

**THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981****LICENCE TO DISTURB BASKING SHARKS (*Cetorhinus maximus*)****Licence Number: EPS/BS-00010608**

This licence is granted under Part I, section 16(3)(i) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 by the Scottish Ministers who, after consultation with and having been advised as to the circumstances in which they should grant such licences by NatureScot, are satisfied that the activities authorised by this licence and that there is no other satisfactory solution; and unless revoked by the Scottish Ministers is valid from **22 February, 2024** to **31 December, 2027** and authorises:

&lt;Redacted&gt;

**Beatrice Offshore Windfarm Ltd**  
**Inveralmond House**  
**Perth**  
**PH1 3AQ**

Or any person authorised in writing by him / her to disturb (intentionally or recklessly) basking sharks (*Cetorhinus maximus*), located at Beatrice Offshore Windfarm Survey Area, but only subject to the under-noted conditions.

**PURPOSE AND CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH ACTION IS REQUIRED**

This licence is granted for the purpose of permitting the disturbance of basking sharks (*Cetorhinus maximus*) at Beatrice Offshore Windfarm Survey Area, for Social, economic or environmental purpose in connection with Geophysical and benthic surveys and routine inspections of the Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm at the following location(s):

Beatrice Offshore Windfarm Survey Area

58° 10.551' N 02° 56.021' W  
58° 10.551' N 02° 56.733' W  
58° 11.005' N 02° 57.663' W  
58° 12.394' N 03° 00.775' W  
58° 16.967' N 02° 55.827' W  
58° 20.141' N 02° 50.770' W  
58° 17.837' N 02° 45.553' W  
58° 15.752' N 02° 47.816' W

This licence is granted for permitting disturbance of the above named species as a result of the following activities:

Disturbing basking sharks via geophysical and benthic surveys and routine inspections using uncrewed survey vessels ("USVs").

During the period this licence is valid section 9(4A) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 does not apply to the undertaking of the aforementioned licensed activities by either the Licensee or any person authorised in writing by him / her, which involves or results in the intentional or reckless disturbance of basking sharks (*Cetorhinus maximus*),

at Beatrice Offshore Windfarm Survey Area, provided that such activities are done under and in accordance with the terms of this licence.

## STATEMENT OF REASONS

A record of how a decision on the granting of this licence was reached can be found within the Case Handling Report at Annex One.

## LICENCE CONDITIONS

1. The Licensee must ensure that all licensed activities are carried out in strict accordance with the mitigation and working methods proposed in the application for this licence, together with supporting information and all licensed activities must be carried out within the timescale(s) given within the application and any subsequent written correspondence between Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team ("MD-LOT") and the applicant, but subject to the following modifications or amendments made within this licence.
2. The Licensee must ensure that all licensed activities are carried out in strict accordance with the Risk Assessment dated 26 October 2023 (Ref A-100631-S07-A-REPT-001) submitted to MD-LOT on 15 November 2023.
3. In the event of the Licensee becoming aware that any of the information on which the issue of this licence was based has changed, the Licensing Authority must be notified as soon as reasonably practicable.
4. The Licensee must ensure that the Joint Nature Conservation Committee ("JNCC") 2017 Guidelines for minimizing the risk of injury and disturbance to marine mammals from seismic surveys is followed at all times in connection with the undertaking of such surveys as far as it is practical to do so. These are available from the JNCC website <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/e2a46de5-43d4-43f0-b296-c62134397ce4>.
5. The Licensee must ensure that, if any aspects of the proposed activities differ from the detail submitted in the Noise Registry - Initial Registration Form, a new Initial Registration Form must be completed and submitted to the Scottish Ministers and the JNCC no later than one week prior to commencement of the licensed activities.
6. The Licensee must ensure that where survey equipment has the capability to undergo a soft start procedure, this is implemented on every occasion survey equipment is switched on.
7. Except where it is not relevant to the provisions of this licence, the Licensee must ensure that the Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code is adhered to at all times.
8. The Licensee must ensure that copies of the licence are available for inspection by any person authorised by the Scottish Ministers at the office of the Licensee and at all sites where licensed activities are taking place.
9. Any person authorised by the Scottish Ministers must be permitted to inspect the operations relating to the licence at any reasonable time. The Licensee must allow appropriate assistance to facilitate inspection.
10. The Licensee must, no later than one month after the expiry date of this licence, submit to MD-LOT, a written report detailing all actions taken in accordance with the specified terms and conditions of the licence. This report must detail the procedures, visual observations and include the original Marine Mammal Recording Form(s). Any difficulties encountered, or recommendations should also be noted.
11. The Licensee must, no later than 12 weeks after completion of the noisy activity, complete a 'close-out' noise registry form. This is available from the JNCC website <https://mnr.jncc.gov.uk/>.

12. The licence holder must submit to the Licencing Authority a written Uncrewed Surface Vessels ("USV") mitigation protocol in the event that a Sub-bottom profiler ("SBP") be deployed from a remote vehicle or USV. Licenced activities cannot commence until the protocol has been approved, in writing, by the Licencing Authority. Licenced activities must be carried out in strict accordance with the approved USV protocol.

Authorised on behalf of Scottish Ministers  
By a member of staff of the Scottish Government

Signed: ..... <Redacted> .....

Marine Directorate - Licencing Operations Team  
375 Victoria Road  
Aberdeen  
AB11 9DB  
21 February, 2024