

From: [Erica Knott](#)
To: [MS Marine Renewables](#); [MARINEENERGY](#)
Cc: [Potter R \(Rhys David\)](#); [Agnisola G \(Giulia\)](#)
Subject: RE: EOWDC - Consultation - EPS licence 17/2019/1 Extension Request - Response required by 19 February 2021
Date: 01 March 2021 20:27:04

Dear Rhys / Giulia

I am so sorry for the delay in responding to this consultation. It came in when I was on leave and I have been struggling to catch up on cases until now.

We have reviewed all the information and can offer the following advice:

Extending the EPS license to cover the next 5 year period during which there will be ongoing operation and maintenance activities requiring geophysical studies will not result in a detrimental impact to the favourable conservation status of the most likely cetacean species to frequent this area (harbour porpoise, bottlenose dolphin, white beaked dolphin and minke whale). This has taken into account, the information provided, and we agree that they can discount any effects from the use of multi beam echo sounder (MBES) and side scan sonar (SSS) and we have reviewed and agreed that disturbance effect only will arise from the use of ultrashort base line (USBL) equipment use.

We did wonder whether there was an opportunity to consider some noise monitoring when the USBL is in operation. We are not requesting this as a condition and is something we will raise directly with Vattenfall. Any noise monitoring would help us understand how far the noise travels and at what levels as there are some discussions ongoing at present regarding the disturbance impacts of USBLs. We will keep you informed if this is something we are able to pursue further with Vattenfall.

I hope this is of assistance.

Erica

Erica Knott | Marine Sustainability Manager | Sustainable Coasts and Seas |

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From: MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot
Sent: 22 January 2021 12:40
To: MARINEENERGY
Cc: Rhysdavid.Potter@gov.scot; Giulia.Agnisola@gov.scot

Subject: EOWDC - Consultation - EPS licence 17/2019/1 Extension Request - Response required by 19 February 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)

Marine Scotland Licencing Operations Team (“MS-LOT”) received a request from Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm Limited (“AOWFL”) for a 5 year extension to the existing EPS licence (Ref: MS EPS 17/2019/1), for the geophysical survey work at the site of the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (“EOWDC”).

MS-LOT would be grateful if you could assess whether the conservation status of EPS will be affected by this extension. Licence application details can be found in the attached correspondence.

MS-LOT would be grateful if you could provide a response by 19 February 2021.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Kate

Kate Taylor
Marine Licensing Support Officer
Marine Scotland - Marine Planning & Policy

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB

Email: kate.taylor2@gov.scot

Website: <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine>

COVID-19: Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team (LOT) is working from home and unable to respond to phone enquiries. Please communicate with LOT via email. Email addresses are MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot for marine renewables correspondence or MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot for all licensing queries.

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