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The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

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

- 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 property, or to fisheries.
- For scientific or educational purposes
- For the re-population of an area with, or the re-introduction into an area of, wild animals or wild plants (including any breeding or artificial propagation necessary for those purposes)
- Anything done in the interest of protecting wild flora or fauna or conserving natural habitats

Please use this application form if you wish to undertake works/activities that would affect European protected species in the offshore area (beyond 12 nautical miles). 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' (available from JNCC). If further clarification is needed please contact Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) on 0300 244 5046 or email: MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot

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 Directorate - Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) at the address below or emailed to MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot

If the activity relates to a renewable energy project, completed applications should be sent to Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) at the address below or emailed to MD.MarineRenewables@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' (available from JNCC). Please contact MD-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.

MD-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 MD-LOT.

Please use this application form if you wish to undertake works/activities that would affect European Protected Species in the Offshore Scottish marine area (12 – 200nm).

Please note that European protected species are also protected in the inshore marine environment (less than 12 nautical mile from the coasts). Species in this area are protected under the The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994.

Do not use this form if your application relates to reserved matters such as oil and gas, defence or maritime transport. Please contact the relevant authority for further information.

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. Failure to carry out the work which you propose in accordance with the terms of the licence is an offence under The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

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. The number of animals must be the maximum that could be affected prior to any mitigation measures being applied. 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 long 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 the appropriate nature conservation body, if the work you propose to do affects a European site or a MPA.

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), or alternative methods of carrying out the work. You must also consider the option of not undertaking the work – the 'do-nothing' alternative.

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 Other licences and consents

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 a requirement to monitor loud, low to mid frequency (10Hz to 10kHz) impulsive noise. Activities where this type of noise is produced include impact pile driving, geophysical surveys (seismic, sub bottom profiling and multibeam echosounders), explosives and some acoustic deterrent devices. Where noisy activity is being undertaken, you must complete a proposed activity form in the Marine Noise Registry, which collects estimated location and date range data on noisy activities. The Marine Noise Registry also collects the actual location and date data (after the activity has been completed). This data should be provided as a close-out report in the Marine Noise Registry following completion of the activity, please note that any licensee with a marine licence granted subject to conditions specific to the Marine Noise Registry will need to complete the appropriate data submission to fulfill the Marine Noise Registry. Indicate any noise generating activity and the sound frequency in hertz. The forms are available on the [Marine Noise Registry website](#).

Section 10 Scotland's National Marine Plan

Scotland's National Marine Plan has been prepared in accordance with the EU Directive 2014/89/EU, which came into force in July 2014. The Directive introduces a framework for maritime spatial planning and aims to promote the sustainable development of marine areas and the sustainable use of marine resources. It also sets out a number of minimum requirements all of which have been addressed in this plan. In doing so, and in accordance with article 5(3) of the Directive, Marine Directorate has considered a wide range of sectoral uses and activities and has determined how these different objectives are reflected and weighted in the marine plan. Land-sea interactions have also been taken into account as part of the marine planning process. Any applicant for a marine licence should consider their proposals with reference to Scotland's National Marine Plan. A copy of Scotland's National Marine Plan can be found on the [Scottish Government website](#).

Indicate whether you have considered the project with reference to Scotland's National Marine Plan and provide details of considerations made with reference to the policies, including but not limited to General Policies 9 and 13 (GEN 9 and GEN 13), that have been considered. If you have not considered the project with reference to Scotland's National Marine Plan please provide an explanation.

Section 11 Privacy notice

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

Part D

Section 12 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 method statement 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 returns.

Where to seek further information

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

Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team
Scottish Government
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

Tel: 0300 244 5046
Email: MD.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 2017 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 ensuring compliance with the licence and the conditions of the licence. Failure to carry out the work which you propose in accordance with the terms of the licence is an offence under The Conservation of Offshore marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

1. Name of applicant

[Redacted]

Title:

Company name:

Hywind Scotland Pilot Park Ltd

Business title (if appropriate):

Address:

Company Contact: Polly Haslam
1 Kingdom St, London W2 6BD

Tel no. (inc. dialling code):

[Redacted]

Email address:

[Redacted]

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?

Marine Directorate

Licence number (most recent licence)

Year in which the licence was issued.

2024

What species were covered by the licence?

Harbour porpoise
Bottlenose dolphin
White-beaked dolphin
Risso's dolphin
Atlantic white-sided dolphin
Minke whale

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

Disturb

Part B. The application

3. Species

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

Common name(s):	Harbour porpoise Bottlenose dolphin White-beaked dolphin Atlantic white-sided dolphin Minke whale
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Scientific name(s)	Phocoena phocoena Tursiops truncatus Lagenorhynchus albirostris Grampus griseus Lagenorhynchus acutus Balaenoptera acutorostrata
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(b) How many individual animals will be affected by licensed work? This number must be the maximum number that could be affected before any mitigation measures are applied.

Maximum number of animals at risk of PTS (auditory injury) for four vessels undertaking SBP surveys at the same time:
 - <2 harbour porpoise (0.0009% of NS MU);
 - <1 bottlenose dolphin (<0.001% of GNS MU; 0.002% CES MU, 0.003% CSP MU);
 - <1 white-beaked dolphin (<0.001% of CGNS MU);
 - <1 white-sided dolphin (<0.001% of CGNS MU);
 - <1 minke whale (<0.001% of CGNS MU)

Maximum number of animals predicted to be disturbed from USBL on four vessels:
 - 68 harbour porpoise (0.04% of NS MU)
 - 3 bottlenose dolphin (0.17% of GNS MU; 1.49% CES MU, 2.8% CSP MU)
 - 9 white-beaked dolphin (0.02% of CGNS MU)
 - 1 white-sided dolphin (0.009% of CGNS MU)
 - 5 minke whale (0.04% of CGNS MU)

Please see attached EPS Risk Assessment Report (Doc ID: PB2483-RHD-XX-XX-RP-X-0001).

Please provide a description of how this number was calculated / estimated

The estimated number of individuals (as provided above) for auditory injury were determined using known impact ranges from sub-bottom profilers, as a worst case, and the relevant densities for each species. The above number of individuals were also based on four survey vessels using SBP at any one time.

The estimated number of individuals (as provided above) for disturbance were gained using known impact ranges from USBL equipment, and the relevant densities for each species. The above number of individuals were also based on four survey vessels using USBL at any one time.

Please see attached EPS Risk Assessment Report (Doc ID: PB2483-RHD-XX-XX-RP-X-0001).

(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							
ee attache		°			.		'N				°			.	'W
Appendix 1		°			.		'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. This should make clear which activities require an EPS licence and also the activities you consider do not require a licence.

Detailed information should be included in your supporting information.

Please provide details of the source levels and frequencies of underwater noise if relevant.

The proposed marine component exchange works which require the use of Short-beam Echo Sounder (SBES), Side-Scan Sonar (SSS) and an Ultra-short baseline (USBL) are required to enable the continued operation of the Hywind Scotland Pilot Park. The surveys will take place within the Hywind Scotland Pilot Park array area and export cable corridor.

Up to four vessels using noisy equipment will be required on site at any one time. MCE works will be undertaken from February 2026 - 2027 however SBES, SSS and USBLs would only be required for a relatively short time frame within that overall programme i.e. during the turbine disconnection and cable/mooring line laydown activities which would occur intermittently. The longest aspect of the works is the 'full windfarm infrastructure survey' which is estimated to take up to 30 days. Please see attached EPS Risk Assessment Report (PB2483-RHD-XX-XX-RP-X-0001) for more details.

Specific details of the noisy equipment to be used is as follows:

MST Transponder: frequency range: 30 kHz; Sound Level: 190 - 203 dB re 1µPa @1m

SPT 319 transponder: frequency range: 30 kHz band; Sound Level: 188 - 192 dB re 1µPa @1m

cNODE transponder: frequency range: 21 - 31 kHz; Sound Level: 190 dB - 206 re 1µPa @1m

DP Transponder: frequency range: 21 - 34 kHz; Sound Level: 187 - 202 dB re 1µPa @1m

HPT 5000 Transceiver: frequency range: 20 - 34 kHz; Sound Level: 200 dB re 1µPa @1m

Compatt 6+ USBL: frequency range: 20 - 34 kHz; Sound Level: 187 - 202 dB re 1µPa @1m

Wideband Mini Responder: frequency range: 20 - 34 kHz; Sound Level: 187 - 199 dB re 1µPa @1m

SSS Edgetech 4205 (300kHz; 600kHz; 900kHz): frequency range: 300kHz = 210-250 kHz; 600kHz = 510-570 kHz; 900kHz = 810-890 kHz. Sound level: 300kHz = 220dB re 1 µPa @ 1m;

600kHz = 220 dB re 1 µPa @ 1m; 900kHz = 218 dB re 1 µPa @ 1m

Echosounder (JFE-680 (UT-50MD)): frequency range: 12 - 200 kHz; Sound Level: 185 - 230 dB re 1µPa @1m

- (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.

Summary of mitigations for noisy equipment (based on the JNCC 2017/ DRAFT 2025 guidance). While this guidance applies to high resolution equipment (SBP, MBES), the measures would also apply to USBL equipment. In this instance, however, the mitigation below would only be required for the operation of the echosounder given the low sound levels of the other equipment and that no significant population change is predicted for any of the noisy equipment:

- Pre-survey search of a 500m zone around the acoustic survey source.

o During hours of daylight and good visibility only

o This watch must be for at least 30 minutes

o To be undertaken by a non-dedicated MMO (fully trained and JNCC accredited, but can be a member of the vessel crew)

o Delay procedures in case of marine mammal sighting

- If any mammal is sighted within the 500m zone, during the 30 minute watch, then the acoustic source cannot be started until the individual/s have been outside of the 500m zone for at least 20 minutes, and the full 30 minute watch has been completed

In addition to the mitigation outlined above, the following measures will also be used for all vessels

- Adherence to the Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code during all operations and transits

Please see attached EPS Risk Assessment Report (PB2483-RHD-XX-XX-RP-X-0001).

4. Consideration of designated sites

Designated Areas: Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Marine Protected Areas (MPA). Information on designated sites is available on the [JNCC website](#).

- (a) Will any part of the proposed activity fall within /or adjacent to an area covered by a designated site eg 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.

There are two sites in the vicinity of the Hywind Scotland Pilot Park array area, it is adjacent to the Southern Trench Nature Conservation MPA for minke whale (no overlap); and at its closest point 125km away from the Moray Firth SAC for bottlenose dolphin (no overlap).

The assessments show there is no potential for significant effect on minke whale, with a population level effect of not greater than 0.04% (for disturbance from USBL). There is no potential for significant effect on the minke whale feature of the Southern Trench NCMPA.

Bottlenose dolphin from the Moray Firth SAC are unlikely to be affected from the MCE work, which is short term, intermittent and localised. Up to 1.5% of the CES MU (which represents the same population as the Moray Firth SAC) could be disturbed from four echo sounder vessels occurring at the same time. In addition, as above, this assessment assumes all bottlenose dolphin with the potential to be disturbed would be from the Moray Firth SAC (or CES MU) which is considered unlikely due to being generally found close to shore (up to 5 km) and in shallow water (<20 m). Therefore, there is no potential for significant disturbance, or adverse effect, on the bottlenose dolphins associated with the Moray Firth SAC.

Please see attached European Protected Species (EPS) Assessment Report (Doc ID: PB2483-RHD-XX-XX-RP-X-0001).

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)					Time period		
Capture / Possess / Keep	Kill (exceptional circumstances only)	Injure	Transport / Sell / Exchange	Disturb	Method to be used, (e.g. piling)	From	To
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	Echo sounder	April 2026	April 2027
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	USBL	April 2026	April 2027
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	SSS	April 2026	April 2027
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐			

6. Purpose 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 of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Please indicate which purpose relates to the proposed works

- (a) Interests of public health or public safety safety (we will require evidence that there is a risk to public health or public safety e.g. an imminent risk of flooding) Regulation 49(6)(a) Complete annex A ☐
- (b) 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 Regulation 49(6)(a) Complete annex B ☒
- (c) Preventing serious damage to fisheries Regulation 49(6)(b) Complete annex C ☐
- (d) Preventing serious damage to property. Regulation 49(6)(c) Complete annex C ☐
- (e) Protecting wild flora or fauna or conserving natural habitats Regulation 49(6)(d) Complete annex D ☐
- (f) Preventing the spread of disease Regulation 49(6)(e) Complete annex E ☐
- (g) For scientific or educational purposes 49(6)(f) Complete annex D ☐
- (h) Re-population of an area with, or the re-introduction into an area of, wild animals or wild plants (including any breeding or artificial propagation necessary for those purposes), Regulation 49(6)(g) Complete annex D ☐

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'.

Alternative options were considered prior to the inclusion of the noisy equipment with regards to the scope and extent of the works within the Hywind Scotland Pilot Park. The proposed works are required in order to obtain a clear understanding of the infrastructure and environment directly around it. The use of the noisy equipment is considered essential due to the need to accurately assess asset integrity and determine the accurate location of infrastructure prior to remedial works. The proposed methods outlined in this document are the only viable way to ensure the accurate planning of the works required.

There are no satisfactory alternatives to the use of the required noisy equipment during the works. These works are required to provide sufficient detail prior to undertaking the works. However, it is important to note:

- Works location, duration and extent: the smallest working area possible has been proposed, and will be undertaken as quickly and efficiently as possible. Reducing the size of the working area would affect the ability to undertake the removal and laydown works.
- Survey equipment and methodology: the use of the USBLs for ROV communications and the echo sounder are required to accurately determine the locations of infrastructure and its surrounding environment. Alternative options are available, however, they would not provide the remote sensing information required to enable proper and safe operation of ROVs and survey vessels required to undertake general survey requirements.

Thus, it is considered that the 'no satisfactory alternative test' has been met.

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)	Date applied for	Reference no.	Date of issue of licence / consent

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 on the [Marine Noise Registry website](#).

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.

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

10. Scotland's National Marine Plan

Provide details of considerations made with reference to the relevant policies that have been considered.

- The marine geophysical surveys will support Renewables Policy 7 under Scotland's National Marine Plan by ensuring that adequate monitoring of the infrastructure, confirming it is fit for purpose and capable of withstanding any environmental changes.
- Equinor is committed to research and development of innovative technology that streamlines the operation and maintenance of its OWF whilst minimising its impact on the environment thereby meeting the objectives of Renewable Policy 9. The marine geophysical surveys will assist in informing these decisions.
- The marine geophysical surveys are essential for mapping the Hywind Scotland Pilot Park infrastructure. This will aid in generating ongoing positive economic and social impacts during its operation, thereby fulfilling the requirements of General Policy 2 and 3.

11. Privacy notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team (MD-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 and The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Basking shark licences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

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 on the [Scottish Government website](#). 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: MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot

Have you remembered to enclose supporting information with your application, as described in the accompanying guidance? Please check

Completed application form	☒
Completed annex	☒
Map or chart	☒
Correct co-ordinates	☒
EPS risk assessment or supporting information	☒

Part C. Declarations

12. 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

The licensee is responsible for ensuring compliance with the licence. Failure to carry out the work which you propose in accordance with the terms of the licence is an offence under the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

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 of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, 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 a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or on conviction on indictment, to 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]

Date

17/04/2026

(The person named at part 1)

Name in block letters

[Redacted]

on behalf of Hywind Scotland Pilot Park Ltd)

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 Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) at the address below or emailed to MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot or MD.MarineRenewables@gov.scot

Please remember to include all supporting information.

Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team
Scottish Government
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 2017 Regulations and other legislation.

Annex A

Only to be completed if you selected 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.

There is an overarching European, UK and Scottish policy requirement for sustainable energy supply from renewables. This need is the subject of national planning and energy policy. While general survey activities will mean a disturbance to cetacean species, it will only be temporary in nature, be a risk to a small number of individuals and, with the mitigations that will be put in place, there is no potential for injury. The benefit of undertaking general survey activities and allowing for the continued production of renewable electricity provides a long-term benefit to Scotland and the renewables industry and helping Scotland to reach its overall target for greenhouse gas emissions.

Please see attached European Protected Species (EPS) risk assessment.

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

Hywind Scotland Pilot Park is the world's first floating offshore windfarm which demonstrates the suitability of floating wind technology, supporting the technology's increased roll out through ScotWind during the 2020's and 2030's. It provides a low-carbon supply of electricity and will make a continued contribution to tackling climate change and achieving Scotland's Net Zero ambitions. Moreover, through the continued operation and maintenance of the Hywind Scotland Pilot Park (and floating wind more generally) opportunities are provided for the the transfer of skills and knowledge from Scotland's oil and gas industry as it is phased out.

Why is it imperative the proposed activity goes ahead?

Should general survey works not proceed, Hywind Scotland Pilot Park would eventually cease to operate through mechanical breakdown.

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

Hywind Scotland Pilot Park performs a role in enabling Scotland and the UK to meet their national and international commitments to greenhouse gas reduction, the latter of which are under the form of UK policies.

Annex C

Only to be completed if you selected for Preventing serious damage to 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.

Annex D

Only to be completed if you selected;

for protecting wild flora or fauna or conserving natural habitats,
for scientific or educational purposes,
for re-population of an area with, or the re-introduction into an area of, wild animals or wild plants (including
any breeding or artificial propagation necessary for those purposes

in question 6 of the application form

Please explain how the proposed work falls under the purpose selected

Annex E

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.