

## THE CONSERVATION (NATURAL HABITAT, &c.) REGULATIONS 1994 (AS AMENDED)

### LICENCE TO DISTURB MARINE SPECIES

**Licence Number: EPS/BS-00009242**

This licence is granted under regulation of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) 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 as regards the purpose for which the licence is granted, 44(e) namely, for (e) 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; and that (a) there is no other satisfactory alternative and (b) that the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range; and unless revoked by the Scottish Ministers is valid from **10 April, 2021 to 09 August, 2021** and authorises:

**Alan West**  
**Kincardine Offshore Windfarm Limited**  
**The Silver Fin Building**  
**455 Union Street**  
**Aberdeen**  
**AB11 6DB**

Or any person authorised in writing by him / her to disturb the European protected species of harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*); bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*); minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*); Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*); white sided dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus acutus*); short beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*); white-beaked dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*); long-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala melas*) at Kincardine Offshore Windfarm, as detailed in the application for a licence to disturb European Protected Species and supporting documents 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 harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*); bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*); minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*); Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*); white sided dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus acutus*); short beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*); white-beaked dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*); long-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala melas*) at Kincardine Offshore Windfarm, for (e) 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 in connection with at the following location.

56° 59.793' N 01° 52.224' W

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

Explosive charges and Acoustic Deterrent Device

## 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 to disturb European protected species, 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 Scotland 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 European Protected Species (EPS) Risk Assessment (KOWL-RA-0001-003).
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, if any aspects of the proposed activities differ from the detail submitted in the Noise Registry - Initial Registration Form, a new Initial Registration Form shall be completed and submitted to the Licensing Authority and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee ("JNCC") no later than one week prior to commencement of the licensed activities.
5. 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.
6. The Licensee must ensure that the Joint Nature Conservation Committee ("JNCC") 2017 Guidelines for minimising 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 [http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/jncc\\_guidelines\\_seismicsurvey\\_apr2017.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/jncc_guidelines_seismicsurvey_apr2017.pdf).
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 Marine Scotland, Planning and Policy, Licensing Operations Team, 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 licence holder 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 licensee must ensure that monitoring of the noise generated by the clearance activities is recorded in a manner suitable to provide for clear reports on underwater noise to be submitted to the Licensing Authority after the

completion of the clearance activities. Monitoring must be undertaken in line with the National Physical Laboratory guidance.

13. The licensee must ensure that, to secure contingency for monitoring data collection, multiple recorders are used for the collection of noise data produced from the clearance activities.

14. The licensee must ensure that a visual search of a 1.3km mitigation zone is undertaken by two dedicated Marine Mammal Observers ("MMO") for at least 1 hour prior to and up to the commencement of the clearance activities. The MMOs should have suitable elevation to undertake the search. The visual search must be undertaken in line with the JNCC guidelines for minimising the risk of injury to marine mammals from using explosives ("JNCC 2010 Guidance").

15. The licensee must ensure that the clearance activities do not commence until the MMOs are certain that no marine mammals have been detected within the 1.3km mitigation zone for at least 20 minutes.

16. The licensee must ensure that during periods of darkness, poor visibility, or when the sea state is not conducive to visual mitigation, an acoustic search of the 1.3km mitigation zone is undertaken for at least 1 hour prior to and up to the commencement of the clearance activities using Passive Acoustic Monitoring ("PAM") in line with the JNCC 2010 Guidance.

17. The licensee must ensure that an Acoustic Deterrent Device ("ADD") is used for a continuous period of 15 minutes up to the commencement of the clearance activities.

18. The licensee must ensure that the ADD emits sound at frequencies between 10-20kHz and has a source level of greater than 190dB re 1µPa (rms).

19. The licensee must provide the Licensing Authority with the MMO records, no later than 28 days following completion of the clearance activities.

20. The licensee must provide a report based on the noise monitoring to the Licensing Authority no later than 28 days following completion of the clearance activities. This report must clearly detail the underwater noise levels generated by the clearance activities. Licensed Activity.

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

Signed:

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**Stef Sweeting**

Marine Scotland  
Marine Planning and Policy  
Licensing Operations Team  
375 Victoria Road  
Aberdeen

AB11 9DB  
09 April, 2021