

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

LICENCE TO DISTURB MARINE SPECIES

Licence Number: EPS/BS-00009123

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 April, 2026** and authorises:

Emma Toogood
Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm Limited
4 Jackson's Entry
Holyrood Road
Edinburgh
EH8 8AE

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*); humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*); long-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala melas*) at Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm, 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*); humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*); long-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala melas*) at Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm, 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.

Export cable corridor:

57° 12.993' N 02° 03.535' W
57° 11.434' N 02° 02.914' W
57° 12.193' N 01° 59.977' W

57° 13.365' N 01° 59.047' W
57° 13.518' N 01° 59.388' W
57° 12.574' N 02° 00.503' W
57° 13.464' N 02° 00.875' W
57° 13.005' N 02° 03.455' W
57° 13.016' N 02° 03.535' W
57° 13.015' N 02° 03.548' W
57° 11.379' N 02° 04.335' W
57° 12.389' N 02° 02.410' W
57° 12.360' N 01° 58.680' W
57° 13.903' N 01° 58.395' W
57° 12.991' N 01° 59.291' W
57° 13.499' N 02° 00.647' W
57° 13.404' N 02° 00.864' W
57° 13.015' N 02° 03.528' W
57° 13.017' N 02° 03.548' W

Lease boundary:

57° 14.723' N 02° 00.911' W
57° 12.360' N 01° 58.680' W
57° 15.240' N 01° 56.865' W
57° 11.842' N 02° 02.721' W

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

Geophysical survey work including Subsea Positioning Ultra-Short Baseline ("USBL"), Multibeam Echo Sounder and Side-Scan Sonar

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 Operation & Maintenance Phase USBL EPS Risk Assessment (REPORT - 1197777 - 1- A) dated 23 May 2019.
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.

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. When carrying out pre-work searches the Licensee must ensure that a mitigation zone with a minimum radius of 500 metres is employed by the Marine Mammal Observer or a suitably-briefed member of the crew. The Licensee should ensure that the geophysical survey works only commence after the suitably-briefed member of the crew is satisfied that no animals have been observed within said mitigation zone for a minimum period of 30 minutes.

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