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## THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (as amended)

### 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 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 supply any necessary supporting information e.g. detailed method statements, risk assessments etc.

MS-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 MS-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 Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH Licensing, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW Telephone email 01463 725000 [licensing@snh.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@snh.gov.uk) to discuss licensing requirements 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 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 as described in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), 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 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 can be accessed at <https://mnr.jncc.gov.uk/>. 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.

## **Section 10 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 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 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.

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 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 for ensuring compliance with the licence and the conditions of the licence. 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.

1. Name of applicant

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?

As basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) absolute abundance and densities is largely unknown it has not been possible to reliably model the number of affected individuals. But using the below method it is estimated that there is <1 basking shark at risk of behavioral disturbance at any time. For disturbance, the total number of individuals disturbed will be minimal due to the transient nature of the animals and the brief short term and limited spatial extent of the geophysical survey activities.

With the implementation of mitigation there will be no residual risk of injury to basking shark. See section 4.3 of the Geophysical Survey European Protected Species & Marine Wildlife Supporting Information Report accompanying this application for further details.

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

Marine Scotland (2024) modeling based on Paxten et al. (2014) provides an estimated density of basking shark in the approximate area of the Malin Sea Wind Array Area of 0.1-0.2 animals per km<sup>2</sup> for sightings data between 2000-2012. The noise modeling conducted in support of this application estimated a behavioral response range of 420m for fish which equates to a surface area of approximately c.0.6 km<sup>2</sup>. Multiplying this by 0.2 = 0.12 basking shark.

There is no potential for injury or significant disturbance to basking shark in the vicinity of the survey activities. See Sections 4.3 of the Geophysical Survey European Protected Species & Marine Wildlife Supporting Information Report accompanying this application for further details.

(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										
5	5	°	2	7	.	3	3	7	'N	0	0	6	°	3	6	.	3	1	2	'W
5	5	°	2	7	.	5	6	6	'N	0	0	6	°	3	6	.	8	0	2	'W
5	5	°	2	7	.	4	6	5	'N	0	0	6	°	3	5	.	8	7	3	'W
5	5	°	2	7	.	1	1	1	'N	0	0	6	°	3	5	.	8	2	8	'W
5	5	°	2	7	.	3	3	7	'N	0	0	6	°	3	6	.	3	1	2	'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**

The Malin Sea Wind Array Area (31.4 km<sup>2</sup>) will be surveyed using a variety of towed geophysical survey equipment, deployed from sea-going vessel(s). The survey is anticipated to take 9 – 22 days (accounting for weather days) and is scheduled to start (subject to necessary licences) 1st June 2024 and will be complete by 31st October 2024. At its closest point the Malin Sea Wind Array Area is located 23 km (c.12.4 nmi) from the southeast coast of Islay. Whilst the Array Area is located entirely in Scottish offshore waters there is the overlap with Scottish inshore areas for survey lines turns.

Equipment representative of the following specifications are proposed for use:

- Side Scan Sonar: Source sound pressure level (SPL) 158 dB SPL (equivalent spherical level). Frequencies of 200 kHz and 900 kHz.
- Multibeam Echosounder: 194 dB SPL (equivalent spherical level). Frequency range 200 kHz to 400 kHz.
- Parametric Sub-bottom Profiler: Primary: 202 dB SPL (85 kHz – 115 kHz), Secondary: 172 dB SPL (4 kHz – 15 kHz).
- Sparker Sub-bottom Profiler: 185 dB SPL, frequency range 630 – 5000 Hz.
- Ultra short baseline: 180 dB SPL, frequency range 19,000 – 34,000 Hz

Further information is provided in the Geophysical Survey European Protected Species & Marine Wildlife Supporting Information Report that accompanies this application (section 1.4).

- (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.

Marine mammal mitigation activities will be conducted in the field following the JNCC Guidelines for Minimising the Risk of Injury and Disturbance to Marine Mammals from seismic surveys (JNCC, 2017). The following specific mitigation measures are proposed for the planned geophysical surveys and are considered suitable for basking shark also:

- dedicated MMO(s) / PAM operative(s) to conduct a 30-minute search to establish the absence of marine mammals and basking shark prior to start of geophysical equipment.
- Where equipment allows, a 20-minute soft-start period will be employed prior to the start of the survey, during which there will be a gradual build-up (or soft-start) of source power over the 20-minute period with power reduced to 10% of modeled power.
- In the event that marine mammals are detected within the mitigation zone, the procedures outlined in the JNCC (2017) guidance will be followed with respect to delaying the soft-start or following breaks in survey operations.

Further information is provided in section 4.4 of the Geophysical Survey European Protected Species & Marine Wildlife Supporting Information Report that accompanies this application.

#### 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. Please enclose any relevant correspondence.

There are no designated areas (Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Marine Protected Areas (MPA)) within the proposed activity area. The closest designated area being the Skerries and Causeway SAC designated for harbour porpoise at 16.3km and as such no consultation has been required. Further information is provided in section 1.5 of the Geophysical Survey European Protected Species & Marine Wildlife Supporting Information Report that accompanies this application.

**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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Side Scan Sonar	1st of June 2024	31st of October 2024
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multibeam Echosounder	1st of June 2024	31st of October 2024
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parametric & Sparker Sub Bottom Profiler	1st of June 2024	31st of October 2024
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ultra Short Baseline	1st of June 2024	31st of October 2024

**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 **The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (As amended)**

(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'.**

### Option 1 – No Activity

Do not undertake the geophysical survey, resulting in no seabed data being available in the offshore array area. However, gathering seabed information during surveys is required to validate desk-based assessments and to inform the project design and the EIA so that risks to the environment from the installation and operation of the proposed Malin Sea Wind Farm can be minimised. As such, not undertaking the surveys is not considered a viable option. After mitigation is applied there is no risk of injury to EPS and it is unlikely that the survey will result in any significant disturbance or displacement for these species.

### Option 2 – Alternative Equipment

Undertake the geophysical survey with equipment that has limited impacts on EPS (i.e. SSS and MBES only), which would result in limited data collection while still involving the presence of a vessel for a number of days. The equipment selected has been carefully chosen to gather the data required to inform the project design and the EIA. The use of SSS and MBES only would not provide the seabed penetration required to obtain the subsurface information needed for the project. Therefore this is not considered a viable option and using the full range of selected equipment, after mitigation, poses no risk of injury to EPS and it is unlikely that the survey will result in any significant disturbance or displacement for these species.

### Option 3 – Alternative Location

Undertake the geophysical survey at a different location. The Malin Sea Wind array area has been selected to develop a future floating windfarm and was identified during the Innovation and Targeted Oil & Gas (INTOG) seabed leasing process. Surveying an alternative location would mean gathering information over an area that has not been included in the licensing awards, and therefore would be unlikely to get a lease agreement for development and would ultimately not be a developable project. It is also not possible to reduce the proposed survey area as this encompasses the array area. Seabed information for the array area is required to inform the project design and EIA. Therefore this is not considered a viable option and surveying the array area, after mitigation is applied, poses no risk of injury to EPS and it is unlikely that the survey will result in any significant disturbance or displacement for these species.

### Option 4 – Alternative Timing

Undertaking the survey at a different time of year, avoiding potentially sensitive periods for Basking sharks (e.g. periods of higher densities); the species may be present in the Malin Sea Wind Array Area, they have been observed on the surface in summer and spring months near to the Isle of Man and further north and have also been found in the Irish Sea and sighted abundantly in the North Channel. The survey is planned for between June and October 2024 to avoid and minimise any delay due to weather downtime and allow the survey to be completed in the shortest time possible. Undertaking the survey at a different time (e.g. later in the year or over the winter months) would likely result in delays due to bad weather and as such the vessel would be present for longer. In addition, the survey timing allows the data to be collected at the soonest opportunity to inform the project design and EIA. Therefore changing the survey timing is not a satisfactory alternative and after mitigation is applied, the survey poses no risk of injury to EPS and it is unlikely that the survey will result in any significant disturbance or displacement for these species.

### Option 5: Current Scenario

Undertake geophysical survey works in conjunction with undertaking an EPS & Marine Wildlife Risk Assessment. ESB has determined that Option 5 is the best viable option. The risk assessment has identified a mitigation strategy for the geophysical survey activities so that EPS and basking shark present in the survey area are protected through the use of suitable protocols (e.g. application of JNCC guidelines). After mitigation is applied, the geophysical survey poses no risk of injury to EPS or basking shark and it is unlikely that the survey will result in any significant disturbance or displacement for these species.

## 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 Consent (e.g. Marine Licence, Local Planning Authority, Local Works Licence)	Date Applied for	Reference no.	Date of issue of consent
EPS Licence under The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (offshore waters).	Submitted alongside this application	TBC	PENDING
EPS Licence under Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) (inshore waters)	Submitted alongside this application	TBC	PENDING
EPS Licence under The Conservation (Natural Habitat, etc.) Regulations 1995 (as amended)	Submitted to DAERA 29th of March 2024	TBC	PENDING
Wildlife Licence for Schedule 5 Species (seals, basking shark) under Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended)	Submitted to DAERA 29th of March 2024	TBC	PENDING

## 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.**

JNCC Marine Noise Registry application number: 3698

**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 **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.

Signature of the Applicant **<Redacted>**

Date **16/04/2024**

(The person named at part 1)

Name in BLOCK LETTERS **<Redacted>**

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  
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.

Marine Laboratory, PO Box 101, 375 Victoria Road,  
Aberdeen AB11 9DB  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland)



**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

N/A

How has the risk been identified. Please give details of any expert advice received.

N/A

How will the proposed activity address the identified risk

N/A

**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.

N/A

How will the proposed activity prevent the spread of disease? Please give details of any expert advice received.

N/A

**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.

N/A

How will the proposed activity prevent serious damage? Please give details of any expert advice received.

N/A

## 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.

While the marine surveys associated with the Malin Sea Wind Offshore Wind Farm present a temporary disturbance to a localised marine environment, this work will allow an important addition to Scotland's growing contributions to the UK's renewable energy sector. The UK has an urgent need for new electricity generation capacity due to the closure of coal fired stations, the aging of thermal power stations and the closure of nuclear power programmes. Offshore wind provides the opportunity to deliver this new capacity, not only from a renewable, low carbon resource, but a resource which is indigenous and does not depend upon the geo-economic and geo-political risks attendant with importing fuels.

The UK also has committed to a range of national and international targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to contribute towards the global action plan towards climate neutrality and limiting the increase in global average temperature. As the UK follows policies to meet its national and international commitments to greenhouse gas reduction, additional demands will be placed on domestic electricity supply as use of, for example, electric vehicles, increases. The project will provide additional support to the UK government's national and international commitments to reduce greenhouse gases, which will bring long-term benefits.

See 5.1 of Geophysical Survey European Protected Species & Marine Wildlife Risk Assessment document accompanying this application for further details.

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

The Malin Sea Wind OWF has been awarded through the INTOG seabed leasing process, run by Crown Estate Scotland, which aimed to attract investment and innovation in OWF projects whilst supporting the decarbonisation of North Sea Oil and gas platforms. Malin Sea Wind offers the deployment of a proven technology in a location with a recognised wind resource and to deliver a low-cost, low-carbon supply of electricity at a time when the UK urgently needs new generation capacity to maintain a secure, affordable supply of power. It will help the UK achieve their net-zero emissions target by 2050. The development will also provide employment over the course of the project.

See 5.1 of Geophysical Survey European Protected Species & Marine Wildlife Supporting Information Report accompanying this application for further details.

Why is it imperative the proposed activity goes ahead?

The Malin Sea Wind OWF offers the deployment of a technology in a location with a recognised wind resource and to deliver a low-cost, low-carbon supply of electricity at a time when the UK urgently needs new generation capacity to maintain a secure, affordable supply of power. The Malin Sea Wind OWF will also provide multiple opportunities of employment over the course of the project's lifetime. If the Malin Sea Wind Array Area geophysical survey does not proceed, the progression of the Malin Sea Wind OWF's offshore developments would not be possible, making it more difficult for the UK to reach its ambitions net zero goals and the positive contribution to the local economy and job market. See section 5.1 of Geophysical Survey European Protected Species & Marine Wildlife Supporting Information Report accompanying this application for further details.

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

The UK and Scotland have committed to meeting national and international commitments to greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction and increase use of renewable energy through the following:

- 1) The Climate Change Act 2008, under which the UK committed to a net reduction in GHG emissions of 80% against the 1990 baseline by 2050. Strengthened in 2019 to a 100% reduction (net zero) in GHG emissions, with the legal duty extending to the devolved administrations;
- 2) The Energy Act 2013, which makes provisions to incentivise investment in low carbon electricity generation, ensure security of supply, and help the UK meet its emission reduction and renewables targets; and
- 3) The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 which amends the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and introduces binding targets on the Scottish Government to reduce net Scottish GHG emissions by at least 100% by 2045 from 1990 levels.

In addition to supporting these commitments, the Project also aligns with the Scottish Government Offshore Wind Policy Statement and the Scottish Government Energy Strategy and Position Statement.

See section 5.1 of Geophysical Survey European Protected Species & Marine Wildlife Supporting Information Report accompanying this application for details on how the Malin Sea Wind geophysical survey will support local, regional and national policies.