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## Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)

### Application for a licence to disturb or injure marine European protected species (EPS) for one of the following purposes

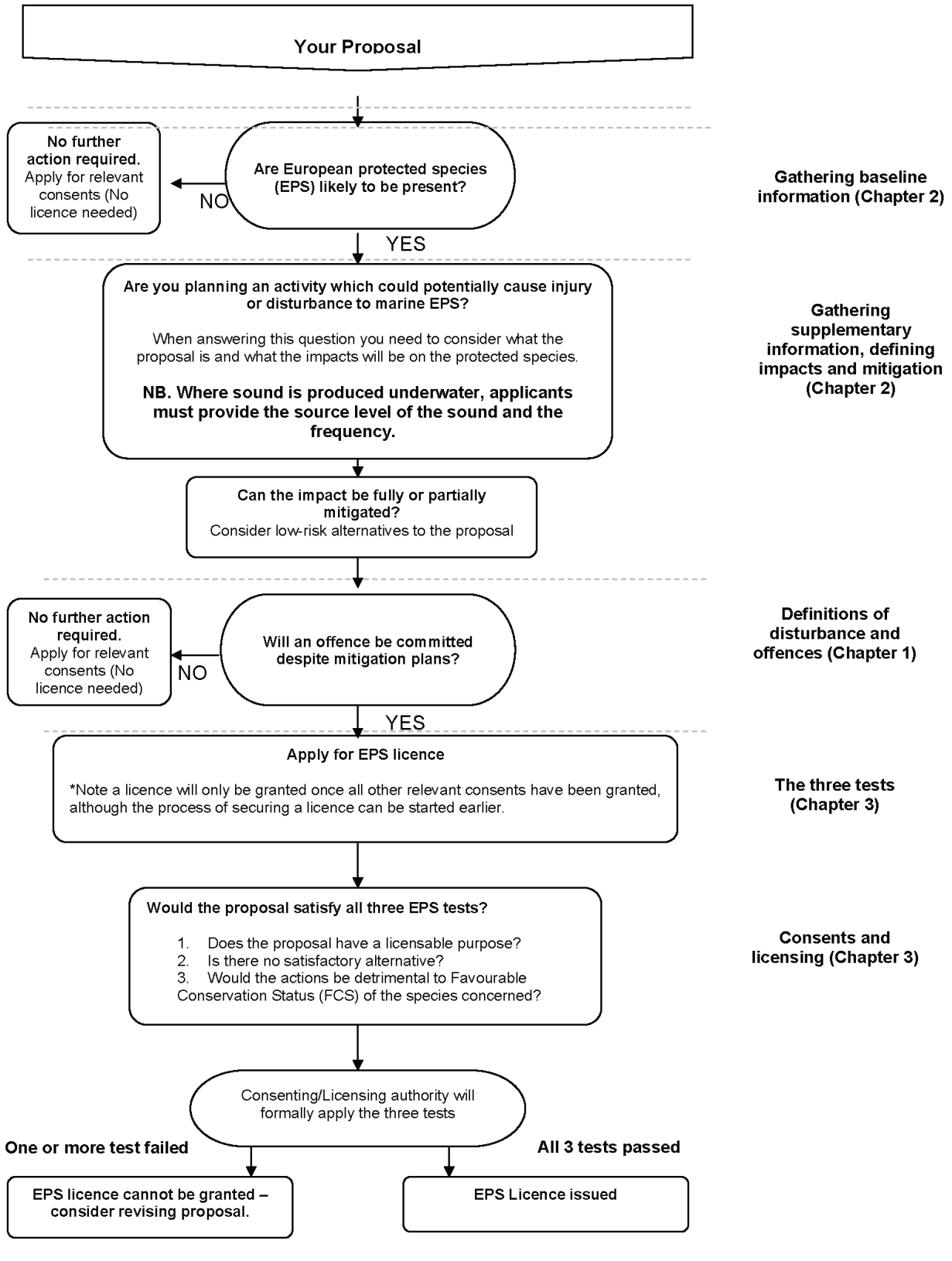
- For preserving public health or public safety
- For an imperative reason of overriding public interest (including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment)
- For preventing the spread of disease
- For preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property, or to fisheries.

Please use this application form if you wish to undertake works/activities that would affect European protected species in the Scottish inshore marine area (0 – 12nm).

**IMPORTANT:** Before completing this form, please read these notes carefully

Applicants are advised to read these notes in conjunction with [The Protection of Marine European Protected Species from injury and disturbance: Guidance for Scottish Inshore Waters](#). If further clarification is needed please contact Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) on 0300 244 5046 or email: [ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot](mailto:ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot)

**Flowchart showing the decision-making process**  
 Please refer to the relevant chapter of [The Protection of Marine European Protected Species from injury and disturbance:Guidance for Scottish Inshore Waters](#)



**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 Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) at the address below or emailed to [ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot](mailto:ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot).

**We will not process unsigned application forms.**

**Please ensure that you provide appropriate information to support your application.** Applicants can provide this supporting information in the form of an EPS Risk Assessment. Guidance can be found in [The Protection of Marine European Protected Species from injury and disturbance: Guidance for Scottish Inshore Waters](#). Please contact MS-LOT if you wish to discuss the level of supporting documentation required for your application. Failure to provide sufficient supporting information may delay the consultation and licensing process.

MS-LOT will aim to determine whether a licence should be issued **within 6 to 8 weeks of acceptance of a completed application**. However, please note that for large scale or complex projects, the determination period may be longer.

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

Please use this application form if you wish to undertake works/activities that would affect European protected species in the Scottish marine area (0 – 12nm).

Please note that European protected species are also protected in the offshore marine environment (between 12 and 200 nautical miles). Species in this area are protected under The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Do not use this form if your application relates to scientific, research, conservation or educational purposes. Please contact Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH Licensing, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, Telephone 01463 725000, email [licensing@snh.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@snh.gov.uk) or visit [their website](#)) for a licence application for these purposes. SNH also issues licences for the purposes of marking animals or plants in relation to conservation or introducing them to particular areas for conserving natural habitats, and for protecting zoological or botanical collections.

**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. Under the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 (as amended) it is an offence to fail to comply with the terms and conditions of a licence.

**Section 2 Previous applications**

Please provide details of any previous relevant licences.

**Part B**  
**Section 3**

**Species**

Please provide details of the species that will be affected by the work, the number likely to be affected and a description of how this number was determined. This information can be described in detail in your supporting information. You will need to provide detailed proposals (to be included in the 'Supporting information') of all the mitigation work that you plan to carry out which will affect European protected species.

**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 cables or 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 Natura 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, the first of the legal tests.

**Please complete the relevant Annex to provide justification for the licensing purpose.** This is the [legal basis of the application](#).

**Section 7 Satisfactory alternatives**

Please provide your consideration of why there is no satisfactory alternative. This must include all 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), as well as all alternative methods of carrying out the work and alternatives dates / timings.

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 at: <https://mnr.jncc.gov.uk/>

## **Section 10 Privacy notice**

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

### **Part D**

## **Section 11 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 application and supporting information 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 reports.

### Where to seek further information

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

If your proposal relates to one of the purposes for which SNH is the licensing authority, please contact your local office of SNH.

Licensing Operations Team  
Marine Scotland  
375 Victoria Road  
Aberdeen  
AB11 9DB

Tel: 0300 244 5046  
Email: [MS.marinelicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MS.marinelicensing@gov.scot)

## 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 1994 Regulations 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 Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 (as amended) it is an offence to fail to comply with any condition imposed by a licence.

1. Name of applicant

Title:  Forename(s):  Surname:

Company Name:

Business Title (if Appropriate):

Address:

Tel no. (inc. dialling code):

Email address:

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?

Licence number (most recent licence)

Year in which the licence was issued.

What species were covered by the licence?

What activity was covered by the licence e.g. disturb, injure?

**Part B. The Application**

**3. Species**

(a) Please indicate which species is / are affected by the proposed works.

Common name(s):

Killer whale Minke whale Long finned pilot whale Harbour porpoise Common dolphin Bottlenose dolphin White beaked dolphin Atlantic white-sided dolphin Risso's dolphin
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Scientific name(s)

Orcinus orca Balaenoptera acutorostrata Globicephala melas Phocoena phocoena Delphinus delphis Tursiops truncatus Lagenorhynchus albirostris Lagenorhynchus acutus Grampus griseus
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(b) How many individual animals will be affected by licensed work?

Harbour porpoise - 2 individuals Minke whale - 1 < individuals White-beaked dolphin - 1 < individuals Atlantic white-sided dolphin - 1 < individuals Common dolphin - 3 individuals Bottlenose dolphin 1 < individuals Risso's dolphin 1 < individuals Long finned pilot whale 1 < individuals
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Please provide a description of how this number was calculated / estimated

The estimate was based upon the equipment being used and the range of behavioral response and the species distribution from the respective SCANS III Block(s) data.
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(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**

Fugro proposes to undertake geophysical and geotechnical survey operations to inform installation options for 16 cable segments at a number of locations across Scotland. Four cables are proposed for the Inner Hebrides, four for the Shetland Isles and 8 for the Orkney isles (please refer to accompanying figures / maps).

The survey will use three types of noise emitting geophysical survey equipment. They are side scan sonar, multi-beam echosounder and sub-bottom profilers. Geotechnical surveys will also be undertaken in the form of PCPT and vibrocoring operations.

Further information on the survey equipment and the operating parameters are provided in Table 1.2 of the accompanying Risk Assessment.

- (e) Briefly state how you will minimise the impact of your proposed work on European protected species.  
Detailed information should be included in your Supporting Information.

The operations will be undertaken using the lowest practicable power levels throughout the survey.

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 function.

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 Scottish Natural Heritage website (<http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/>) or from your local SNH office.

- (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 (see note 4). Please enclose any relevant correspondence.

East Sanday Coast SPA  
Calf of Eday SPA  
Fair Isle SAC  
Fair Isle SPA  
Faray and Holm of Fara SAC  
Rousay SPA  
Sanday SAC

SNH have been consulted on the proposed operations in respect of whether the proposed survey operations would be exempt from the requirement to obtain a marine licence. SNH advised...

**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.

Activity to be licensed (please tick)					Method to be used, (e.g. piling)	Time period	
Capture	Kill (exceptional circumstances only)	Injure	Transport	Disturb/ Harass		From	To
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Geophysical survey operations	05/05/2021	30/09/2021
<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"/>	<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)**

A licence can only be issued if 3 specific legal tests are met. The section below relates to the first of these tests. The options shown are taken from the **Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)**.

Please indicate which purpose relates to the proposed works

(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) Regulation 44(2)(e)

**Complete Annex A**

(b) Imperative reasons of overriding public interest (*including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment*) Regulation 44(2)(e)

**Complete Annex B**

(c) Preventing the spread of disease Regulation 44(2)(f)

**Complete Annex C**

(d) Preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property, or to fisheries Regulation 44(2)(g).

**Complete AnnexD**

## 7. Satisfactory alternatives

This relates to the second of the legal tests which must be satisfied. 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. Without using seismic equipment more grab and core samples would need to be collected than the number proposed in the current survey scope. Furthermore, this geological data and grab samples can be used to better understand potential environmental impacts for the laying of the telecoms cable.

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 route selection and cable protection for a number of submarine cables connecting mainland Scotland the Inner Hebrides, Orkney and Shetland. To properly assess route selection a wide variety of information is required including information on seabed habitats, other seabed sector uses such as cables, and the possibility of interaction with fishing gear. Information is also required to be gathered on archaeology and benthic habitats to inform route selection and the environmental assessment. To minimise potential impacts on fishing and navigation activities, as well as providing a more secure cable connection, the intention is to bury as much cable as practical and protect exposed lengths. Information gathered during the survey operations will allow Global Marine, and their client BT, to select an optimal cable routes.

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 cable burial methods. The acoustic survey equipment is listed below with an explanation of the types of information they gather. They are side scan sonar, multi-beam echo-sounder and sub-bottom profilers.

Side scan sonar (SSS) is used to generate an accurate image of the seabed. An acoustic beam is used to obtain 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.

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. 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.

Each piece of equipment has a unique job that compliments the others to build a complete picture of the seabed conditions. This data is then used in conjunction with geotechnical data collected from grab samples, boreholes and cone penetration tests to determine conditions with greater confidence.

An alternative to collecting sub-bottom profiling data could be to rely additional borehole samples and cone penetration tests to those currently proposed. However, this data would never be continuous and would leave significant gaps between sampling locations. To upscale the number of intrusive geotechnical testing locations 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 number of geotechnical testing location to be kept to a minimum and used only to ground truth the geophysical data sets.

An alternative to collection of side scan sonar could be grab sampling. Again, this is an intrusive sampling method, for which the upscaling 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 sea and therefore limited ground truthing grab samples can be taken. 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 a submarine cable could be laid or an appropriate route selected. A cable route for which there is no reliable information for seabed conditions, no cable burial assessment, no recent information on wrecks and no habitat mapping would not be given consent because the environmental impacts could not be assessed. From an operational perspective laying a cable where burial 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 Planning Authority, Local Works Licence)	Date Applied for	Reference no.	Date of issue of licence / consent
Basking Shark Licence (Marine Scotland)	08/03/2021		
Notice of Intention to Carry Out an Exempted Activity (Marine Scotland)	08/03/2021		
Marine Works General Notification Form (Crown Estate Scotland)	08/03/2021		

## 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 in the Marine Noise Registry at: <https://mnr.jncc.gov.uk/>.

**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 2430).

**EPS licence applications will not be accepted until this form has been completed and submitted.**

11. **Privacy notice**

The Scottish Government’s Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-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 (as amended) and The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Basking shark licences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

MS-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 at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB. Email: [ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot](mailto:ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot)

**Have you remembered to enclose Supporting Information with your application, as described in the accompanying guidance? Please check**

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Completed Application form</b>                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Completed Annex</b>                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Map / Chart</b>                                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Correct co-ordinates</b>                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Additional information / EPS risk assessment</b> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

## Part C. Declarations

11. 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 Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) it is an offence to fail to comply with the conditions imposed by a licence. 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 Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, 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 Signature]

Date 08/03/2021

(The person named at part 1)

Name in BLOCK  
LETTERS

ANDREW SUTHERLAND

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 Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) at the address below or emailed to [MS.Marinelicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MS.Marinelicensing@gov.scot)**

**Please remember to include all supporting information.**

Licensing Operations Team  
Marine Scotland  
EPS Division  
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 1994 Regulations and other legislation.

Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road,  
Aberdeen AB11 9DB  
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine>



**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 *Imperative reasons of overriding public interest (including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment)* 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 R100 superfast broadband programme being undertaken in Scotland. The information gathered from the surveys will inform the optimal installation route, inform appropriate cable protection and identify the most suitable cable type to be used. Greater connectivity is a key objective of Scotland's Marine Plan and better national and international connections would provide long term social and economic benefits to Scotland.

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

The majority of international submarine cables are now exclusively fibre optic and carry many thousands of simultaneous transmissions. There are almost 5,000 kms of active submarine cables in Scottish waters. Recently, a number of new cables have been laid to extend internet access to Orkney, Shetland, Faroes, Iceland and Greenland.

The proposed survey operations will be used to inform the installation and protection of submarine cables which, once installed will deliver high speed internet access to Scotland's rural and island communities helping to develop a "Digital Fibre Network" across the country.

Why is it imperative the proposed activity goes ahead?

If the survey does not proceed routes for the submarine cables cannot be selected and engineering solutions designed.

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

The proposal supports objectives set out in the Scottish Marine Plan covering submarine cables covering the development of a Digital Fibre Network and protecting submarine cables whilst also achieving coexistence with other users of the sea.



**Annex C**

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 D**

**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.