

cfwgnews Jan 2021

Moray Firth Offshore Wind Commercial Fisheries Working Group

The CFWG provides a forum for discussion on how the local commercial fishing industry and offshore wind developers can work together in the Moray Firth. It seeks to provide a platform for information sharing, discussion around key issues and potential impacts, and maintaining a good working relationship throughout the lifecycle of the wind farms. Membership includes representatives from national and local fisheries bodies as well as wind farm developers and Marine Scotland.



Beatrice

Beatrice reduced the servicing scope for the wind farm due to COVID restrictions impacting site operations. However, all statutory, regulatory compliance and asset integrity assurance works were completed successfully, while maintaining strict COVID protection measures. Deferred works will be undertaken in 2021.

In addition to the asset servicing a number of inspections and surveys were undertaken comprising: -

- Jacket inspections
- Subsea cable surveys

Beatrice also remediated a section of export cable that was found to be partially exposed on the sea floor to the South of the site. Fisheries protection measures were in place while the section was remediated.

The site has been in discussions with the Scottish Fisheries Federation working towards a collaborative approach to conduct over-trawl trials within the wind farm with the aim of establishing safe fishing corridors. The trials aim to commence early in 2021.

HyWind Scotland

During the second half of 2020, work has been continuing, albeit with specific conditions to allow for a safe working environment whilst the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect everyone.

The second half of 2020 saw the completion of the subsea survey, referenced in the previous newsletter, and the completion of the third annual service on all of the floating turbines. All tasks were completed successfully without accident or incident.

In July, vessel crew from the MCS Swath 1 were able to recover a member of the public that had fallen into the water at Seagate Quay in Peterhead harbour and administered first aid.

Sound measurement equipment was deployed at Hywind Scotland and control location in October 2020 and is planned retrieved end of January.

Moray East

Offshore construction started in May 2019 and continued throughout 2020. During the second half of 2020 the following key construction activities were completed:

- Jacket installation completed in December
- Offshore Substation Platforms installed
- All three export cables between the wind farm site and Inverboyndie were laid, trenched and buried with the majority of rock protection now installed
- The first of two campaigns for installation of the inter-array cables in the wind farm site began in October and was completed in January

The key construction activities for 2021 are:

- Completion of rock protection installation on the export cables in early February
- Second inter-array cable installation campaign from February to June
- Installation of Wind Turbine Generators from January to September

Information on the project is issued in a Weekly Notice of Operations (WNoO) and through Notices to Mariners (NtMs), posted on the Moray East website and distributed by email. If you wish to be included on the distribution list, please contact the CFLO, Alex Winrow-Giffin alex@brownmay.com 07760160039. Further information on the project (including the WNoO and NtMs) can be found at <https://www.morayeast.com/current-works/offshore-works>

Moray West

Moray West will be carrying out offshore site investigation works during 2021 required to inform the final design and layout of the project.

Geotechnical surveys commenced on 26th January 2021 within the wind farm array area. The exact finish date will be dependent on the weather conditions and work progress but is estimated mid-March 2021. Prior to commencing geotechnical site investigations, scouting surveys across the wind farm site were undertaken in January 2021 to identify and therefore reduce any interaction with static fishing gear deployed within the proposed boundaries of the wind farm area. Notice to Mariners have been issued via email to keep marine users and the fishing community informed of the progress of the planned surveys.

The project programme is currently being refined and Moray West could commence construction works in 2023/24. Moray West will continue engagement with the fishing industry to explore ways of minimising disruption to fishers as we plan for start of construction and undertake future surveys in 2021.

Additionally, the Moray West Floating LiDAR Buoy deployed in 2018 at the Moray West OWF site measuring and collecting wind and metocean data was successfully recovered from site on 18 December 2020.

For further information, please visit <https://www.moraywest.com/>

