential that if any of the agreed mitigation measures contained in the method statement are changed for any reason, the licensing authority is informed as soon as possible.

The Licensing authority will monitor compliance with licences issued based on the information included in licence returns.

### Where to seek further information

Further information can be obtained from Licensing Operations Team at the address below.

Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team  
Scottish Government  
375 Victoria Road  
Aberdeen  
AB11 9 DB

Tel: 0300 244 5046  
Email: [MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot)

While every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this document is accurate, nothing in this document should be taken to replace the current legislation in force at this time. You are advised to obtain qualified legal advice in relation to your rights and responsibilities under the 1981 Act and other legislation.

**Part A. The Applicant: Personal details**

These questions relate to the person who will be the named licensee. The licence can be issued to an individual or a company or a partnership and the licensee will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the licence and the conditions of the licence. Under the The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 failure to carry out the work which you propose in accordance with the terms of the licence may expose you to criminal liability.

1. Name of applicant

Title **[Redacted]**

Company Name: **Fugro GB Ltd**

Business Title (if Appropriate): **Project Manager**

Address: **Survey House  
Denmore Road  
Bridgeport [Redacted]  
Aberdeen  
AB23 8JW  
UK**

Tel no. (incl dialling code): **[Redacted]**

Email address: **[Redacted]@fugro.com**

**2. The Applicant: Previous applications:**

Have you previously held a wildlife licence issued in the UK? (please tick as appropriate)

Yes  No  (If yes, please complete below, if no, please go to Part B)

Who issued the licence? **Marine Scotland**

Licence number (most recent licence) **EPS/BS-00009411**

Year in which the licence was issued. **2021**

What species were covered by the licence? **Basking shark (Cetorhinus maximus)**

What activity was covered by the licence e.g. disturb, injure? **Disturbance of basking shark during survey operations between within the Inner Hebrides.**

**Part B. The Application**

**3 Species**

(a) How many individuals will be affected by licensed work? This must be the maximum number of animals that could be affected prior to any mitigation measures being applied.

The maximum number of basking sharks affected within a 5 km disturbance zone is 9 individuals.

(b) Please provide a description of how this number was calculated / estimated

The estimate was based on the equipment being used, considering a 5 km disturbance zone from the source, and the estimated density according to Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust Effort-Related sightings data from 2003-2011.

The maximum estimated density for basking sharks within the proposed survey area was multiplied by the disturbed area from the source (78.5 km<sup>2</sup>), which resulted in the number of individuals that would be affected by the proposed survey operations.

(c) **Location of proposed licensed action**

Latitude and Longitude co-ordinates (WGS84) defining the extent of the project. Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Latitude								Longitude							
		°		.			'N			°		.			'W
		°		.			'N			°		.			'W
		°		.			'N			°		.			'W
		°		.			'N			°		.			'W
		°		.			'N			°		.			'W
		°		.			'N			°		.			'W
		°		.			'N			°		.			'W
		°		.			'N			°		.			'W

- (d) Provide a brief description of the proposed activity and the methods to be used.  
Detailed information should be included in your supporting information  
Please provide details of the source levels and frequencies of underwater noise if relevant

Magnora Offshore Wind has contracted Fugro to undertake geophysical and benthic survey operations within the proposed Talisk offshore wind farm (OWF) and the proposed export cable corridor to shore (please refer to accompanying figures). The Talisk OWF is located approximately 25km north of Lewis. Survey operations will be undertaken from the 20 m contour line using a dedicated offshore survey vessel.

The surveys will use four types of noise emitting geophysical survey equipment. They are multi-beam echo sounder, sub-bottom profiler, side scan sonar, and ultra-short baseline positioning system. The benthic survey will also utilise the ultra-short baseline positioning system.

Further information on the survey equipment and the operating parameters are provided in the accompanying Risk Assessment (505791-R-001(01) Magnora Survey EPS Risk Assessment (Inshore)).

- (e) Briefly state how you will minimise the impact of your proposed work on Basking shark.  
Detailed information should be included in your supporting information.

The operations will be undertaken using the lowest practicable power levels throughout the survey and will only be operated when necessary.

Operations will be undertaken whilst adhering to the JNCC guidance for minimising the risk of injury to marine mammals from geophysical surveys. This includes the use of MMOs, PAM and soft start procedures where the equipment allows this method to be used.

The operations will also be undertaken in compliance with the Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code.

Further information is provided in the accompanying risk assessment.

#### 4. Consideration of designated sites

Designated Areas: National Nature Reserves (NNR), Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar sites, Marine Protected Areas (MPA). Information on designated sites is available on [NatureScot's website](#).

- (a) Will any part of the proposed activity fall within /or adjacent to an area covered by a designated site eg SSSI, SAC, MPA?

Yes  No

- (b) Please give the name of the designated site(s) and either the outcome of your consultations or the reason why you have not consulted. Please enclose any relevant correspondence.

The proposed survey operations will fall within the following protected areas:

- North East Lewis MPA (57% overlap)
- Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC (2% overlap)

NatureScot have been consulted in respect of whether the proposed survey operations would be exempt from the requirement to obtain a marine licence. NatureScot advised that the proposed benthic survey is unlikely to have a significant effect on a MPA (including North East Lewis MPA), SAC (including Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC), or SPA. This communication has been included with the submitted marine licence exemption form submitted to MD LOT on 5 June 2025.

**5. Activities to be Licenced**

**Proposed Methods**

(a) Please complete all relevant columns in the table below to indicate the methods you propose to use, the activity involved and the time period in which you propose to use each method. This information will be used when preparing the licence to cover activities that would otherwise be unlawful, and failure to give full details may result in an inappropriate licence being issued.

Disturb	Kill	Take / trap	Damage or destroy place of shelter / protection	Method	From	To
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Geophysical and benthic survey	01/07/2025	30/11/2025
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

**6. Purposes of the licence application (tick one box only)**

Please indicate which purpose relates to the proposed works. The options shown are taken from The Wildlife and Contryside Act 1981.

(a) Preserving public health or public safety (we will require evidence that there is a risk to public health or public safety e.g. an imminent risk of flooding) (Section 16 (3) (f))

Complete Annex A

(b) Preventing the spread of disease (Section 16 (3) (g))

Complete Annex B

(c) Preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property, or to fisheries.(Section 16 (3) (h))

Complete Annex C

(d) Social, economic or environmental purpose (Section 16 (3) (i))

Complete Annex D

## 7. Satisfactory alternatives

Please explain why there is no satisfactory alternative to carrying out the proposed work affecting the species. You must describe all possible alternatives which were considered and why they were considered unsuitable. You must also consider the option of not undertaking the work. It is not acceptable to state that 'there is no alternative'.

Geophysical survey represents the least intrusive survey method for collecting geological data integral to a project.

To understand what other alternatives are available, it is important to understand the purpose of the survey, the data requirements, and the alternative methods of collecting this information or the implications of not having the data at all.

The survey operations will help inform the development of an optimal engineering design for the Talisk Offshore Wind Farm and the project's Environmental Impact Assessment report. The proposed survey operations will also provide key data to aid in selecting future survey sampling locations. To properly inform the wind farm's engineering design, a wide variety of information is required including data on seabed features and habitats, sediments, obstructions, and other hazards.

A key aspect of the survey operations will be to characterise the seabed. This means understanding depths (at high resolution), its geological composition at the surface and what lies beneath (within the top metres) that could affect the installation of wind turbines, inter-array cables and export cable. The acoustic survey equipment is listed below with an explanation of the types of information they gather. They are multi-beam echo-sounder (MBES), side scan sonar (SSS), sub-bottom profilers (SBP), and ultra-short baseline positioning system (USBL). Each piece of equipment has a unique job that compliments the others to build a complete picture of the seabed conditions.

Multi-beam echo-sounders (MBES) are used to obtain detailed maps of the sea-floor which show water depths. They measure water depth by recording the two-way travel time of a high frequency pulse emitted by a transducer. The beams produce a fanned arc composed of individual beams (also known as a swath). Multi-beam echo-sounders can, typically, carry out 200 or more simultaneous measurements.

Side scan sonar (SSS) is used to generate an accurate image of the seabed. An acoustic beam is used to obtain the sonic image of a relatively narrow area of seabed to either side of the instrument by measuring the amplitude of back-scattered return signals. However, the swath from the sonar is still much wider than could be achieved using light and drop down video. The frequencies used by side-scan sonar are generally high and outside of the main hearing range of all marine species (JNCC, 2010). The higher frequency systems provide higher resolution, but shorter-range measurements. Together the multi-beam and side scan provide the detailed bathymetry and texture of the seabed.

Sub-bottom profilers (SBP) / shallow seismic systems are used to identify and characterize layers of sediment or rock under the sea-floor. A transducer emits a sound pulse vertically downwards towards the sea floor, and a receiver records the return of the pulse once it has been reflected off the sea-floor.

Ultra-short baseline positioning system (USBL) is used to determine the position of subsea survey items by emitting acoustic signals between a hull-mounted transducer and a subsea transponder. The system calculates range and bearing based on the time delay between transmission and reception of acoustic pulses. USBL systems can operate continuously or intermittently, depending on survey requirements, and do not interact with the seabed.

An alternative to collecting sub-bottom profiling data could be to rely on borehole sampling and cone penetration testing. However, this data would never be continuous and would leave significant gaps between sampling locations. To employ these methods at an sufficient scale to approach the confidence levels required would have significant environmental impacts due to their interaction with the seabed. Use of the sub-bottom profiler allows the surveys to be more efficient in data collection while being less intrusive than the alternative.

An alternative to collection of side scan sonar could be grab sampling. Again, this is an intrusive sampling method, for which the effort needed to provide sufficient coverage would have significant impacts of its own. Side scan allows a large a swath of continuous data to be collected efficiently and minimise the requirement for interaction with the seabed.

In conclusion there is no suitable alternative method of collecting 100% coverage geodata over the proposed cable routes without using geophysical noise emitting equipment.

Without this information it is considered extremely unlikely that wind turbine foundations could be safely installed or appropriate cable routes selected. An offshore wind farm for which there is no reliable information for seabed conditions, no recent information on obstructions or hazards, and no habitat mapping would not be given consent because the environmental impacts could not be assessed. From an operational perspective, installing wind turbines and laying cables where seabed and geological conditions are unknown poses a huge risk to safety as equipment can easily be damaged when used in the wrong environment. The project would not be viable without collecting this geophysical data.

## 8. Other licences / consents

Please detail below all licences / consents you have applied for or received. Before a licence can be granted, it is essential that other relevant licences or consents have been secured for the proposed activity (eg marine licence).

Type of licence / consent (e.g. marine licence, local planing authority, local works licence)	Date applied for	Reference no.	Date of issue of consent
Crown Estate Scotland General Marine Works	5 June 2025	EI/0075	To be determined
Licence to disturb or injure marine European Protected Species - for inshore areas (within 12 nm)	6 June 2025	To be confirmed	To be determined
Licence to disturb or injure marine European Protected Species - for offshore areas (beyond 12 nm)	6 June 2025	To be confirmed	To be determined
Marine Licence Exemption Notification	5 June 2025	N/A	To be determined

## 9. Noise Monitoring

Please indicate if any of the following noise generating activities will be taking place during the operations:

Use of explosives  Piling  Use of acoustic deterrent devices   
Survey equipment operating in the range 10 Hz – 10kHz

If you have ticked any of the above boxes please complete a proposed activity form on the [Marine Noise Registry website](#).

Please note the form must only be completed once for each activity. If you have already completed a form for this activity (eg through the marine licensing process) please give details.

An entry has been created and submitted in the JNCC Noise Registry (Activity Application Number 3927).

Licence applications will not be accepted until this form has been completed and submitted.

## 10. Scotland's National Marine Plan

Provide details of considerations made with reference to the relevant policies that have been considered.

GEN2 Economic Benefit - the planned survey operations will help to de-risk development of the proposed Talisk offshore windfarm which has the potential to offer economic benefit at a local and national scale.

GEN5 Climate Change - the planned survey operations will help to de-risk development of the proposed Talisk offshore windfarm which will help Scotland meet its renewable energy targets to mitigate the effects of climate change.

GEN9 Natural Heritage - the applications for licences and consents for the planned survey operations have considered the potential impacts on protected sites and species.

GEN13 Noise - the applications for licences and consents for the planned survey operations have considered the potential impacts from the underwater noise generated by the survey equipment and their effects on protected species.

GEN19 Sound Evidence - the risk assessments have made use of peer reviewed scientific papers and data gathered from sources which are continuously updated (such as NMPi) thus

## 11. Privacy notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) has a range of statutory responsibilities including determining applications for licences to disturb or injure marine European protected species (EPS) under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 and The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Basking shark licences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

MD-LOT will, where necessary, process personal information including: names, addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers to determine a licence application. Personal information will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record.

A full privacy notice can be found on the [Scottish Government website](#). If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MD-LOT at: Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB. Email: [MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot)

Have you remembered to enclose supporting information with your application, as described in the accompanying guidance? Please check

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Completed application form               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Completed annex                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Map / chart                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Correct co-ordinates                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Supporting information / risk assessment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

## Part C. Declarations

12. I have read and understand the guidance provided in this application form. I declare that the particulars given are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I apply for a licence in accordance with these particulars.

I authorise employees or representatives of the Scottish Ministers to enter the site which is subject to this application for the purpose of monitoring and inspecting the permitted works.

### Warning

Under the THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (as amended) failure to carry out the work which you propose in accordance with the terms of the licence may expose you to criminal liability. The licensee is responsible for ensuring compliance with the licence.

The Scottish Ministers can modify or revoke a licence at any time, provided there are good reasons. Any licence that may be issued is likely to be revoked immediately if it is discovered that false information was provided and resulted in the issue of a licence.

Under the **THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (as amended)**, any person who in order to obtain a licence knowingly or recklessly makes a statement or representation, or furnishes a document or information which is false in a material particular, shall be guilty of an offence and may be liable to criminal prosecution. Any person found guilty of such offences is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale (currently £5,000), or to both imprisonment and a fine.

**Note:** Previous convictions for wildlife offences will be taken into account and in some cases may mean that the Scottish Ministers do not consider it appropriate to grant a licence.

Signature of the  
Applicant

[Redacted]

Date

6 June 2025

(The person named at part 1)

Name in block letters

[Redacted]

Note – If signing on behalf of a company, please append your signature with “on behalf of company name”.

The completed application should be signed and sent to Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) at the address below or emailed to [MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot)

Please remember to include all supporting information.

Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team  
Scottish Government  
375 Victoria Road  
Aberdeen  
AB11 9DB

### Disclaimer

While every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this document is accurate, nothing in this document should be taken to replace the current legislation in force at this time. You are advised to obtain qualified legal advice in relation to your rights and responsibilities under the 1981 Act and other legislation.

**Annex A**

Only to be completed if you selected for preserving public health or public safety in question 6 of the application form

Please complete all questions

Give details of the risk to public health or safety

How has the risk been identified? Please give details of any expert advice received.

How will the proposed activity address the identified risk?

**Annex B**

Only to be completed if you selected for preventing the spread of disease in question 6 of the application form

Please complete all questions

What disease(s) is / are at risk of being spread if the proposed activity does not go ahead? Please give details of any expert advice received.

How will the proposed activity prevent the spread of disease? Please give details of any expert advice received.

**Annex C**

Only to be completed if you selected for preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property, or to fisheries in question 6 of the application form.

Please complete all questions

What serious damage has occurred or will occur if the proposed activity does not go ahead? Please give details of any expert advice received.

How will the proposed activity prevent serious damage? Please give details of any expert advice received.

**Annex D**

Only to be completed if you selected for a social, economic or environmental purpose in question 6 of the application form

Please complete all questions

What benefits will be provided by the proposed activity? Give details and indicate if they are social, economic or environmental. Please indicate if the benefits are short or long term.

The proposed survey operations are part of the development phase of the Talisk Offshore Wind Farm (OWF), in the Outer Hebrides. Data collected from the surveys will inform the engineering design of the OWF, including the optimal placement of wind turbines, inter-array cables and export route cable and help to de-risk the project. The proposed surveys will allow the project to progress and contribute to the effort to meet the UK Government's Net Zero Targets by 2050, Scottish Government targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions as well as meeting Scotland's National Marine Plan objectives and promoting many of the aims and objectives presented within National Planning Framework 4. The progression of the Talisk OWF development will provide long term social and economic benefits to Scotland and the UK.

What public interest will be served? Who will benefit from the proposed activity? Does the proposed activity address a need?

The UK is determined in shifting away from fossil fuels and transition towards renewable energy sources, setting to reach net zero targets by 2050. The Scottish Government has committed to achieving net zero by 2045. Offshore wind farms, like the Talisk OWF, represent a clean energy source capable of delivering a stable supply of electricity, thus improving energy security across Scotland and the wider UK. The proposed survey operation will inform the engineering design of the OWF which, once installed will contribute significantly towards meeting national targets.

Why is it imperative the proposed activity goes ahead?

If the proposed survey operations do not proceed, engineering design for the optimal location of the installation of wind turbines, inter-array cables and export cable route can not be progressed and the Talisk OWF will not be developed.

Does the proposed activity support any local regional or national policies? Please give details. Are you fulfilling a statutory role?

Developing the Talisk OWF will help to meet targets set out by UK policies (e.g. Net Zero Strategy), Scottish Government legislative commitments (e.g. Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (as amended)) which includes commitments to reduce greenhouse gases whilst transitioning to renewable energy sources.