

LICENSE/PERMIT**BASKING SHARK LICENCE APPLICATION**

Project	MachairWind Offshore Windfarm	Classification	Public
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Summary of Changes (latest revision only)

Final document for use

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THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

Application for a Basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) licence for one of the following purposes

- Preserving public health or public safety
- Preventing the spread of disease
- Preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property, or to fisheries.
- Social, economic or environmental purpose

Important: Before completing this form, please read these notes carefully

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.

We will not process unsigned application forms.

Please ensure that you supply any necessary supporting information e.g. detailed method statements, risk assessments etc.

MD-LOT will aim to determine whether a licence should be issued within 6 to 8 weeks of acceptance of a completed application.

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 Basking sharks in the inshore marine area (0 – 12 nautical miles).

Do not use this form if your application relates to scientific, research, conservation or educational purposes. Please contact NatureScot, email licensing@nature.scot, Telephone 01463 725364 or visit the [NatureScot website](http://www.naturescot.gov.scot) for a licence application for these purposes.

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 proposed in accordance with the terms of the licence may expose the licensee to criminal liability.

Section 2 Previous applications

Please provide details of any previous relevant licences.

Part B

Section 3

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 Scottish Natural Heritage, or other appropriate regulator, if the work you propose to do affects a European 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 as described in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Part 1, Section 16 (3).

Section 7 Satisfactory alternatives

Please provide your consideration of why there is no satisfactory alternative. This must include the 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 and alternative dates / timings. The 'do nothing' alternative must also be considered.

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 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, the Marine Directorate has considered a wide range of sectoral uses and activities and have 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 Policy13 (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 the 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 9 DB

Tel: 0300 244 5046
Email: MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot

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 1981 Act 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 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 failure to carry out the work which you propose in accordance with the terms of the licence may expose you to criminal liability.

1. Name of applicant [Redacted] [Redacted]

Title: Forename(s): Surname

Company Name:

Business Title (if Appropriate):

Address:

Tel no. (incl 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) How many individuals will be affected by licensed work? This must be the maximum number of animals that could be affected prior to any mitigation measures being applied.

Due to the low density of basking shark within the preliminary Offshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC) (of 0.0007 animals/km²), it is predicted up to two individuals (based on the the total Offshore ECC area 2,860 km²)) would be at risk of injury through collision with vessels. Any potential collision risk for basking sharks will be limited by the slow vessel speed during transits and the use of mitigation outlined in Section 4.

Due to the estimated hearing ability of the basking shark, and the known noise outputs of the benthic survey equipment, there is not expected to be any risk of injury as a result of underwater noise to basking shark.

Please see attached European Protected Species (EPS) and Basking Shark Risk Assessment Report (Doc ID: MCW-DWF-ENV-REP-RHS-000214).

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

As noted above, this was calculated based on the known density of basking shark within the preliminary Offshore ECC. The highest density across the benthic survey area, 0.009 animals/km² was calculated by National Marine Plan Interactive (2022) and and was used to calculate the worst-case density. However, up to two individuals (0.0007 animals/km²) were estimated using the most recent data by the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (2024).

Please see attached European Protected Species (EPS) and Basking Shark Risk Assessment Report (Doc ID: MCW-DWF-ENV-REP-RHS-000214).

(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

A benthic site investigation survey for the MachairWind Offshore Windfarm (OWF) preliminary Offshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC) is required to provide ground information to enable safe and robust design route of the ECC.

Up to two vessels will be deployed to undertake the site investigation survey - one nearshore and one inshore. The works are scheduled to be undertaken between 1st June - 31st October 2026 and will comprise of:

1. Benthic fauna, particle size analysis (PSA) and contaminant samples: A mini-Hamon, Dual van veen grab (or similar) at up to 175 locations.
2. Drop down video.
3. eDNA - Water samples will be collected from the near surface water and the near seafloor water using a 5L Niskin bottle.

The source levels and associated frequency for the equipment used during the benthic site investigation survey are:
- USBL (e.g. Kongsberg HiPAP 501/502): RMS of 194 dB re 1µPa; frequency range of 18 – 34 kHz

This equipment is outside of the estimated hearing range of basking shark.

Please see attached European Protected Species (EPS) and Basking Shark Risk Assessment Report (Doc ID: MCW-DWF-ENV-REP-RHS-000214)

- (e) Briefly state how you will minimise the impact of your proposed work on Basking shark.
Detailed information should be included in your supporting information.

While it is not expected that basking shark are at risk of impact from the benthic site investigation survey, the following mitigation measures have been based on the JNCC (2017) 'Guidelines for Minimising the Risk of Injury to Marine Mammals from Geophysical Surveys' as a precautionary approach and would apply for using a USBL during the benthic survey:

- As the benthic survey will use low energy sources (USBL), a non-dedicated Marine Mammal Observer (MMO) can be used. A non-dedicated MMO refers to a trained MMO who may undertake other roles on the vessel when not conducting their mitigation role. This person can be a member of the vessel's crew provided that during the mitigation period, they do not undertake any other roles on the vessel.
- Note that the pre-survey watch can only be undertaken in periods of daylight and good visibility.
- Prior to any acoustic survey commencement, a 30 minute pre-survey search of a 500 m mitigation zone (MZ) around the moving acoustic source is required. If a marine mammal or basking shark is sighted (or detected) within the mitigation zone during the pre-survey search, the survey cannot commence until:
 - 1) The 30-minute pre-survey search is complete; and
 - 2) The MZ has been clear of marine mammals and basking sharks for a period of 20 minutes prior to start of survey.

Once the pre-survey search of 30 minutes has been completed and there have been no marine mammal or basking shark sightings for at least 20 minutes, the USBL can be activated. Once the USBL has been activated, there is no requirement to stop or delay the survey due to marine mammal or basking shark presence within the 500 m MZ.

Due to the type of survey being undertaken, the USBL may have to remain active between stations. Where possible, during station changes the duration between USBL pulses should be increased to reduce acoustic output. Excessive use of the USBL should also be avoided, if the positioning capability is not actively required for more than two hours the USBL should be switched off, and a full pre-survey should be conducted before re-activation.

Whilst not considered specifically in this assessment due to their low likelihood of occurrence, any assessment of, or mitigation measures put in place for the species assessed, are considered to be appropriate/relevant for other less commonly occurring species of cetacean that may be present in the survey area. These mitigation measures for cetacean EPS (JNCC, 2017) are also deemed to be appropriate for seals, turtles and basking sharks, and would reduce the potential for impact to all species.

In addition to the mitigation outlined in JNCC (2017), the Project has committed to the following:

- Producing and presentation of a toolbox talk to inform the crew on the presence and identification of basking sharks and ways to minimise collision risk.
- Adherence to both the Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code and the Shark Trust's Basking Shark Code of Conduct during all operations and transits, where safe to do so, including, but not limited to:
 - o The Master of both vessels ensuring that marine mammals and basking shark are avoided to a safe distance (100 m or more) in all possible circumstances (or 500 m in the case of large aggregations of basking shark);
 - o Reducing speeds from both vessels to less than six knots when basking shark are sighted in the vicinity of the vessels (wherever possible taking into account vessel safety); and
 - o The Master of both vessels minimising high powered manoeuvres where this does not impair safety.

Please see attached European Protected Species (EPS) and Basking Shark Risk Assessment Report (Doc ID: MCW-DWF-ENV-REP-RHS-000214).

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 [NatureScot's website](#).

- (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. Please enclose any relevant correspondence.

There are a number of protected sites within the vicinity of the benthic site investigation survey, including the Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC (8.5km from the Offshore ECC), South-East Islay Skerries SAC (14km from the Offshore ECC), and the Sea of the Hebrides NMPA (13km from the Offshore ECC).

Due to the close proximity of these designated sites to the Offshore ECC, MachairWind Ltd recognises that there is potential for interaction with qualifying and interest features associated with these sites. However, as there is no potential for injury or significant disturbance to EPS in the vicinity of the survey operations, the conservation status of the protected sites relevant to EPS will not be compromised.

Please see attached European Protected Species (EPS) and Basking Shark Risk Assessment Report (Doc ID: MCW-DWF-ENV-REP-RHS-000214).

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.

Disturb	Kill	Take / trap	Damage or destroy place of shelter / protection	Method	From	To
☒	☐	☐	☐	Benthic site investigation survey (& vessel collision risk)	01/06/2026	31/10/2026
☐	☐	☐	☐			
☐	☐	☐	☐			
☐	☐	☐	☐			

6. Purposes of the licence application (tick one box only)

Please indicate which purpose relates to the proposed works. The options shown are taken from The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

(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) (Section 16 (3) (f)) ☐

Complete Annex A

(b) Preventing the spread of disease (Section 16 (3) (g)) ☐

Complete Annex B

(c) Preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property, or to fisheries.(Section 16 (3) (h)) ☐

Complete Annex C

(d) Social, economic or environmental purpose (Section 16 (3) (i)) ☒

Complete Annex D

7. Satisfactory alternatives

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 a benthic survey with regards to the scope and extent of the survey within the Offshore ECC. A benthic survey is required to map the seabed and the characteristics of the Offshore ECC. Sampling stations will be sited to enable sufficient coverage of seabed habitats and biotopes and a representative spread of depth throughout the preliminary Offshore ECC. This benthic survey is considered essential due to the need to accurately assess the Offshore ECC for further development. The proposed benthic survey and use of the USBL outlined in this RA is the only viable way to ensure the accurate planning and assessment of the Project.

There are no satisfactory alternatives to the use of the USBL required during the benthic survey. Although there might be different types of positioning equipment that could be used, this is often constrained by the specific purpose of the survey, and the alternative equipment may not be effective. A benthic survey is required to detail the seabed and the characteristics within the Offshore ECC. This benthic survey is required to provide sufficient detail for the design phase of the Project. However, it is important to note:

- Survey Location, Duration and Extent: The smallest number of sampling stations within the Offshore ECC results in the minimum survey duration possible (45 noisy days). Reducing the number of sampling stations any further would reduce data coverage quality and materially reduce the value that would be gained from the survey and resultant data. This would prevent characterisation of the Offshore ECC environment to a level required for the EIA process and to inform preliminary design considerations.

- Survey Equipment/Methodology: the benthic survey has been chosen to provide the most efficient dataset that can be used to assess the Project's EIA and environmental feasibility. The design of the benthic survey considers the provision of the required data for the preliminary phase but without survey techniques which may be superfluous for the current objectives. The results of the benthic survey will allow the most effective development and design decisions to be made. For future site investigation, it will provide data to allow the design of the most effective surveys. Overall, the benthic survey meets the preliminary survey requirements with the minimal practicable impact to marine mammals and basking sharks. Existing site specific data gathered in 2021 alongside desktop studies in the Offshore ECC have enabled an understanding of ground conditions and benthic community assemblages. This has allowed refinement of survey methodologies to ensure the most efficient benthic survey is implemented. Therefore, the Project considers that the 'no satisfactory alternative test' has been met.

Please see attached European Protected Species (EPS) and Basking Shark Risk Assessment Report (Doc ID: MCW-DWF-ENV-REP-RHS-000214).

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 consent
EPS Licence	15/05/2026		

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.

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 following policies in Scotland's National Marine Plan have been considered:

- Gen 9: Natural Heritage: Development and use of the marine environment must; comply with the legal requirements for protected areas and protected species, not result in significant impact on the national status of priority marine features and protect and, where appropriate, enhance the health of the marine area.
- Gen 13: Noise: Development and use in the marine environment should avoid significant adverse effects of man-made noise and vibration, especially on species sensitive to such effects.

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.

MD-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 MD-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 / chart	☒
Correct co-ordinates	☒
Supporting information / risk assessment	☒

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

Under the THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (as amended) failure to carry out the work which you propose in accordance with the terms of the licence may expose you to criminal liability. 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 **THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (as amended)**, 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.

[Redacted]

Signature of the
Applicant

Date 15th May 2026

(The person named at part 1)

Name in block letters [Redacted]

on behalf of MachairWind 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

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 1981 Act and other legislation.

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 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 C

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.

Annex D

Only to be completed if you selected for a social, economic or environmental purpose 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 the benthic site investigation survey will mean a disturbance to basking shark, 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 this site investigation survey and allowing for the development to progress has the potential for long-term benefit to Scotland and the renewables industry and helping Scotland to reach the overall target for greenhouse gas emissions.

Please see attached European Protected Species (EPS) and Basking Shark Risk Assessment Report (Doc ID: MCW-DWF-ENV-REP-RHS-000214).

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

MachairWind OWF offers the deployment of a proven technology in a location with recognised wind resource and offers to deliver a low-cost, low-carbon supply of up to 2GW of clean, green renewable electricity. This would make a significant contribution to tackling climate change and achieving Net Zero whilst having the potential to generate enough renewable electricity to power over 2 million homes.

The delivery of the MachairWind project will also enable ScottishPower to build on its long-standing presence and positive track record of investing in and working with local communities and businesses across Argyll & Bute to realise the benefits of renewable energy developments.

Why is it imperative the proposed activity goes ahead?

Should the benthic site investigation survey not proceed, the delivery of the MachairWind OWF would not be possible.

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

The MachairWind OWF will have a role in meeting the national and international commitments to greenhouse gas reduction, which correspond to Scottish and UK policies.