

**Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Windfarm (Revised Design)
Marine Mammals – Updated SNH Advice (26 September 2018)**

Bottlenose dolphin – Moray Firth SAC

The worst case scenario as run in our modelling has shown that disturbance from all east coast offshore windfarms in-combination may have a small effect on the size and growth of bottlenose dolphin population. Although small, the mean of the disturbed population is significantly smaller than the mean of the undisturbed, according to a two sample T-Test at the end of the modelled duration.

We highlight that there are uncertainties with regard to the effect on the population over a 25 year timeframe, and the prediction confidence intervals largely overlap. Also of consideration is that the iPCoD does not incorporate any potential recovery between disturbance events. In addition, the model scenario used represents the worst case and therefore we consider this to be precautionary.

We have also considered the assessment metrics, specifically, the ratios of the impacted to un-impacted population size and growth rate, which suggest that the impact is small with all ratios being close to one. Additionally, the centile metric suggests that the impacted population is only slightly lower than an unimpacted one.

We therefore advise that the in-combination effect on the Moray Firth bottlenose dolphin population from all developments considered will not result in an adverse effect on site integrity.

Grey Seals – Isle of May SAC and Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC

Our modelling of the worst case scenario indicates that disturbance from the Forth and Tay offshore wind farms in-combination will not result in an adverse effect on site integrity for the Isle of May SAC.

In addition, we have considered the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC. While we recognise that this site is not entirely within East Coast seal management unit, we are able to conclude from the results of our assessment, that the Forth and Tay Offshore windfarms in-combination will not have an adverse effect on the site integrity of the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC.

SNH, 26 September 2018