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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: <Redacted> Forename(s): <Redacted> Surname: <Redacted>

Company Name: **Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc**

Business Title (if Appropriate): **Engineering Design Manager, Large Capital Delivery**

Address: **Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks  
Inveralmond House  
200 Dunkeld Road  
Perth PH1 3AQ**

Tel no. (incl dialling code): **01738 342281**

Email address: **submarinecablesproject@sse.com**

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 Scotland**

Licence number (most recent licence) **BS-00010462**

Year in which the licence was issued. **2023**

What species were covered by the licence? **Basking shark (Cetorhinus maximus)**

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

**Part B. The Application**

**3 Species**

(a) How many individuals will be affected by licensed work?

Injure: 0  
 Disturbance: it is estimated that the total number of individuals disturbed will be minimal due to the transient nature of the animals and the brief nature of the works.

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

There is no potential for injury or significant disturbance to basking shark in the vicinity of the Application Corridor. Please see Section 7 of the MEA Report (P2635\_R6196) for further information.

(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**

Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc (SHEPD) is proposing to undertake cable replacement installation and decommissioning activities for the out of service cables, as required to facilitate installation of the replacement cable. 33kV submarine electricity cable located in the Sound of Islay, Scotland. SHEPD is seeking a Basking Shark licence to enable them (and their contractors) to carry out the following activity:  
-Use of vessels to install the replacement cable  
-Use of vessels to decommission sections of the existing Jura to Islay cable, as required

Acoustic energy emitted from vessels is strongest at frequencies < 1kHz. The acoustic source levels from vessels typically increase with size:  
- 60-175dB re 1 Pa (rms) from a small vessel (<50m length)  
- 165 - 185dB re 1 Pa (rms) for medium to large sized vessel (50m-130m length)

- (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.

Information on mitigation methods is presented in Section 4 and Section 7 of the MEA Report (P2635\_R1696). Mitigation specifically applying to the basking shark is outlined below:

- Slow moving vessels - the cable installation vessel will be moving at a maximum speed of 4 knots to allow any basking sharks time to move away from the vessel should they be disturbed by the vessel presence or noise. Should a Basking Shark be found to be in the direct way of the route, the vessel will slow down further or, if possible, alter course to avoid collision.
- Tool box talks - Crew will be made aware of all protected species within the marine environment. All vessels will adhere to the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) Basking Shark Code of Conduct and Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code.

#### 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 is one designated site within/adjacent to the proposed cable installation corridor. This is Jura, Scarba and the Garvellachs SPA.  
Full details of all relevant protected sites can be found in the documents referenced below.  
There is no potential for injury or significant disturbance to cetaceans or other protected species, including basking shark, in the vicinity of the proposed installation operations, the conservation status of the protected sites will not be compromised.  
Please see Section 6 and 7 of the MEA Report (P2635\_R6196) for further information.

**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"/>	Vessels	01/04/2024	30/05/2026
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

**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'.**

SHEPD has considered various options in relation to the installation of the Jura to Islay cable. and have decided to proceed with a subsea cable direct replacement - Installation of a 33 kV subsea cable across Sound of Islay (~2 km), tying into existing landing points within Dunlossit Estate, Islay, and Mucraidh, Jura. This option will allow for the continuation of the power distribution network between Jura and Islay while maintaining the favourable conservation status of basking shark within the works or adjacent area. The replacement of the Jura to Islay cable is required to meet SHEPD's commitments to provide a reliable supply of electricity to the Jura and Islay Islands.

Other options that were explored include:

- Do Nothing: this option was rejected owing for the need to reinforce the connection between Jura and Islay.
- Alternative route 1: utilising the Tràigh Bhàn transition joint pit on Islay installing to the south of the existing cable between Jura and Islay. This option was rejected due to the risks associated with the strong current streams and increased risks of cable being laid on or near rocky outcrops.
- Alternative route 2: lay of the cable down the tidal stream and navigating around an area of rocky outcrops to land on the beach south of Glas Eilean, Jura. This was the longest route considered and was rejected due to risks associated with manoeuvrability of the vessel on approach to the Jura landfall.
- Alternative route 3: utilising a landing point at the beach to the south of Glas Eilean, Jura. This option was rejected due to shallow water depths on approach to shore and located within a potential area of shallow rock which presented risk of abrasion to cable and the need for an additional installation vessel to operate in shallower waters.
- HDD option 1: Install a new HDD bore (~1.3 km) between suitable shore landings within a clearing in Dunlossit Estate, Islay, to an outcrop of flat land north of the Abhainn Daimh-sgeir burn, Jura.
- HDD option 2: Install a new HDD bore (~1.3 km) between suitable shore landings within farmland above Port nam Borrachaig, Islay to the northern section of Whitefarland Bay, Jura

The HDD options above, are viable however these options were rejected because using HDD technology to install new electrical cables beneath the Sound of Islay is technically feasible but highly constrained; the availability of sufficient water supplies at the sites identified is a key concern and the ground conditions.

## 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 Planing Authority, Local Works Licence)	Date Applied for	Reference no.	Date of issue of consent
Marine Licence	Submitted alongside this application	N/A	N/A
EPS Licence for installation operations	Submitted alongside this application	N/A	N/A
EPS licence for Geophysical survey operations	26 June 2023	EPS-00010461	01 September 2023
Basking shark licence for Geophysical survey operations	26 June 2023	BS-00010462	01 September 2023

## 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.**

N/A

**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 18th December 2023

(The person named at part 1)

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

<Redacted> ON BEHALF OF SCOTTISH HYDRO ELECTRIC POWER DISTRIBUTION PLC

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.

**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.

SHEPD's first priority is to provide a safe and reliable supply of electricity to domestic, commercial and industrial customers in the north of Scotland and the Islands. The replacement of the Jura to Islay cable will provide a secure long term economic and social benefit to the community on these two islands.

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

SHEPD holds a licence under the Electricity Act 1989 for the distribution of electricity in the north of Scotland including the Islands. It has a statutory duty to provide an economic and efficient system for the distribution of electricity and to ensure that its assets are maintained to ensure a safe, secure and reliable supply to domestic and business customers.

Why is it imperative the proposed activity goes ahead?

The existing cable is in poor condition and has been determined as requiring urgent replacement. The replacement of this cable is essential to securing and continuing SHEPD power supplies to the islands of Jura and Islay.

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

SHEPD holds a licence under the Electricity Act 1989 for the distribution of electricity in the north of Scotland including the islands.

SHEPD has a statutory duty to provide an economic and efficient system for the distribution of electricity and to ensure that its assets are maintained to ensure a safe, secure and reliable supply to domestic and business customers.



**Application Corridor Co-ordinate listing\***

<b>Point</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
<b>WGS 84 Geographic</b>		
1	55° 48.828' N	6° 6.219' W
2	55° 48.850' N	6° 6.076' W
3	55° 48.974' N	6° 5.774' W
4	55° 49.028' N	6° 5.546' W
5	55° 49.067' N	6° 5.099' W
6	55° 49.063' N	6° 4.846' W
7	55° 49.035' N	6° 4.658' W
8	55° 48.932' N	6° 4.491' W
9	55° 48.929' N	6° 4.539' W
10	55° 48.975' N	6° 4.862' W
11	55° 48.971' N	6° 5.207' W
12	55° 48.844' N	6° 5.793' W
13	55° 48.811' N	6° 5.944' W
14	55° 48.708' N	6° 6.193' W
15	55° 48.828' N	6° 6.219' W

\*For the avoidance of doubt, the landward boundaries of the installation corridor covered by this application shall be Mean High Water Springs. The landfall boundaries defined by the coordinates within this application should be considered approximations, due to the requirement to limit the number of vertices.

