

## THE CONSERVATION (NATURAL HABITATS, &C.) REGULATIONS 1994

### LICENCE TO DISTURB MARINE SPECIES

**Licence Number: EPS/BS-00010172**

This licence is granted under regulation 44(e) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 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, namely, for 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 **01 April, 2023** to **31 March, 2024** and authorises:

**Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution Plc**  
**Inveralmond House,**  
**200 Dunkeld Road**  
**Perth**  
**Perthshire**  
**PH1 3AQ**

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*); *killer whale* (*Orcinus orca*); *white-beaked dolphin* (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*); *fin whale* (*Balaenoptera physalus*); *long-finned pilot whale* (*Globicephala melas*) at Moray Firth, Tay and Forth marine regions, 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*); *killer whale* (*Orcinus orca*); *white-beaked dolphin* (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*); *fin whale* (*Balaenoptera physalus*); *long-finned pilot whale* (*Globicephala melas*) at Moray Firth, Tay and Forth marine regions, for 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 Moray Firth and Forth and Tay Geophysical and Geotechnical Survey at the following location(s):

Moray Firth, Tay and Forth marine regions  
See Annex One for coordinates of route corridor of geophysical surveys

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

USBL and SBP Geophysical surveys

## LICENCE CONDITIONS

1. The Licensee must ensure that all works 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 works must be carried out within the timescale(s) given within the application and any subsequent written correspondence between the Scottish Ministers and the licensee, but subject to the following modifications or amendments made within this licence.
2. The Licensee must ensure that all activities are carried out in strict accordance with the EPS and Protected Sites and Species Risk Assessment – Forth and Tay and Moray Firth Regions (A-302244-S02-REPT-007) but subject to the following modifications or amendments made within this licence
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 activity.
5. The Licensee must ensure that the 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://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/e2a46de5-43d4-43f0-b296-c62134397ce4/jncc-guidelines-seismicsurvey-aug2017-web.pdf>
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.

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



Signed: .....  
Neil MacLeod

Marine Scotland  
Marine Planning and Policy  
Licensing Operations Team  
375 Victoria Road  
Aberdeen  
AB11 9DB  
28 March, 2023