



# Marine Scotland

Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG)

Planning Specification and Context Report

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# **Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG)**

## **Planning Specification and Context Report**

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## List of Abbreviations

<b>AoS</b>	Areas of Search
<b>CES</b>	Crown Estate Scotland
<b>EEZ</b>	Exclusive Economic Zone
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FES</b>	Future Energy Scenarios
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information Systems
<b>HRA</b>	Habitats Regulations Appraisal
<b>INTOG</b>	Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation
<b>MPA</b>	Marine Protected Area
<b>OWPS</b>	Offshore Wind Policy Statement
<b>PO</b>	Plan Options
<b>SAC</b>	Special Area of Conservation
<b>SEA</b>	Strategic Environmental Assessment
<b>SEIA</b>	Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
<b>SMP</b>	Sectoral Marine Plan
<b>SORER</b>	Scottish Offshore Renewable Energy Region
<b>SPA</b>	Special Protection Areas
<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom

## 1. Introduction

1.1 The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring secure, reliable and affordable energy supplies within the context of long-term decarbonisation of energy generation. Continued growth of the renewable energy sector in Scotland is an essential feature of the future clean energy system and a potential key driver of economic growth.

1.2 The Scottish Government has set a range of targets and ambitions to cut greenhouse gas emissions and to generate more energy from renewable sources. The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 commits the Scottish Government to reach net zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045. It also sets out interim targets of to cut emissions by 75% by 2030 and 90% by 2040, against the 1990 baseline. Additionally, The Scottish Government has set a target to generate 50% of Scotland's overall energy consumption from renewable sources by 2030.

1.3 Around Scotland, there exists the potential to extract significant energy resources in the form of renewable offshore wind energy generation. Any expansion of offshore wind energy generation in Scottish waters requires the application of marine spatial planning, at a national, regional and local scale, to identify areas that may be suitable for the development of offshore wind projects.

1.4 Offshore wind is a large scale technology with the potential to play a pivotal role in Scotland's energy system over the coming decades. The development of technologies such as floating wind, which offer scope for development in deeper water, have significant potential to contribute offshore wind energy supply at affordable prices. Floating technology is particularly well suited to the deeper water abundant around Scotland and in the vicinity of oil and gas infrastructure.

1.5 The UK Government's Industrial Strategy rightly points to the achievements of the offshore wind industry, and the potential that it represents. The Offshore Wind Sector Deal (2019) celebrated these achievement and set numerous targets for the sector including an aim to generate 30 GW by 2030. This has since been increased to 40 GW by 2030. Our own Offshore Wind Policy Statement confirms the Scottish Government's intent to see offshore wind play a key role in decarbonisation and our net zero commitment and suggests as much as 11 GW could be delivered by 2030 in Scottish waters alone.

1.6 To facilitate the sustainable development of offshore renewable energy in Scottish waters, The Scottish Government has introduced a system of sectoral marine planning. This planning exercise brings together the related planning, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA) and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) as well as statutory consultation processes into one integrated process. The output of the process is a Sectoral Marine Plan ("SMP") containing Scottish Ministers' 'Plan Options' ("PO") for the sustainable development of commercial scale offshore renewable energy.

1.7 In October 2020, the Scottish Government published the Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy. This Sectoral Marine Plan identified 15 PO around

Scotland. Within these Options, the detailed Sustainability Appraisal assessed a potential impact of 10 GW. These Plan Options now form the spatial component of the seabed leasing process, ScotWind, managed by Crown Estate Scotland (“CES”). Across these Options, CES has managed an application process to award option agreements and subsequently, when other consent conditions are met, seabed leases to successful applicants, to deliver up to 10 GW of generating capacity. The ScotWind leasing process closed on 16 July 2021, with over 70 applications, and awards are expected to be announced early 2022.

1.8 The Sectoral Marine Plan 2020 further identified a possible need to re-examine the planning process to allow more targeted projects to progress with the specific focus of seeking to electrify oil and gas infrastructure. In addition, in the context of the growing blue economy and need for sustainable management of the marine environment, the SMP 2020 set a commercial scale minimum size at 100 MW. Accordingly, smaller test and demonstration scale projects (i.e. those below 100 MW) are not accounted for in the 2020 plan nor do they have a route to seabed lease. The Scottish Government is now seeking to develop a Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy for Innovation projects and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG) which encompasses Plan Options to provide the strategic framework for future offshore wind deployment in sustainable and suitable locations that will help deliver projects to meet the above goal and our wider net zero commitments.

1.9 This document outlines the planning process, parameters and specifications that will apply to projects seeking to progress in this round, and an indicative outline of the leasing process to be delivered by Crown Estate Scotland. Furthermore, it sets out the spatial data considered in the opportunity and constraint analysis produced to help determine the Areas of Search and ultimately Plan Areas (discussed below). We welcome comments and views on the Areas of Search and data used to identify these to help refine the areas for the next stage in the planning process.

## **2. Scotland’s Energy Structure and Targets**

2.1 Within Scottish Waters (includes territorial waters and Exclusive Economic zone (EEZ)) there exists a great deal of potential offshore wind resources that could be used to generate energy using offshore wind turbines. Scotland has always strived to be at the forefront in the development and deployment of renewable energy, with its 18,700 KM of coastline and 462,000 km<sup>2</sup> of Scotland’s EEZ, attractive wind regime and extensive potential resources. The Scottish Government’s Offshore Wind Policy Statement (OWPS), published in October 2020 alongside the SMP 2020, demonstrated that the Scottish Government has supported and promoted a positive policy landscape for renewables, balanced by a rigorous environmental assessment regime.

2.2 These supportive policies, coupled with the efforts of investors, innovators and communities across Scotland, have seen our renewable capacity grow to 11.9 GW, according to the most recent statistics – with the equivalent of 90.1% of gross Scottish electricity consumption in 2019 met by renewable sources.

2.3 This is why the Scottish Government plans to ensure that Scotland's long and positive association with renewables continues to go from strength to strength and is central to our green recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic. Scotland's people will be key to this, which will mean ensuring local communities can participate in, and benefit from Scotland's transition to net zero emissions.

2.4 The way we generate and use energy is changing rapidly and will continue to change over the coming decades. Key factors influencing change in Scotland include:

- The need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from energy generation to tackle climate change;
- The increasing demand for low carbon electricity for transport;
- The continuing drive for energy efficiency to ensure that we use resources efficiently;
- Ensuring security of energy supplies in an uncertain geopolitical context;
- Tackling energy poverty and ensuring that energy is affordable;
- An increasing focus on local energy systems, particularly to provide clean energy for Scotland, including island communities.

2.5 Scotland is committed to increasing the proportion of energy demand met by renewables as a key response to these drivers. As a nation with an abundance of renewable energy resources, the opportunity exists not only to meet domestic needs but also to export low carbon energy. The adoption of renewable energy technologies therefore also presents a significant economic opportunity for Scotland, including significant opportunity to lead on deep water offshore wind technologies.

2.6 Our energy demand and mix is changing rapidly and will continue to do so for the coming decades, as a result of factors such as; the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the increased demand for low-carbon electricity for transport, ensuring security of energy supplies and tackling energy poverty. The Future Energy Scenarios ("FES") 2019 report identifies that the commitment to net zero requires greater action in relation to electrification, energy efficiency and carbon capture than predicted in previous scenarios.

2.7 Oil and gas extraction from the North Sea has been a core feature of Scottish waters and the marine environment for multiple decades. Though the oil and gas sector has been transformational for Scotland, and the UK, our wider commitments to net zero encompass these sectors and will mean significant changes are required to meet the Scottish and UK deadlines. Whilst regulation of the sector remains a reserved matter, the Scottish Government will seek to facilitate the transition to net zero. In March 2021, the Scottish and UK Government and the oil and gas industry agreed to the North Sea Transition Deal, a Deal that will harness the sector's 50 years of energy expertise, to accelerate the green energy transition and create a new generation of jobs in communities across the country. Offshore wind may not be the only answer, carbon capture usage and storage and direct power options from shore, in addition to offshore turbines connected to oil and gas assets may all play a role in meeting these commitments. However, offshore wind is a proven and reliable source of green energy and with technological advances in floating wind, it offers a direct, sustainable and importantly, a timely solution.

### **3. Timing**

3.1 The Scottish Government has set some of the most proactive and challenging climate change commitments in the world. Our commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2045 will rely on a combined and coordinated approach to emission reductions, and cooperation across sectors and technology/solutions. While 2045 is 24 years away, the scale and impact of these commitments means that decisions must be made now to ensure those targets are met.

3.2 This is made very clear in the context of planning for offshore wind to facilitate the decarbonisation of the oil and gas sector via electrification from offshore wind. There is the potential for offshore emissions to be abated by the phasing out of thermal generation and supplying direct power from offshore wind turbines to offshore oil and gas assets via cables (electrification). Electrification of brownfield and greenfield oil and gas sites is crucial for the sectors overall emission reduction and conversion to green energy is required in this decade to make these conversions meaningful. The vast majority of oil and gas infrastructure in Scottish waters is in deeper water where floating offshore wind technology will be crucial in this electrification and decarbonisation process, which also presents a significant opportunity for direct use of new offshore wind projects in Scottish waters..

### **4. Relation to ScotWind and the SMP 2020**

4.1 It is notable that we are seeking to deliver this planning process for more offshore wind so soon after the publication of the SMP in October 2020. As described above, the timing of, and more significantly, the time required to deliver projects at scale is critical to successful decarbonisation and a just transition to net zero.

4.2 The SMP 2020 was prepared with a traditional commercial scale offshore wind project rationale. Many of the constraints considered at that time were focussed on minimising impact from offshore wind on other sectors and environmental receptors. Conversely, opportunities were assessed with regard to identifying plan options that were viable in the near-term. Distance from shore, ports and consideration available grid connection and capacity factored into that planning exercise and helped to identify Plan Options in shallow and deeper water for more traditional project designs.

4.3 Electrification of oil and gas infrastructure, whilst possible from an SMP Plan Option, was not a primary consideration and, in fact, oil and gas infrastructure was itself viewed as a constraint to the identification of Plan Options.

4.4 This targeted plan and analysis is built from the foundations of the SMP work but examines a different set of parameters to allow new areas to be considered. This is not a full-scale commercial offshore wind planning or leasing round. This planning process and leasing, to follow is specifically looking at options to address oil and gas electrification and to allow a plan-led mechanism for smaller projects (<100 MW) to gain access to suitable seabed for test and demonstration purposes.

4.5 Accordingly, an upper level of development, 4 GW, is proposed as a cap and selected to identify projects to meet the demand of the oil and gas sector (accounting for variances in efficiency and possible attrition as per the SMP 2020). Furthermore, the findings of the SMP have been taken into account as a baseline for this planning exercise. This is particularly relevant to the plan-level ornithological mitigation measures applied in the SMP 2020 that seek to mitigate the expected negative impact on key bird species at Special Protection Areas (SPA). This planning process will fully consider and assess the new proposed locations for development in the context of the existing project, the SMP 2020 and other relevant plans or programmes, such as Round 4 – the offshore wind leasing process for English and Welsh waters.

## **5. Why “Innovation” and “Targeted Oil and Gas”**

5.1 The Scottish Government has committed to a plan led delivery of offshore wind to ensure that any potential negative impacts can be assessed and mitigated and positive impacts can be maximised, whilst maintaining our commitments to a healthy, productive and biologically diverse marine environment. Accordingly, access to seabed via Crown Estate Scotland’s leasing process will be aligned with the Marine Scotland sectoral planning process.

5.2 The SMP for Offshore Wind Energy 2020 identifies Plan Options which form the spatial basis for Crown Estate Scotland’s ScotWind leasing process for commercial scale projects (over 100MW). With that seabed leasing process underway, there is currently no route for smaller projects seeking to test and deploy new offshore wind technology in Scottish waters. This planning process will provide an opportunity for projects below the commercial scale to test new technology that may provide unique insight or wider improvements for offshore wind. It will provide a plan led route for “innovative” projects, whilst ensuring minimal negative impact on the wider environment, other sea users and also helping to avoid conflicts with other larger scale offshore wind projects.

5.3 As described above, there is also a need to deliver options for oil and gas infrastructure to decarbonise in order to meet wider net zero and climate change targets. Whilst the wider offshore wind and other renewable energy generation projects throughout Scottish waters and onshore are all contributing to the wider decarbonisation of Scotland’s energy production, this planning process is a “targeted” opportunity for offshore wind to provide energy (through electrification) for oil and gas platforms. Projects above 100 MW that are not directed at this (electrification) goal are considered outside of scope of this planning process.

## **6. Process**

6.1 This SMP aims to identify the most suitable plan options for the future sustainable development of offshore wind energy for innovation projects and targeted oil and gas decarbonisation in Scotland. The SMP seeks to contribute to the achievement of Scottish and UK energy and climate change policy objectives and targets, through the provision of a spatial strategy to inform the seabed leasing process for offshore wind energy for INTOG in Scottish waters, which, in line with the SMP 2020 will seek to:

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- Contribute to the attainment of net zero targets through targeted decarbonisation of offshore oil and gas assets from offshore wind.
- Minimise the potential adverse effects on other marine users, economic sectors and the environment resulting from further offshore wind development;
- Maximises opportunities for economic development, investment and employment in Scotland, by identifying new opportunities for offshore wind development; and

6.2 This SMP for INTOG is being developed to ensure consistency with the objectives and principles set out within the Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy (2020), Scotland's National Marine Plan (2015) and the UK Marine Policy Statement (2011). In addition, this planning exercise will take direction from the Offshore Wind Policy Statement, the Offshore Wind Sector Deal and the North Sea Transition Deal (2021).

6.3 The sectoral marine planning process is an iterative process, informed through stakeholder engagement and evidence identified in the related environmental, social and economic assessments.

6.4 This INTOG SMP will deliver a plan facilitating the leasing and informing consenting of offshore wind projects in Scottish waters that are either testing new technology or methods, or larger projects (>100 MW) to help decarbonise the oil and gas sector. Due to the need, particularly in the case of oil and gas electrification, for viable projects to reach consent decisions to help meet net zero targets, this planning round will coincide with a leasing process, managed by Crown Estate Scotland ("CES").

6.5 To ensure consistency with the existing plans (i.e. the Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy (2020)) and to account for developing projects and new/updated research, this leasing round requires a strategic planning exercise to assess the suitability of potential locations and to ensure compatibility with other projects and marine users in Scotland.

6.6 The outcome will be a new SMP for offshore wind for INTOG setting out plan options for potential future seabed leasing.

6.7 The Sectoral Marine Planning process comprises of the following stages:

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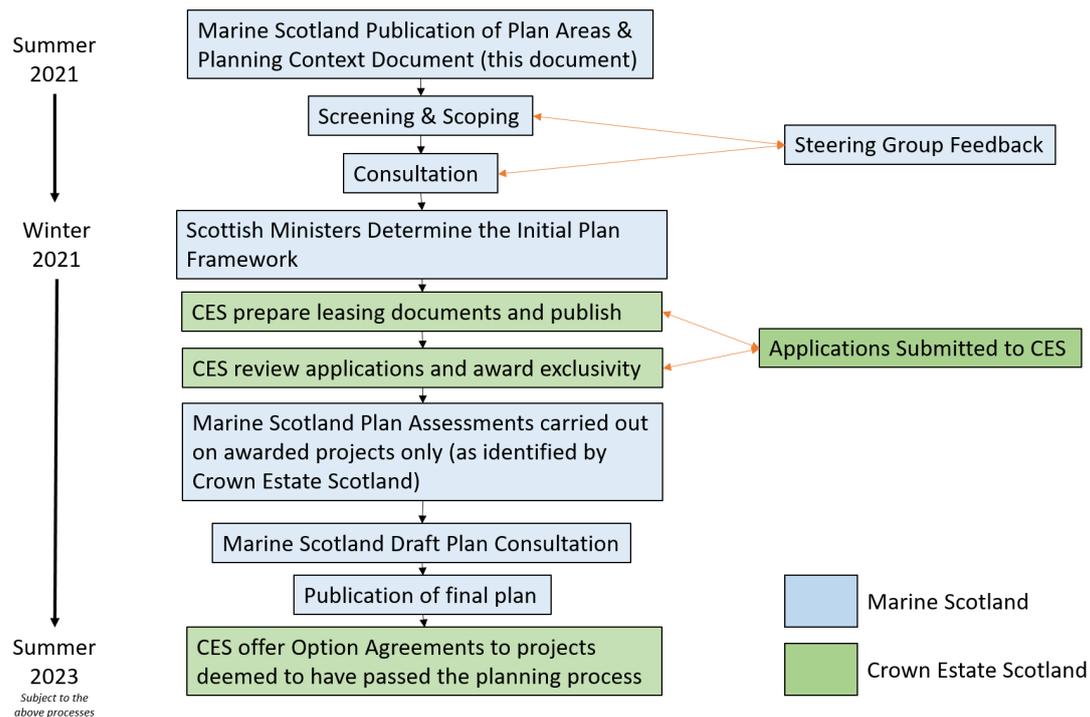


Figure 1 – Sectoral Marine Planning Process for INTOG

6.8 This report and the analysis presented below does not seek to identify specific areas for development but to take the first step in the sectoral planning process by identifying broad areas within which it would be logistically realistic to host development of new INTOG projects. The nature of projects looking to facilitate decarbonisation of oil and gas naturally involves commercial relationships and ventures that cannot accurately be accounted for in a national planning exercise. However, the planning process identifies broad locations within which these more targeted projects can be developed. The Plan Areas of Search are not proposed as sites to be developed in their entirety. They provide the starting point from which optimum locations for offshore wind energy production can be identified and Plan Options produced, and subsequently assessed.

6.9 The plan development process will take into account wider policies and priorities relating to climate change, lowering carbon emissions and promoting green energy to ensure that the Plan supports the delivery of our national and international obligations.

6.10 The process will also take into consideration the potential economic, social and environmental impacts of offshore wind energy and will be undertaken in accordance with relevant Scottish, UK, EU and applicable international legislation.

6.11 The opportunity and constraint analysis, described in section 9 to identify the plan areas of search has taken into account multiple environmental, technical and socio-economic considerations but does not account for a full plan nor a full sustainability appraisal. Given the nature of projects likely to come forward and requirement for commercial and often private ventures, these full assessments and planning requirements will be completed post-identification of potential projects, thus reducing the uncertainty in the planning and assessment process and allowing for targeted engagement with the various sectors concerned.

## **7. Interface with Crown Estate Scotland Leasing**

7.1 While the Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy (2020) identified areas of seabed considered suitable for future development, Crown Estate Scotland (CES), in its role as manager of Scotland's seabed, is responsible for administering the leasing system. The ScotWind leasing process is based upon that planning exercise.

7.2 In June 2020, CES launched its first cycle of ScotWind leasing. ScotWind grants property rights for seabed in Scottish waters for new commercial scale offshore wind energy projects. The ScotWind leasing process will create a pipeline of new projects from the late 2020s onwards, and also provide an opportunity to introduce new companies to the UK market.

7.3 The Sectoral Marine Planning Process for INTOG (outlined in section 5) has been developed to help successful projects reach key milestones in a timeframe that will allow them to contribute fully to the transition to net zero and a low carbon economy.

7.4 For ScotWind, applications for seabed leases were only accepted once the SMP 2020 was formally adopted. In contrast, potential INTOG projects will be able to apply for exclusivity agreements at an early stage, although only project locations included within the final INTOG plan will be awarded Option Agreements. Projects that progress through the planning process will still require the appropriate marine licences and section 36 consent under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Electricity Act 1989, respectively.

## **8. Specifications and Limits for the Plan**

8.1 This planning process will identify and assess key options for future offshore wind development. Given the requirement and aim to progress this planning work, some key planning criteria have been established and will shape plan development. Only projects that meet the plan criteria and are located within the final Areas of Search will be eligible to apply for Crown Estate Scotland's leasing process.

### **Plan Criteria**

- The targeted oil and gas decarbonisation component of this planning exercise will be limited to identifying and delivering plan options up to 4 GW. This is aligned to the estimated generation required for current and future oil and gas demand and the overall objective to minimise negative impacts.
- As with previous planning rounds, this capacity figure can be expressed as an estimated total area (KM<sup>2</sup>) that is representative of the spatial footprint of the potential impact of development. However, unlike the SMP for Offshore Wind Energy (2020) the design of this planning process means that the draft plan and Draft Plan Options will be based on the project proposals submitted and successfully awarded exclusivity by CES. As such plan level assessments will be driven by more precise project information.
- Innovation/Test and Demonstration projects will be considered in the course of the plan development and will be limited to identifying and delivering plan

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options up to 500 MW. These projects must be <100 MW total generating capacity.

- Projects seeking to support decarbonisation/electrification of the oil and gas sector may be >100 MW and must provide electricity to decarbonise the platform and the production of oil and gas. Conversion of energy to other fuels may be a component but not the primary purpose of the project.
- Projects to electrify oil and gas infrastructure must be located within the identified plan areas (currently the Areas of Search). Additional information may be brought forwards by developers for consideration of other plan areas, this will be subject to assessment and review by Scottish Ministers. Any information provided should fully consider the findings of the SMP for offshore wind energy (2020), particularly the consideration of cumulative impact, and plan level mitigation measures therein.
- Innovation/test and demonstration projects must not be located within the areas marked as prohibited. Additional information may be brought forwards by developers for consideration of including areas currently marked prohibited. This will be subject to assessment and review by Scottish Ministers.
- Any project locations proceeding to the final plan must have been identified and successfully progressed through Crown Estate Scotland's lease application stage and awarded exclusivity.

## 9. SMP INTOG Maps

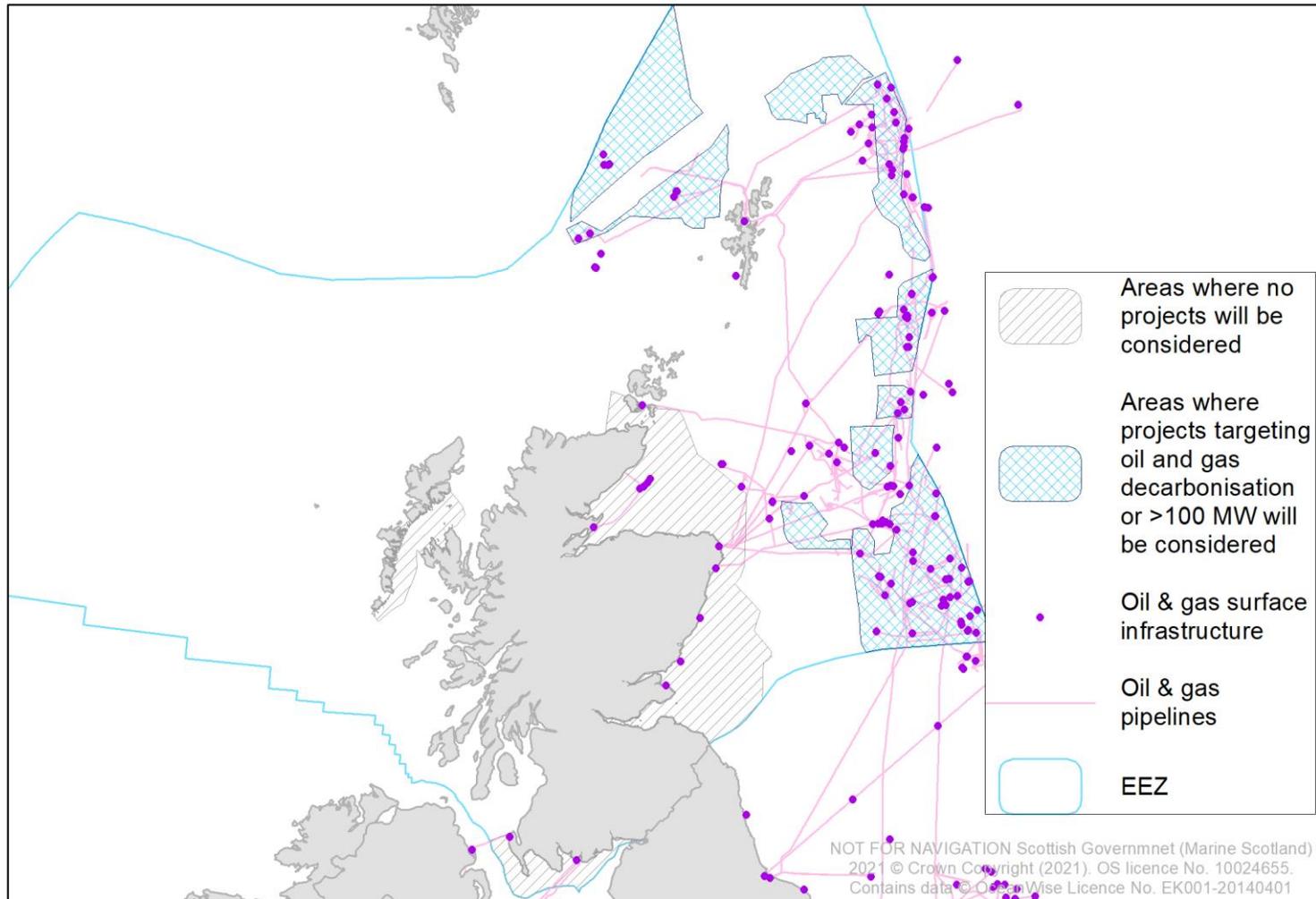


Figure 2 - INTOG Areas of Search and areas where development will not be permitted, alongside oil and gas pipelines and surface infrastructure

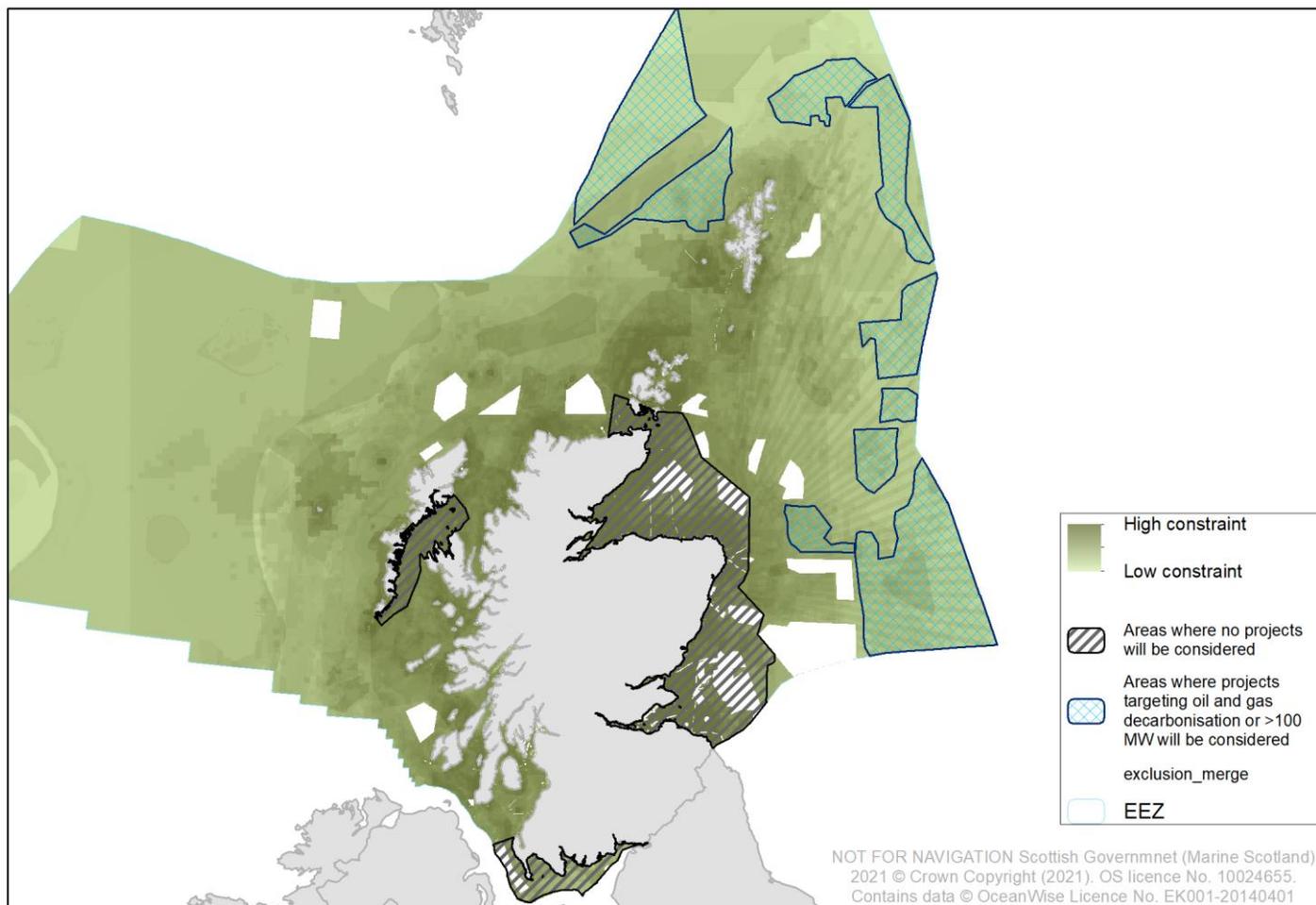


Figure 3 - Areas of Search, Opportunity and constraint analysis output and exclusions.

# Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG) Planning Specification and Context Report

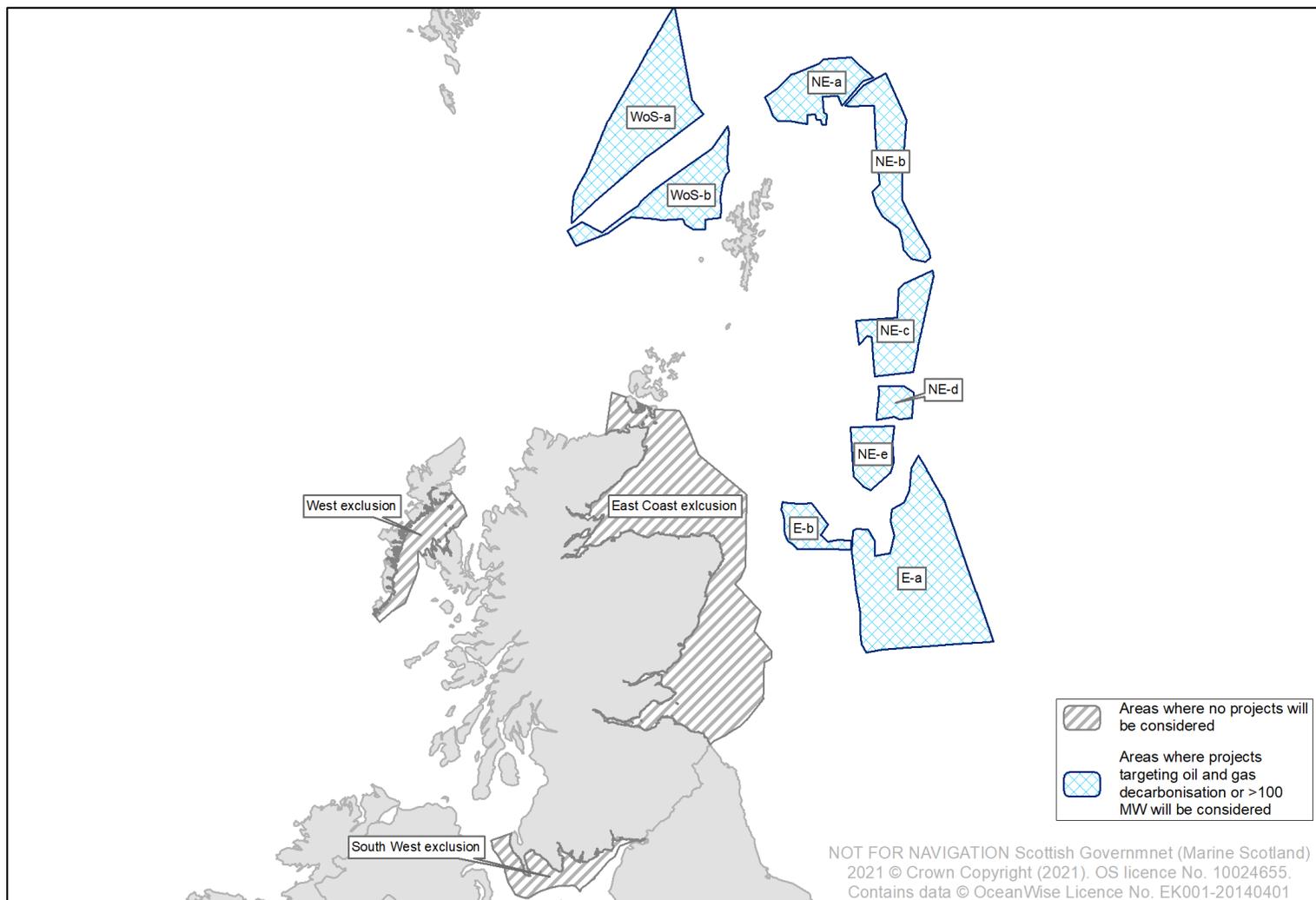


Figure 4 - INTOG Areas of Search with labels

## 10. Map Creation Methodology

10.1 A single mapped output identifying areas with the lowest level of constraint and lowest level on consenting risk within Scottish waters serves as a guide for planning the most appropriate options for the development of offshore wind. This multi-criteria spatial analysis helps select broad areas that minimise interaction with the existing users of the sea, key environmental receptors and existing infrastructure or designated use. Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques provide a method to generate such an output and to manipulate the relative influence of its component layers.

10.2 Maximising offshore renewable resource requires the identification of potential development locations and careful selection of areas through an iterative analysis of opportunity and constraint. This process must take into account the many uses of the sea that potential new developments may interact with. Interactions can be industrial, cultural or environmental.

10.3 This SMP uses GIS data to create a single mapped output to visualise the many uses of Scottish waters, combine them and identify areas where potential exists to recommend further development. The selected areas are within the Scottish Offshore Renewable Energy Region (SORER).

10.4 This multi-criteria spatial output helps select broad areas that minimise interaction with the existing uses of the sea. The layers of relevant spatial information were collected and standardised to:

- Coordinate reference system (WGS 84): this ensures all the layers are spatially compatible
- Geographical extent (Scottish waters by using the Scottish renewables EEZ): this makes all layers overlap within the same spatial extent
- Grid square (cell) size: all layers, if not already, were converted to raster format and the grid square size selected was based on the bathymetry base layer
- Number of range classes: for ease of comparability each layer was reclassified into a maximum of three classes: high, medium and low levels of constraint. For some datasets, such as cables, only one classification is required.

10.5 This study identifies the initial Areas of Search, which are then subject to a process of consultation and refinement, before CES begin their leasing process. Subsequently, a full Sustainability Appraisal (encompassing SEA, HRA and SEIA) will be conducted in order to determine the viability of the Plan Options. Unlike the ScotWind Process, these will not then be opened for lease applications, as that has already taken place, but instead, all projects determined by the plan to proceed can then be offered Option Agreements from CES.

10.6 This report describes the process to identify the Areas of Search that contain the best resource and overall suitability for future development.

10.7 This analysis brings together multiple geospatial data layers, which depict both opportunity (such as average wind speed or sediment type) and constraint (such as fishing activity, shipping traffic or environmental sensitivities) into spatial analysis software where they can be combined and presented as one national map. The full list of data used in this analysis is contained below in section 10.

10.8 Following the preparation of each dataset, each component of the analysis is then given a “weight” value which determines how much influence those data will have in the resulting output. The chosen relative weights are based upon previously published information, where available and in accordance with the SMP 2020 as extensive consultation on these data has already taken place. The analysis produces a map highlighting areas around Scotland where there is both available wind resource and lower levels of spatial constraint.

10.9 Spatial data that describes locations where no development should be considered, such as areas where existing offshore infrastructure (e.g. offshore wind projects and leases, aquaculture) is already in place, were combined into a separate “exclusion” data set. This exclusion dataset was then used to remove areas from the multi-criteria analysis output. The resulting output from these processes produces a map where broad areas of potential opportunity can be discerned.

10.10 By identifying the broad scale locations that present minimised constraint a set of broad Areas of Search (AoS) were then drawn that brought together the most suitable areas.

## **Overlay procedure**

10.11 Once standardised into a maximum of three classes the layers are added together using a GIS overlaying tool that sums each layer’s grid square values. Since all the layers have been standardised to be drawn in exactly the same location the grid squares line up and can be added together. The relative weighting between layers is included at this time.

10.12 This cumulative value per grid square is what results in the overall weight layer that can then be interpreted as showing the variation in constraint over the study area. This multi-criteria analysis output can then be used as a guiding template to select broad areas that fall within an acceptable level of constraint.

## **11. Data**

11.1 The data layers that have been applied to the multi-criteria analysis reflect the variety of interactions with potential to overlap with any new offshore wind developments. The most up to date available data have been used.

11.2 The sections below contain data descriptions, source, classifications and weightings for each dataset examined. Views on these data and applicable classifications and weightings are sought as part of the consultation on the Areas of Search. Comments can be provided directly to Marine Scotland using the contact information in section 13, below.

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11.3 The maps and detailed analysis of the data in this section is to be populated further following internal review.

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<b>Name/Description</b>	Military Practice, Exercise and Danger Areas
<b>Source</b>	OceanWise and additional input from Defence Infrastructure Organisation. <sup>1</sup>
<b>Weighting applied</b>	3 (max value = 9)

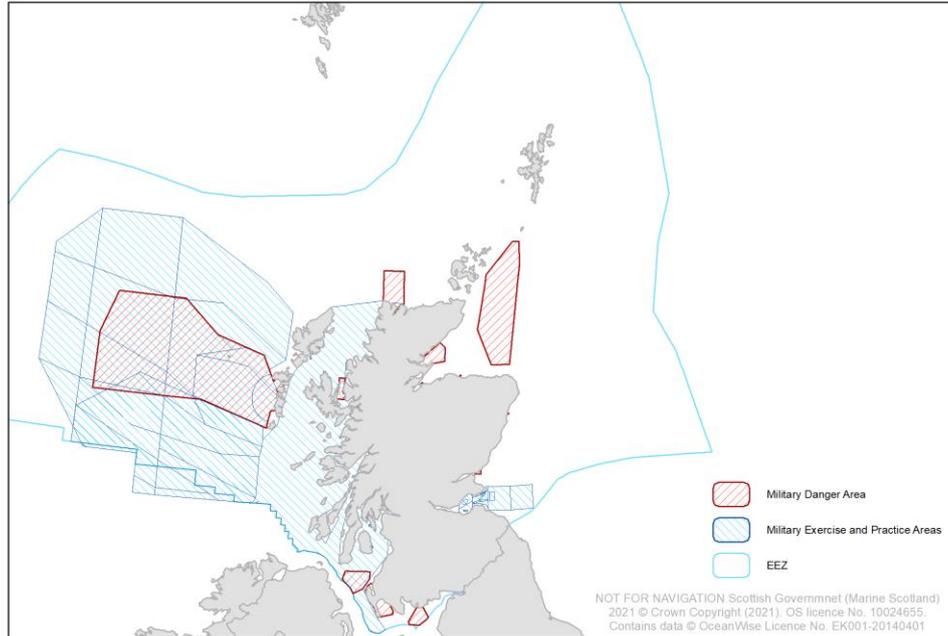


Figure 5 - Military practice, exercise and danger areas

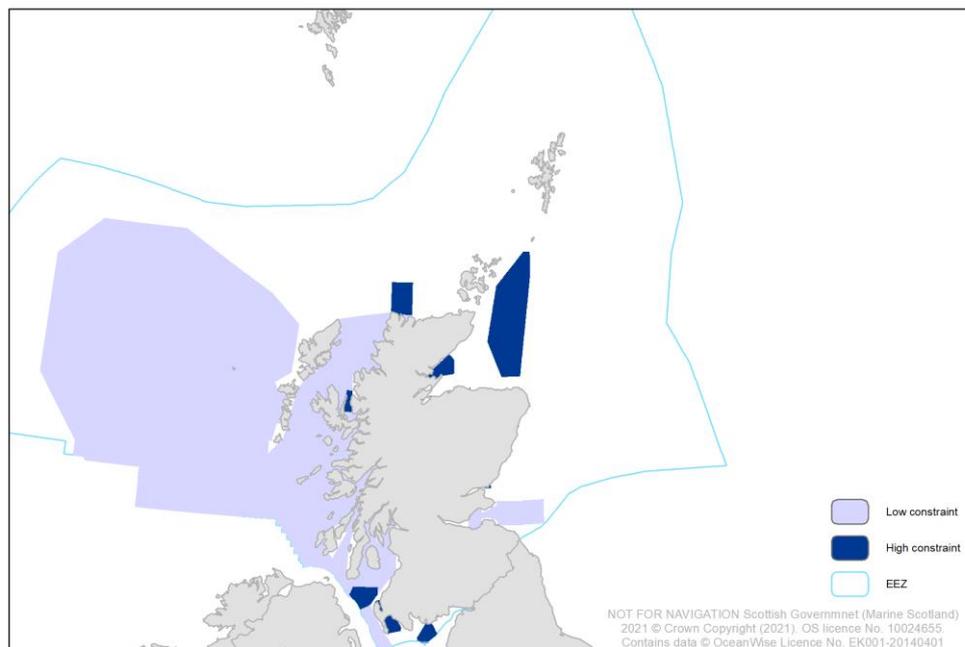


Figure 6 - Military practice, exercise and danger areas reclassified for constraint analysis

<sup>1</sup> [Mapping Data Overview | OceanWise](#) – licence no. EK001-20140401

# Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG) Planning Specification and Context Report

<b>Name/Description</b>	Wave and Tidal Draft Plan Options and Harbour Limits
<b>Source</b>	Marine Scotland and OceanWise <sup>2</sup>
<b>Weighting applied</b>	Wave and tidal = 4 (max score = 4), harbour limits = 6 (18)

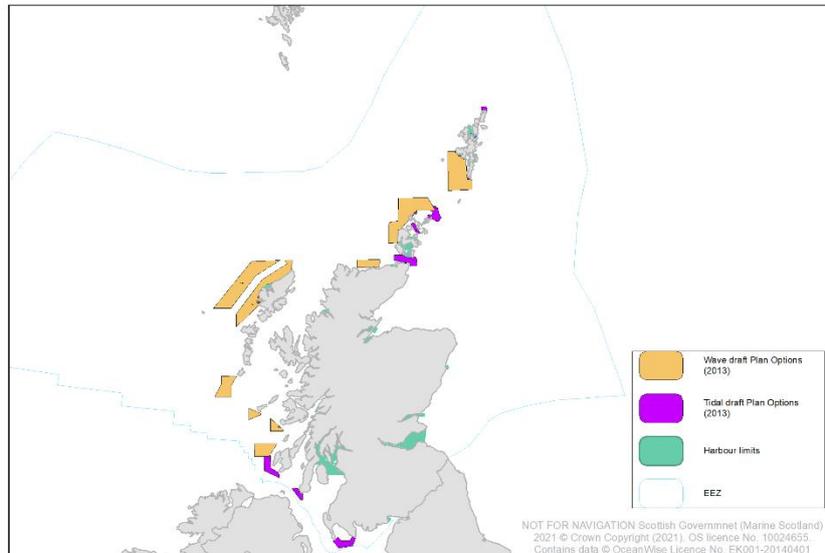


Figure 7 – Wave and Tidal Draft Plan Options (DPO), and harbour limits

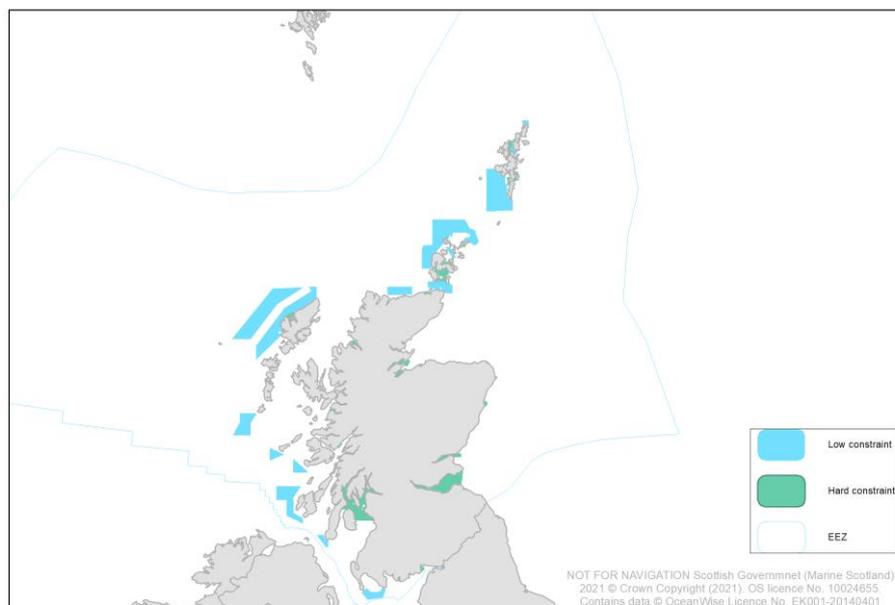


Figure 8 – Wave and Tidal Draft Plan Options (DPO), and harbour limit areas reclassified for constraint analysis

<sup>2</sup> ibid

Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG) Planning Specification and Context Report

<b>Name/Description</b>	AIS Shipping Vessel Density
<b>Source</b>	ABPmer Marine Atlas <sup>3</sup>
<b>Weighting applied</b>	7 (max score 21)

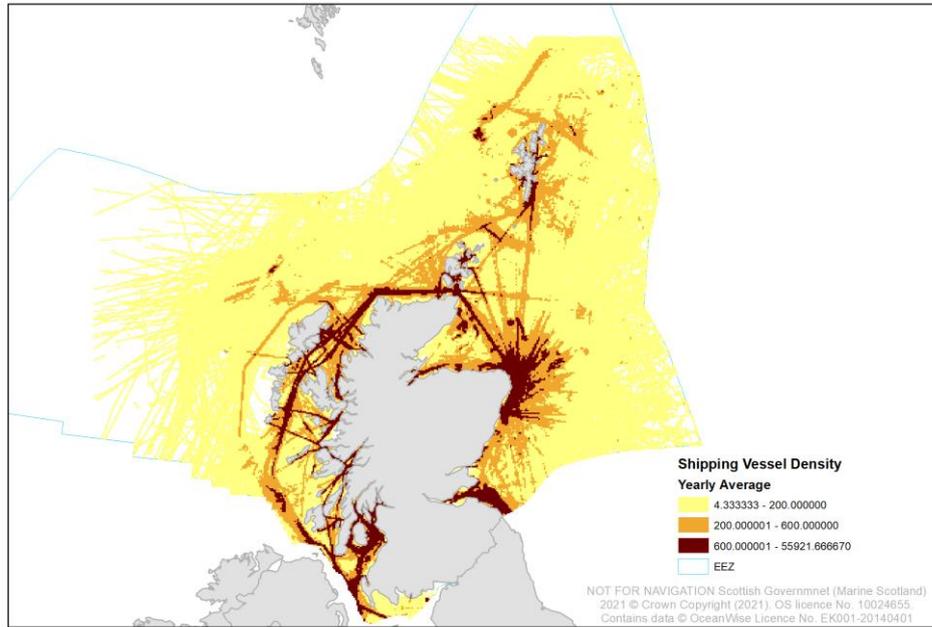


Figure 9 – Shipping Vessel Density

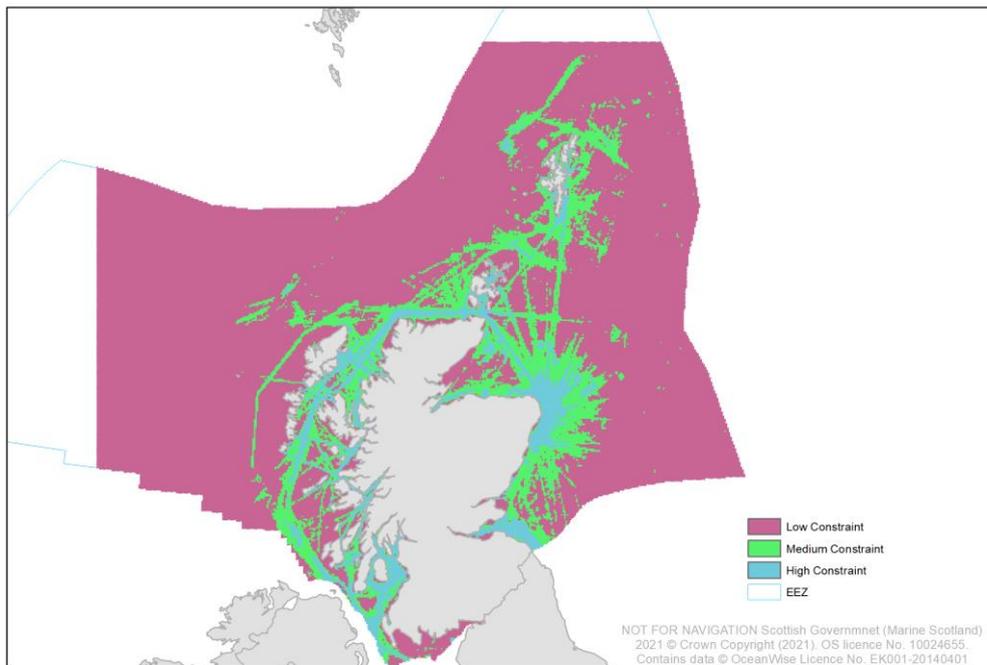


Figure 10 – Shipping Vessel Density, reclassified for constraint analysis

<sup>3</sup> [Atlas of UK Marine Renewables Resources \(abpmer.co.uk\)](https://abpmer.co.uk)

Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG) Planning Specification and Context Report

<b>Name/Description</b>	Harbour seal Density
<b>Source</b>	Sea Mammal Research Unit <sup>4</sup>
<b>Weighting applied</b>	4 (max score = 12)

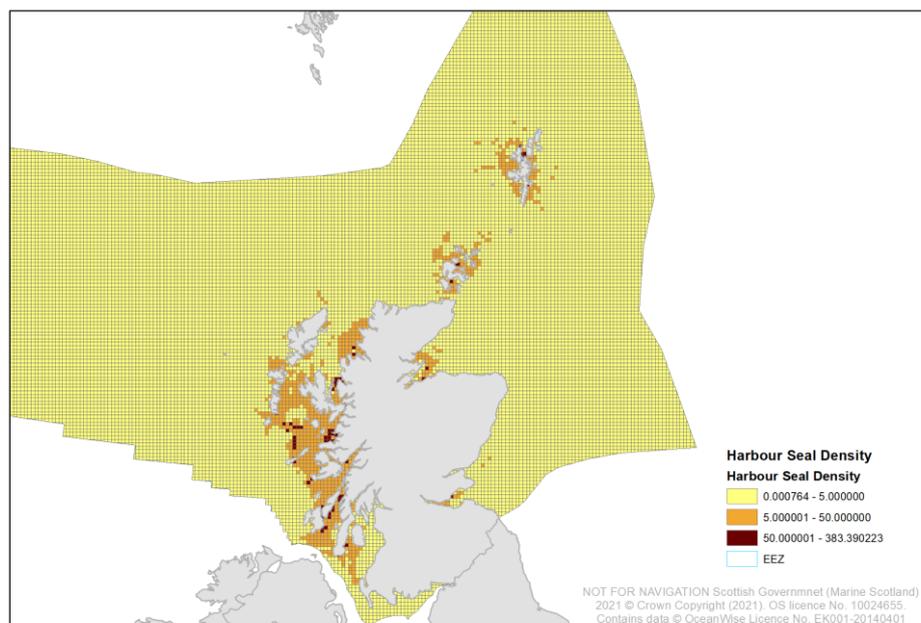


Figure 11 – Harbour seal density

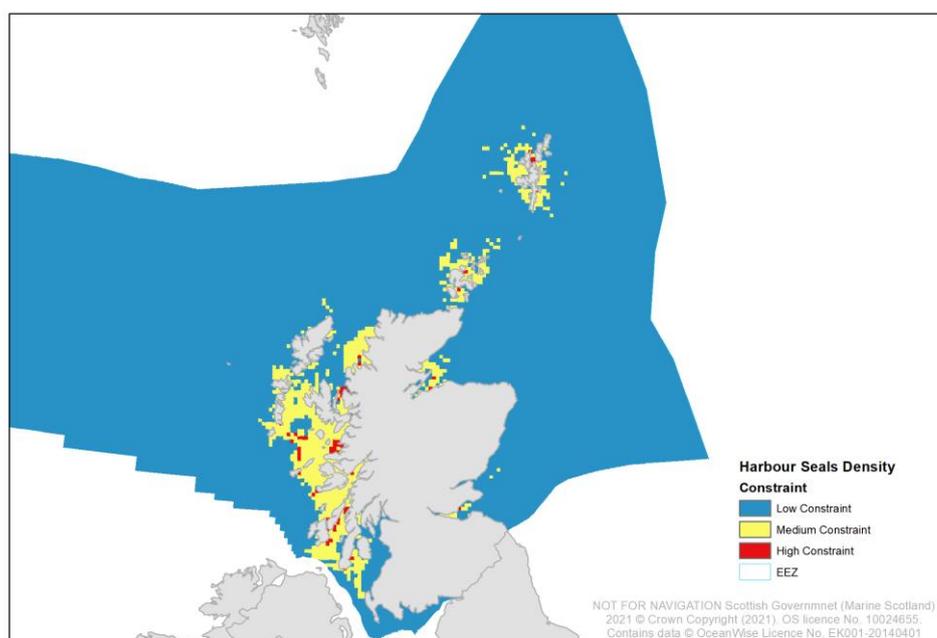


Figure 12 – Harbour seal density, reclassified for constraint analysis

<sup>4</sup> [Estimated at-sea Distribution of Grey and Harbour Seals - updated maps 2017 | Marine Scotland Data Publications](#)

<b>Name/Description</b>	Grey seal Density
<b>Source</b>	Sea Mammal Research Unit <sup>5</sup>
<b>Weighting applied</b>	4 (max score = 12)

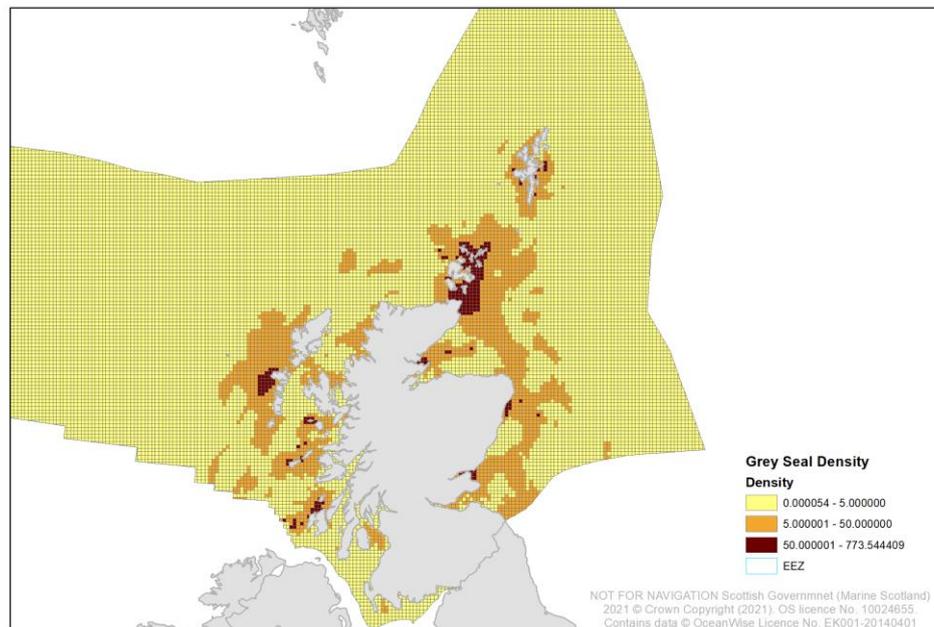


Figure 13 – Grey seal density

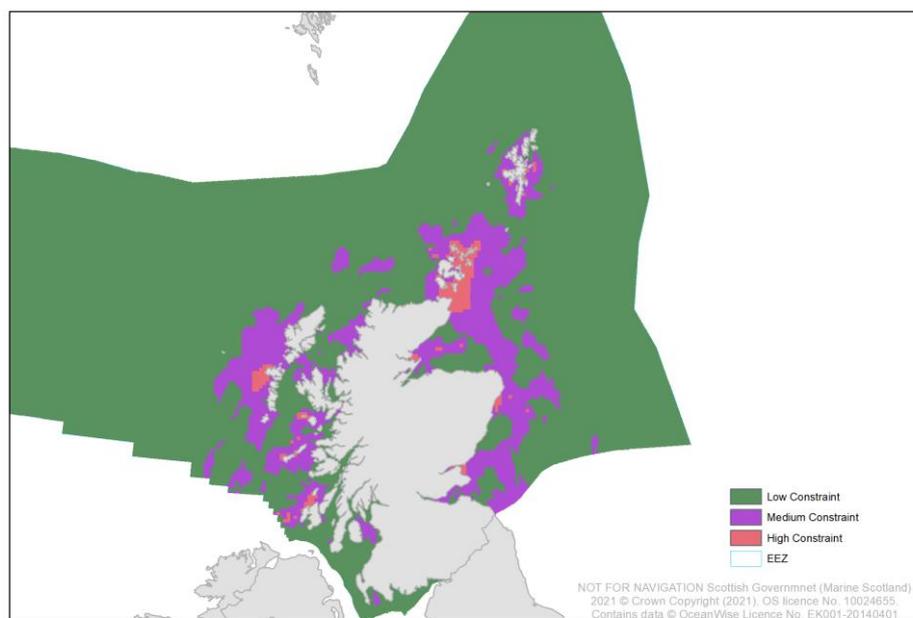


Figure 14 – Grey seal density, reclassified for constraint analysis

<sup>5</sup> ibid

Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG) Planning Specification and Context Report

<b>Name/Description</b>	Seal Conservation Areas
<b>Source</b>	Scottish Government <sup>6</sup>
<b>Weighting applied</b>	4 (max score= 8)

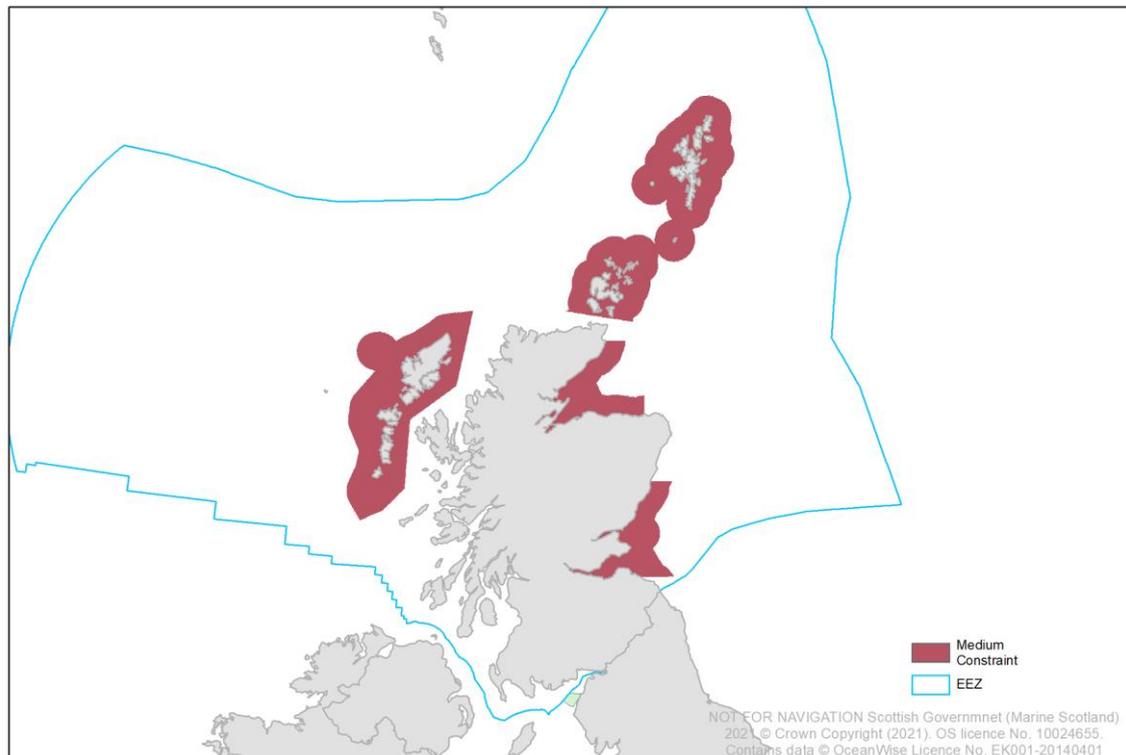


Figure 15 - Seal conservation areas

<sup>6</sup> [Common/harbour seal \(Phoca vitulina\) - Conservation Areas \(OSCP\) | Marine Scotland Information](#)

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<b>Name/Description</b>	<b>Designated Sites</b>
<b>Source</b>	NatureScot <sup>7</sup>
<b>Weighting applied</b>	10 (max score = 30)

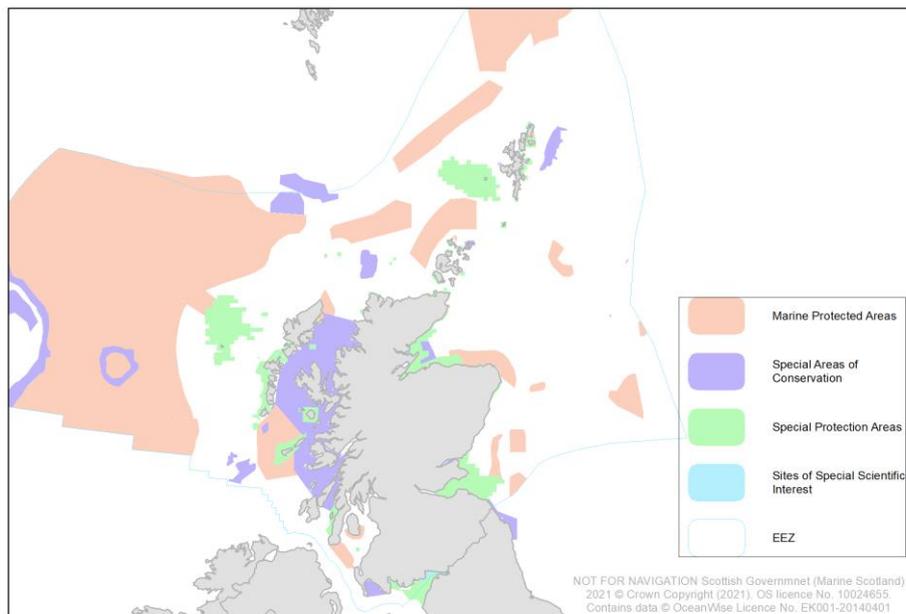


Figure 16 - Designated sites (MPA, SAC, SPA and SSSI)

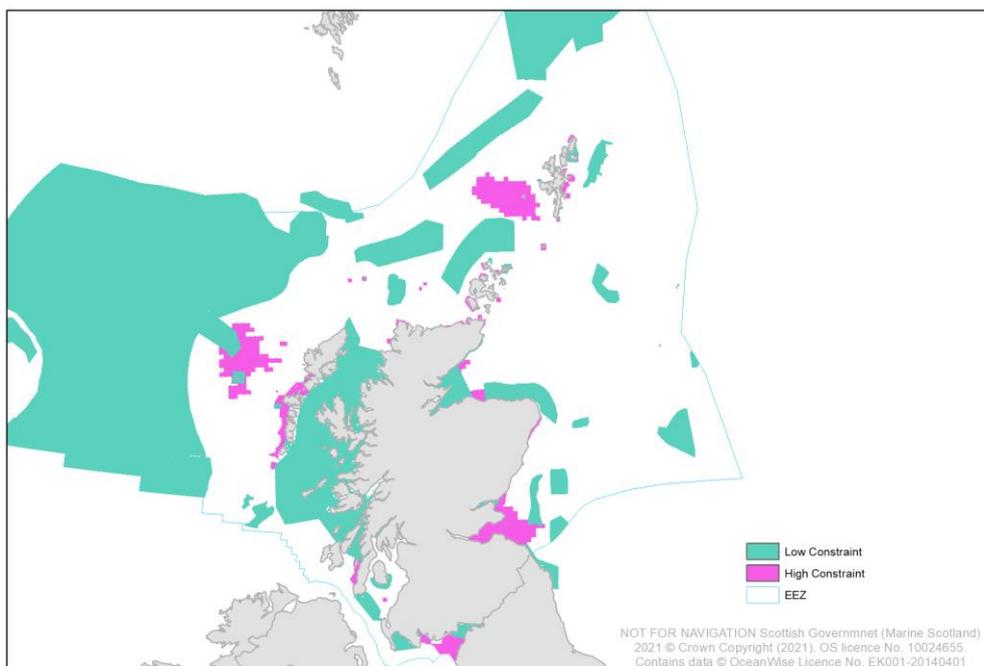


Figure 17 – Designated Sites, reclassified for constraint analysis

<sup>7</sup> [Natural Spaces - Scottish Natural Heritage \(snh.gov.uk\)](https://www.snh.gov.uk)

<b>Name/Description</b>	Sediment
<b>Source</b>	EMODNet <sup>8</sup>
<b>Weighting applied</b>	4 (max score = 12)

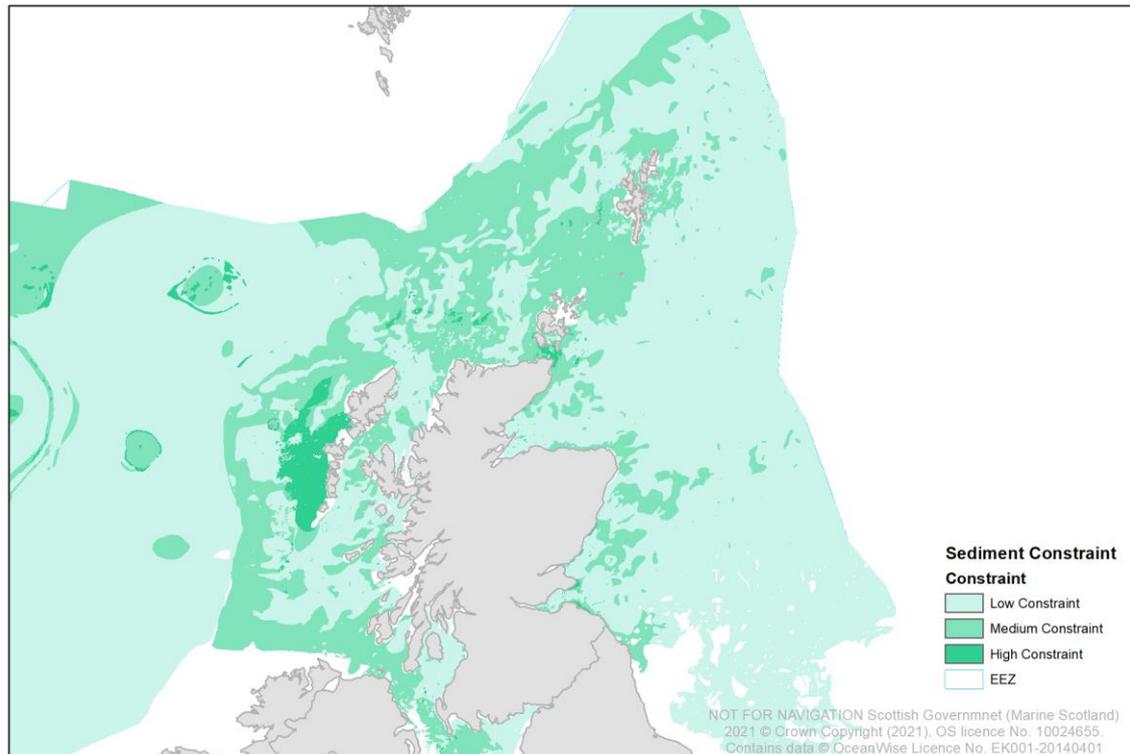


Figure 18 - Sediment, reclassified for constraint analysis

<sup>8</sup> [Data products | Geology \(emodnet-geology.eu\)](https://data.products | Geology (emodnet-geology.eu))

Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG) Planning Specification and Context Report

<b>Name/Description</b>	Cod spawning Areas
<b>Source</b>	Gonzalez-Irusta, J. M. and Wright, P. J. (2015) <sup>9</sup>
<b>Weighting applied</b>	3 (max score = 9)

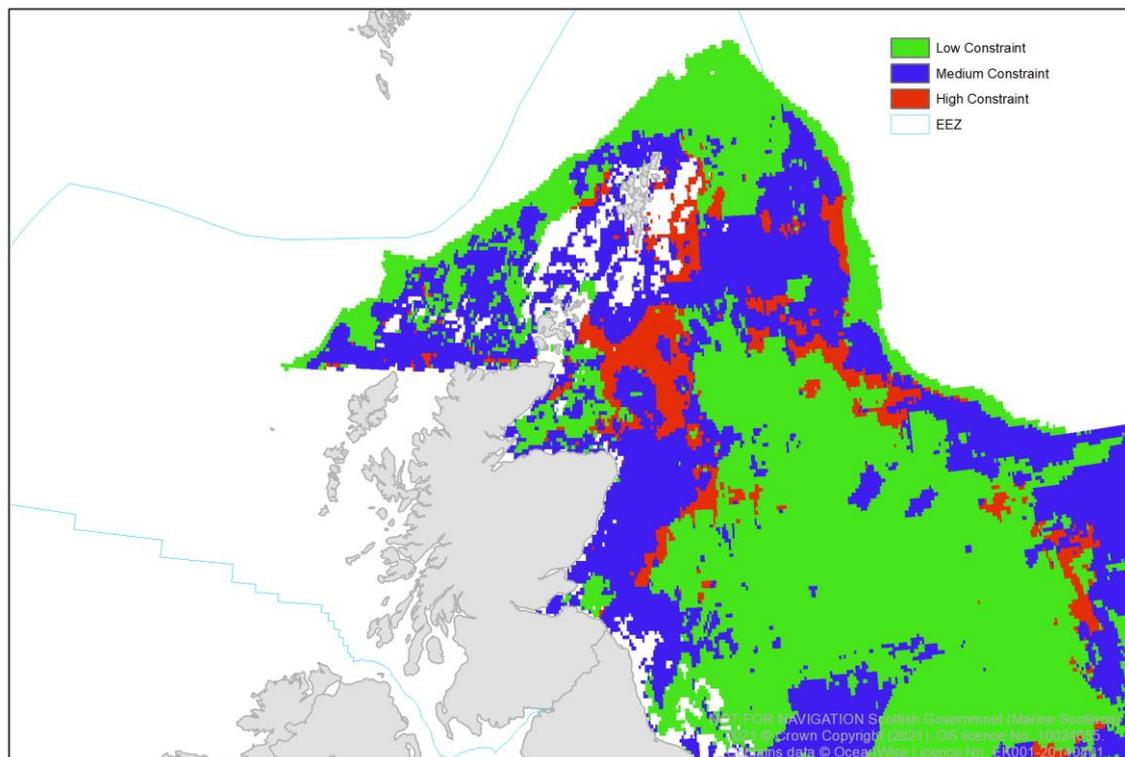


Figure 19 – Cod spawning areas, reclassified for constraint analysis

<sup>9</sup> Gonzalez-Irusta, J. M. and Wright, P. J. (2015) 'Spawning grounds of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) in the North Sea', ICES Journal of Marine Science, 73(March), pp. 304–315.

Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG) Planning Specification and Context Report

<b>Name/Description</b>	Haddock spawning Areas
<b>Source</b>	Gonzalez-Irusta, J. M. and Wright, P. J. (2016) <sup>10</sup>
<b>Weighting applied</b>	3 (max score = 9)

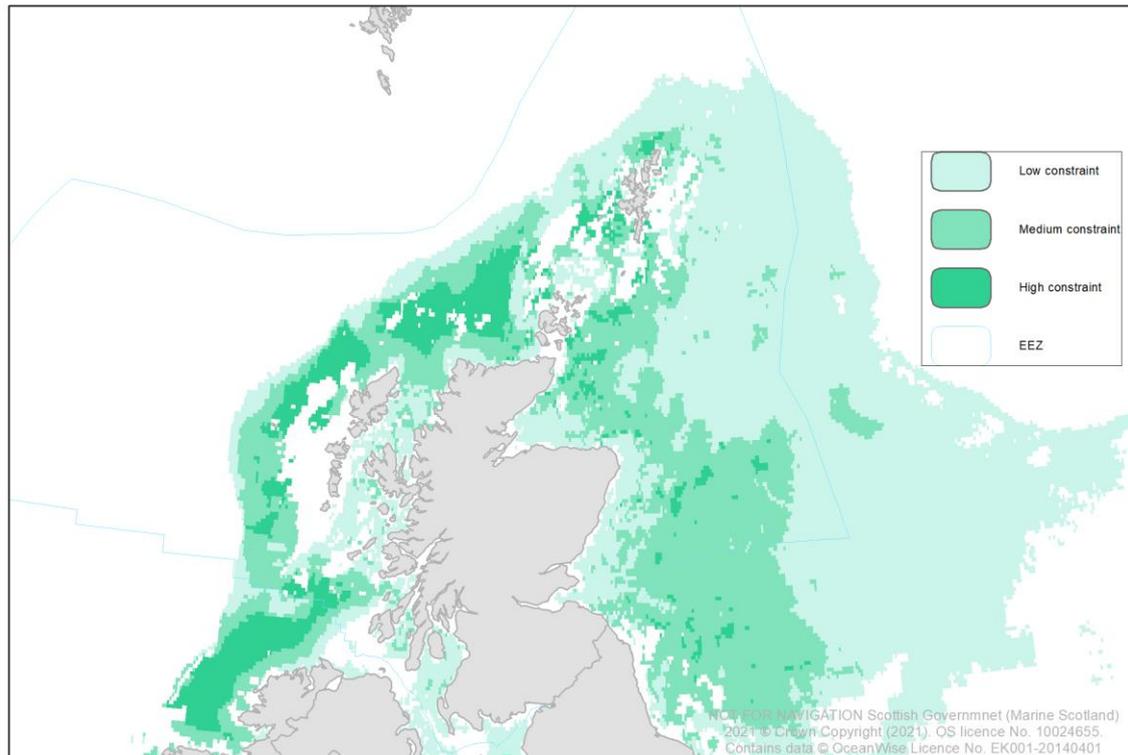


Figure 20 - Haddock spawning areas, reclassified for constraint analysis

<sup>10</sup> González-irusta, J. M. and Wright, P. J. (2016) 'Spawning grounds of haddock ( *Melanogrammus aeglefinus* ) in the North Sea and West of Scotland', Fisheries Research. Elsevier B.V., 183(November), pp. 180–191. doi: 10.1016/j.fishres.2016.05.028.

Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG) Planning Specification and Context Report

<b>Name/Description</b>	Spawning Areas (exclude cod and haddock)
<b>Source</b>	CEFAS <sup>11</sup>
<b>Weighting applied</b>	3 (max score = 9)

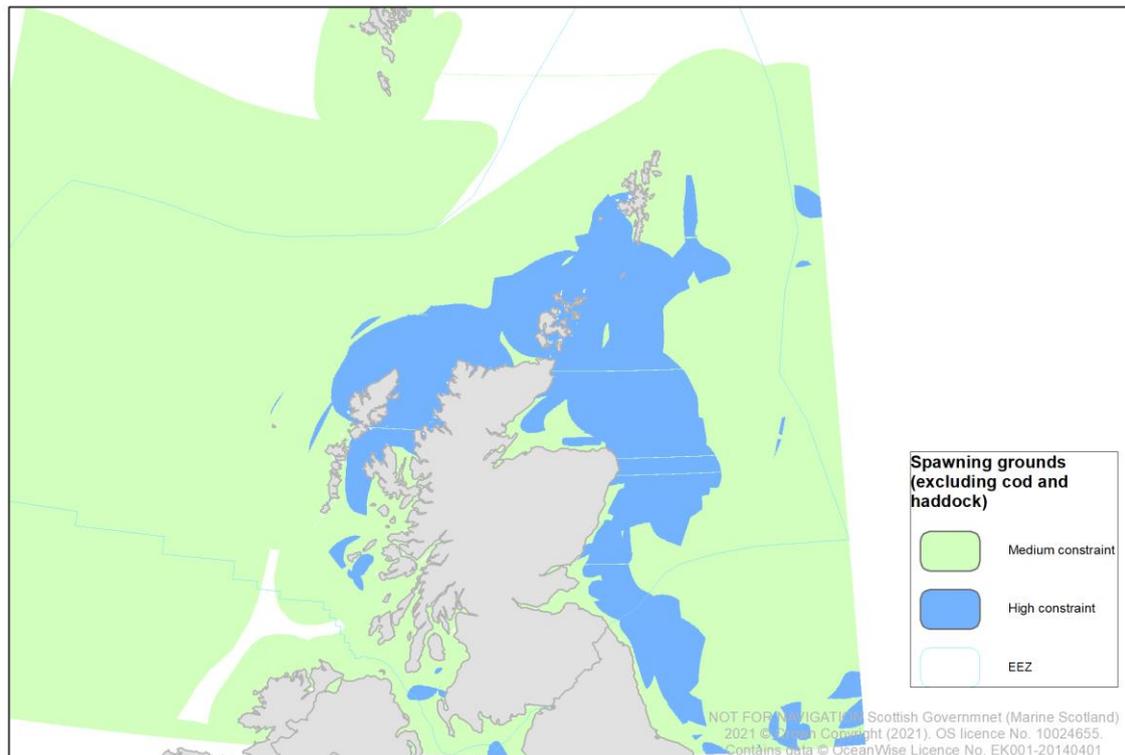
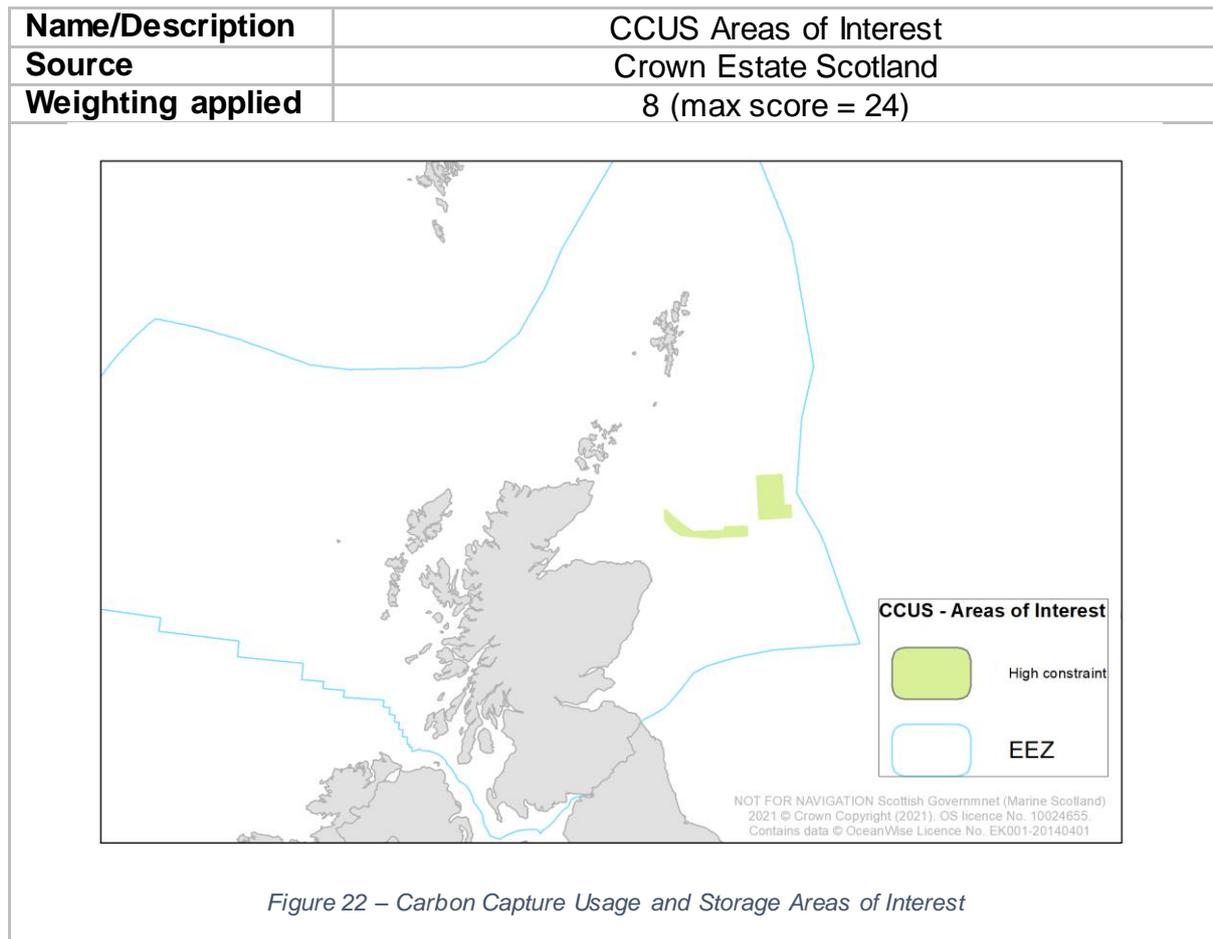


Figure 21 - Spawning areas for other species (excludes cod and haddock), reclassified for constraint analysis

<sup>11</sup> CEFAS (1998) Fisheries Sensitivity Maps in British Waters., Published and distributed by UKOOA Ltd. doi: 10.1007/s13398-014-0173-7.2.  
please note, the artefact (white lines) are a result of the format conversion and not in original data.

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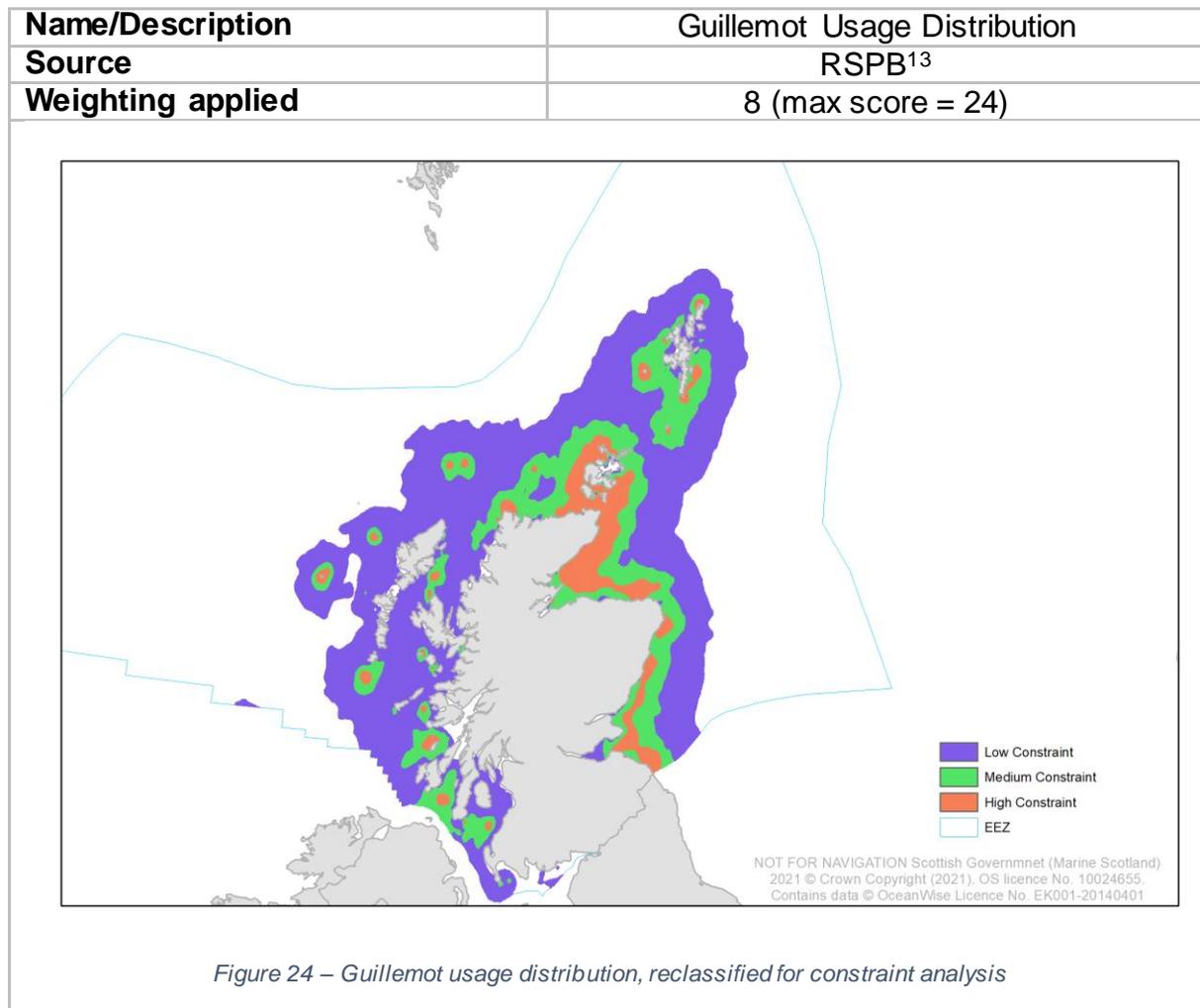
Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG) Planning Specification and Context Report

<b>Name/Description</b>	Power and telecommunication cables
<b>Source</b>	KIS-ORCA <sup>12</sup>
<b>Weighting applied</b>	4 (max score = 4)



Figure 23 – Power and telecommunication cables, reclassified for constraint analysis

<sup>12</sup> [Map | KIS-ORCA](#)



<sup>13</sup> [RSPB Open Data : Common Guillemot UK and Eire 95% Utilisation Distributions in 5% Bands : Common Guillemot UK and Eire 95% Utilisation Distributions in 5% Bands \(arcgis.com\)](#)

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<b>Name/Description</b>	Kittiwake Usage Distribution
<b>Source</b>	RSPB <sup>14</sup>
<b>Weighting applied</b>	8 (max score = 24)

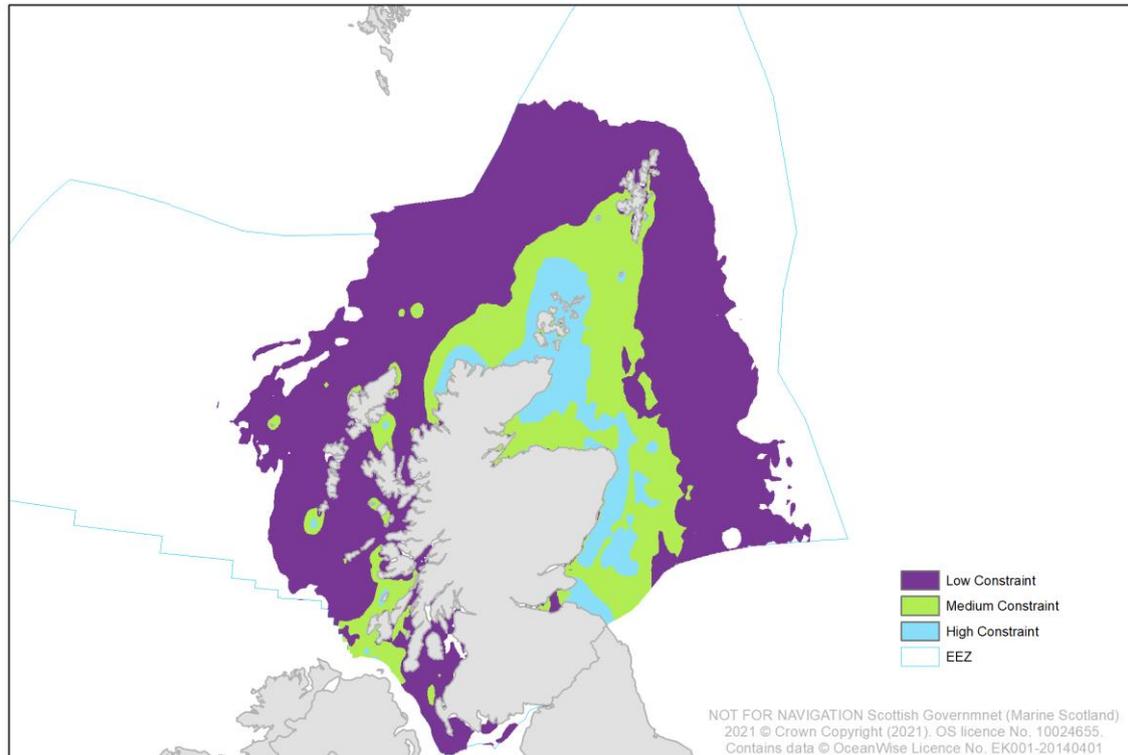


Figure 25 - Kittiwake usage distribution, reclassified for constraint analysis

<sup>14</sup> <https://opendata-rspb.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/black-legged-kittiwake-uk-and-eire-95-utilisation-distributions-in-5-bands>

Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG) Planning Specification and Context Report

<b>Name/Description</b>	Razorbill Usage Distribution
<b>Source</b>	RSPB <sup>15</sup>
<b>Weighting applied</b>	8 (max score = 24)

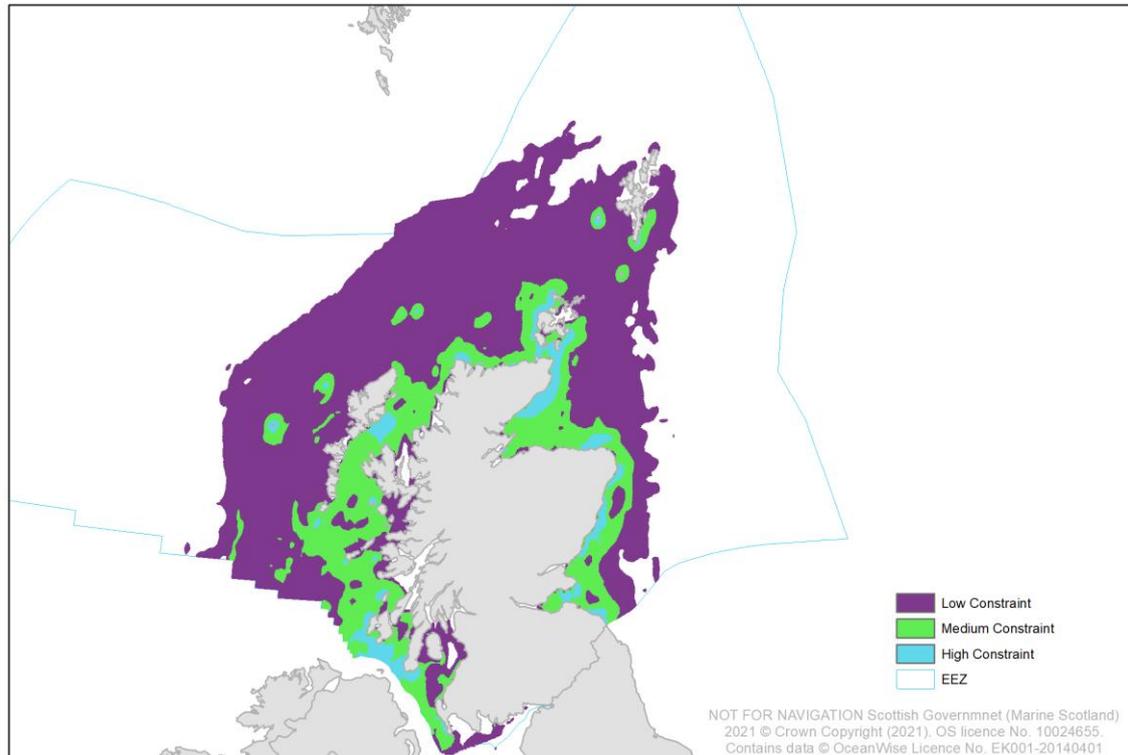


Figure 26 Razorbill usage distribution, reclassified for constraint analysis

<sup>15</sup> <https://opendata-rspb.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/black-legged-kittiwake-uk-and-eire-95-utilisation-distributions-in-5-bands>

<b>Name/Description</b>	Wintering birds displacement risk (excludes Razorbill, Guillemot and Kittiwake)
<b>Source</b>	European Seabirds at Sea <sup>16</sup>
<b>Weighting applied</b>	8 (max score = 24)

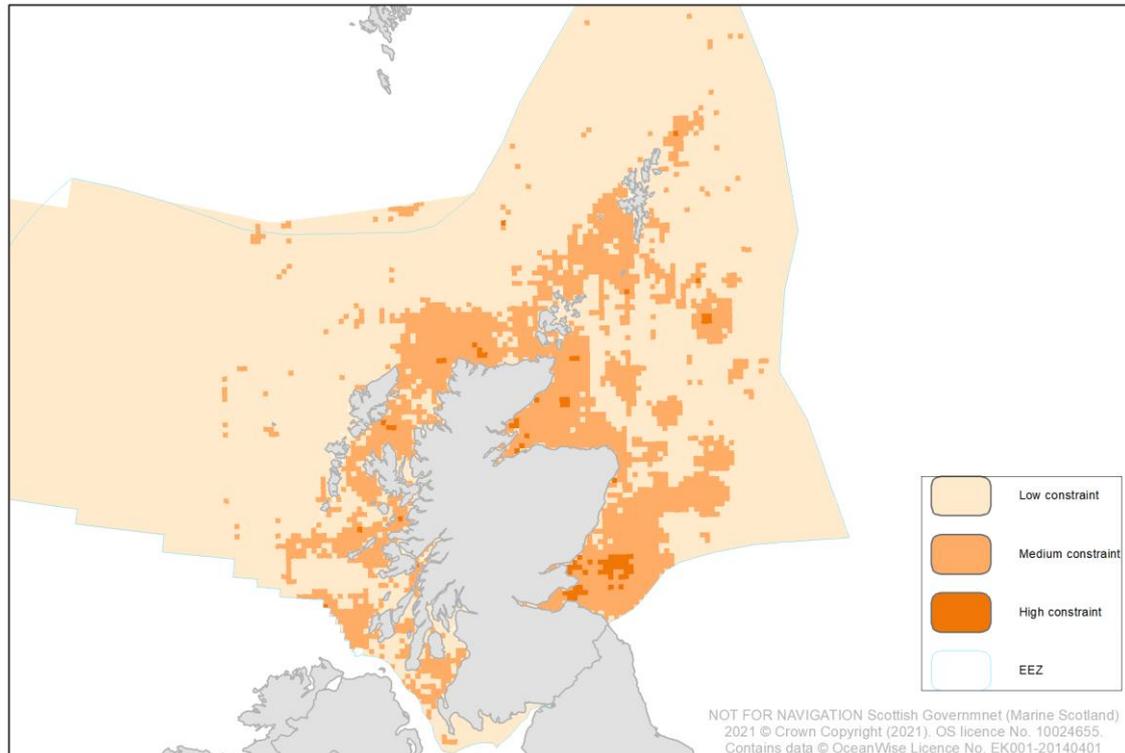


Figure 27 – Wintering birds displacement, reclassified for constraint analysis

<sup>16</sup> [OBIS-SEAMAP Dataset - JNCC seabird distribution and abundance data \(all trips\) from ESAS database \(duke.edu\)](#)

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<b>Name/Description</b>	Wintering bird collision risk (excludes razorbill, guillemot and kittiwake)
<b>Source</b>	European Seabirds at Sea
<b>Weighting applied</b>	8 (max score = 24)

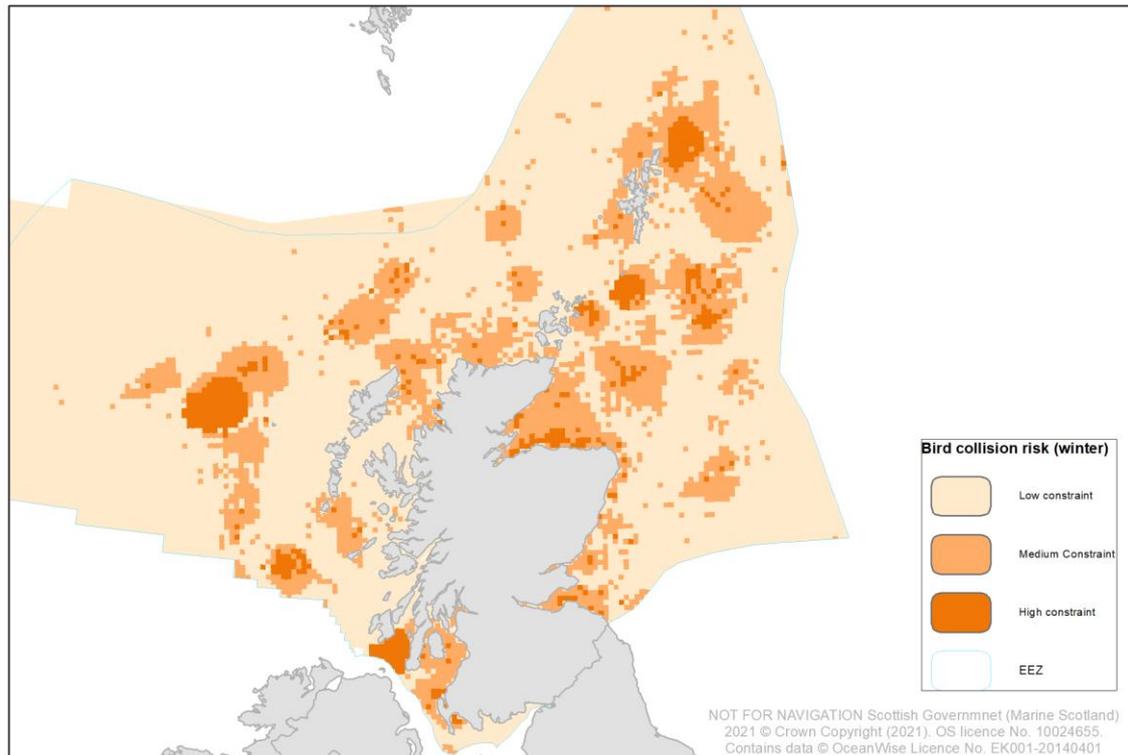


Figure 28 - Wintering bird collision risk, reclassified for constraint analysis

<b>Name/Description</b>	Foraging ranges from SPAs. This map depicts a merged representation of mean max foraging ranges from SPAs for key species.
<b>Source</b>	The Crown Estate <sup>17</sup>
<b>Weighting applied</b>	3 (max score = 3)

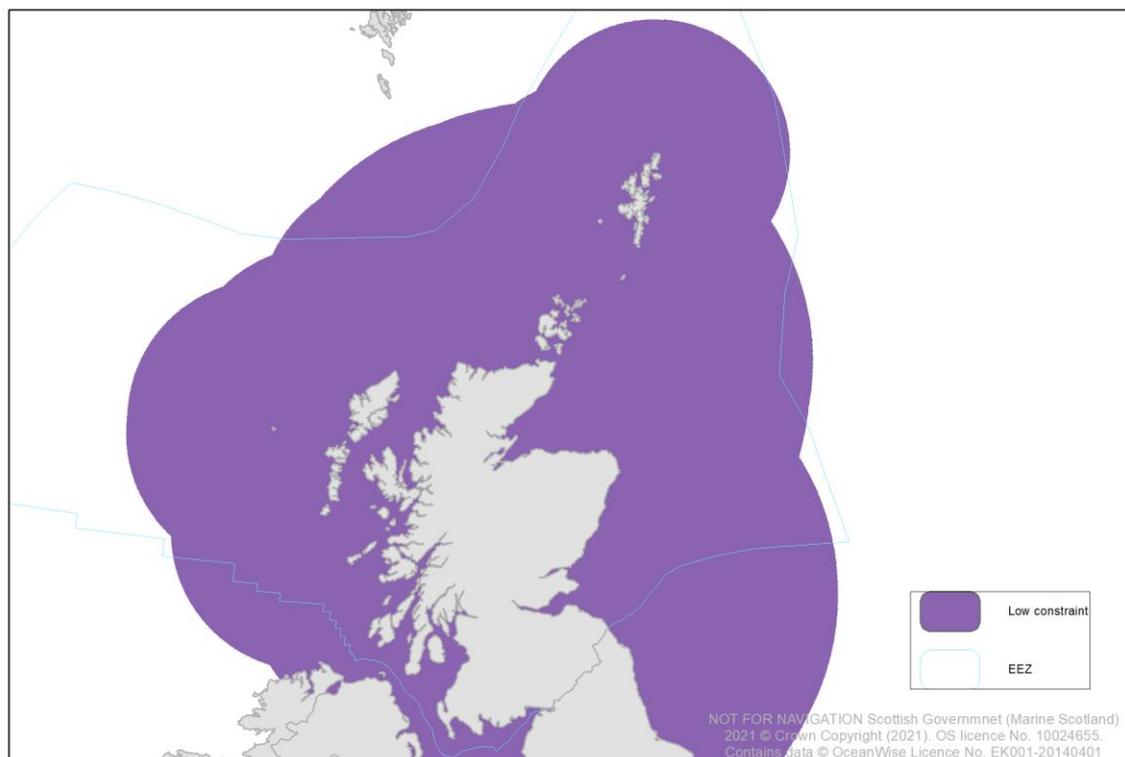
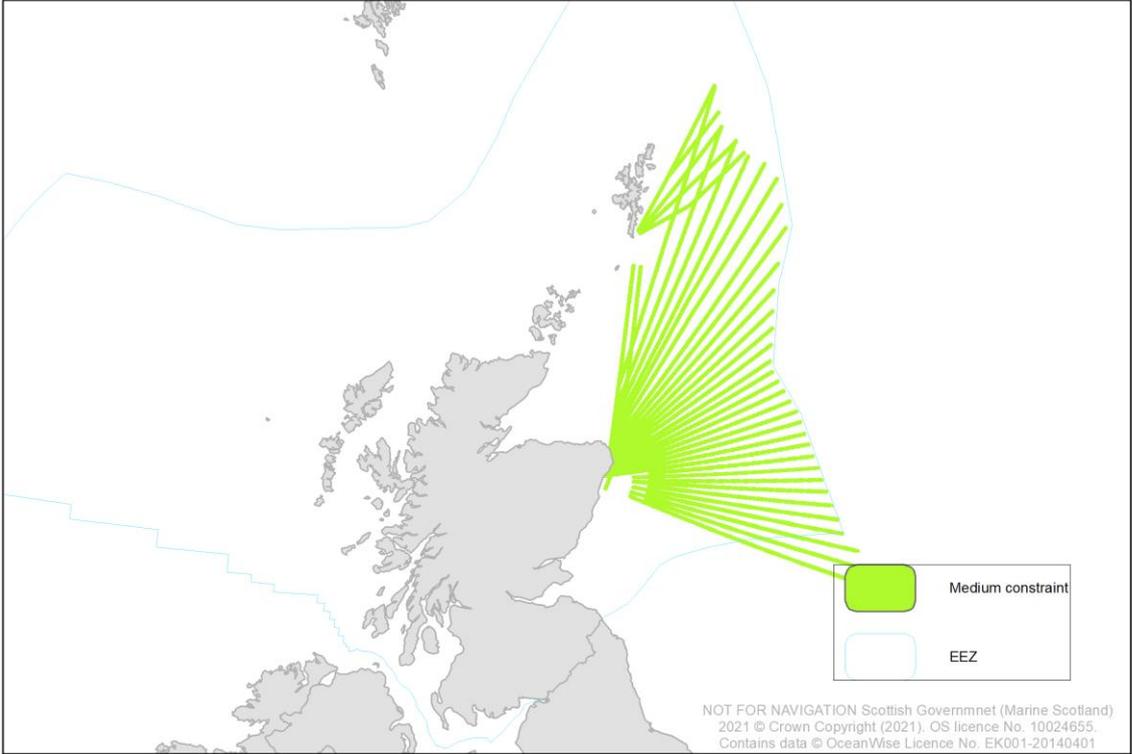


Figure 29 - foraging ranges for key species represented as a merged buffer from relevant SPAs

<sup>17</sup> 2019, BTO and NIRAS Consulting Ltd, Review of Seabird Foraging Ranges, Report on Behalf of The Crown Estate - [2019-2020. The Crown Estate. Round 4 Habitats Regulations Assessment \(HRA\) Front Loading Projects | Marine Data Exchange](#)

Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG) Planning Specification and Context Report

<b>Name/Description</b>	Helicopter Main Routes
<b>Source</b>	NATS <sup>18</sup>
<b>Weighting applied</b>	5 (max score = 10)

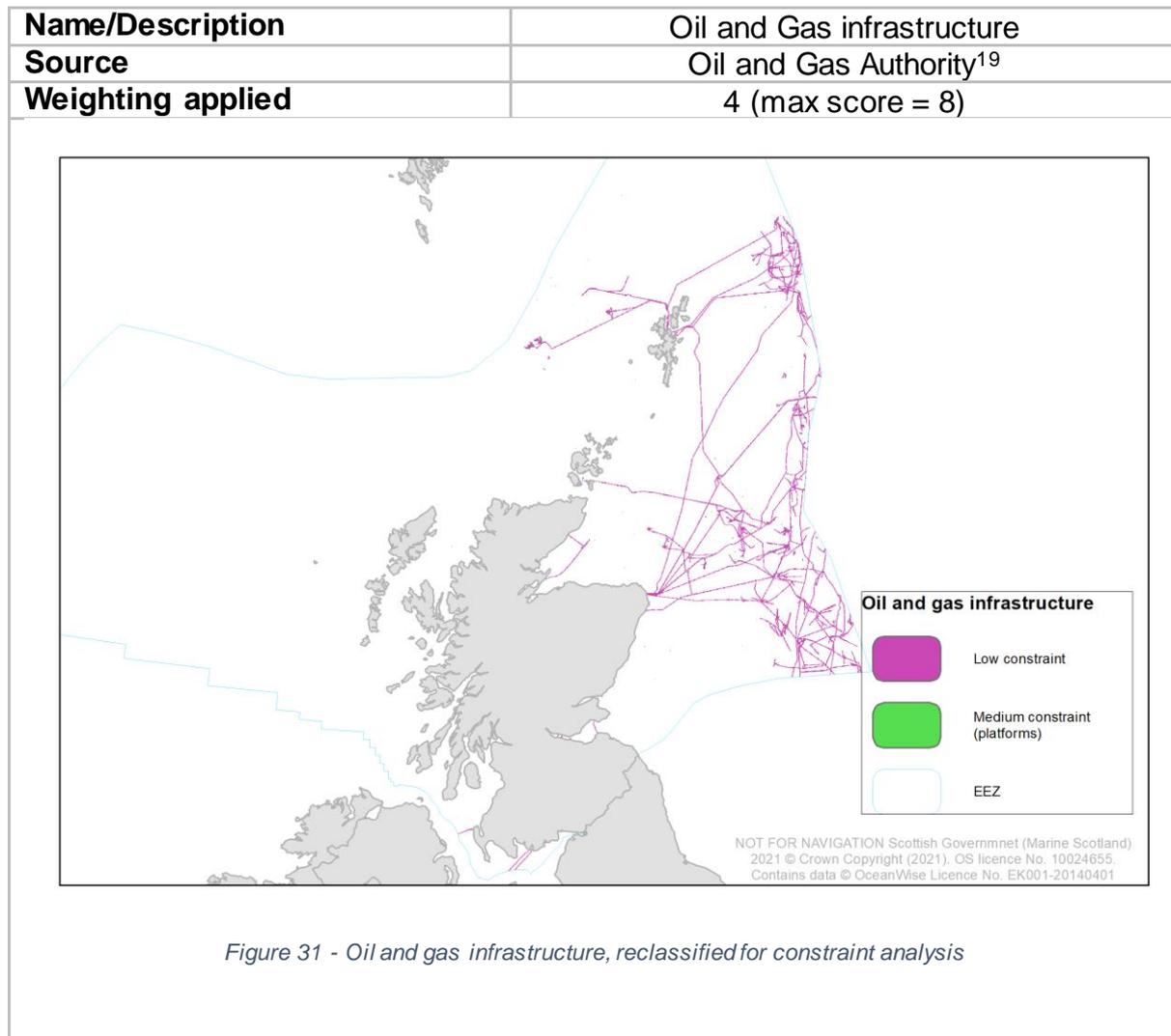


NOT FOR NAVIGATION Scottish Government (Marine Scotland)  
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Contains data © OceanWise Licence No. EK001-20140401

*Figure 30 - Helicopter Main Routes, reclassified for constraint analysis*

<sup>18</sup> Helicopter main routes (NATS, digitised from the ENR 6 - En Route Charts section of the source listed below) [http://www.nats-uk.eadit.com/public/index.php%3Foption=com\\_content&task=blogcategory&id=4&Itemid=11.htm](http://www.nats-uk.eadit.com/public/index.php%3Foption=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=4&Itemid=11.htm)

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<sup>19</sup> [Oil and Gas Authority: Data centre \(ogauthority.co.uk\)](https://www.ogauthority.co.uk/)

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<b>Name/Description</b>	Platform buffers representing potential restrictions for helicopter safety
<b>Source</b>	OGA <sup>20</sup>
<b>Weighting applied</b>	3 (max score = 3)

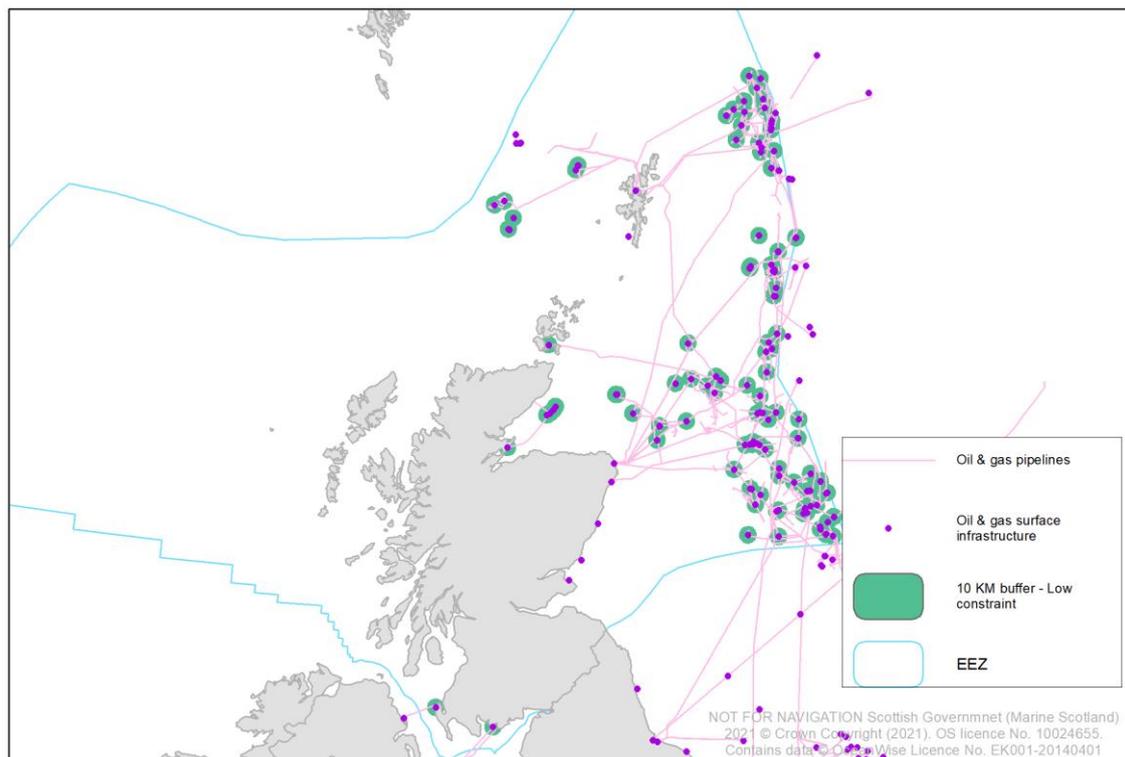


Figure 32 – 10 km buffer around Platforms, reclassified for constraint analysis

<sup>20</sup> [Oil and Gas Authority: Data centre \(ogauthority.co.uk\)](https://www.ogauthority.co.uk)

Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG) Planning Specification and Context Report

<b>Name/Description</b>	Recreational Activity
<b>Source</b>	RYA, Magicseaweed, Windsurf magazine <sup>21</sup>
<b>Weighting applied</b>	5 (max score = 15)

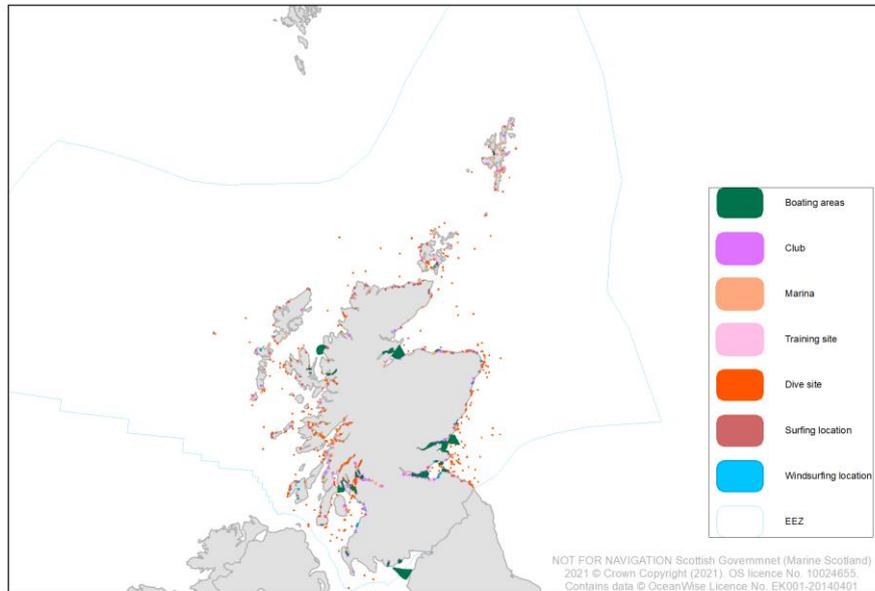


Figure 33 - Recreation activity

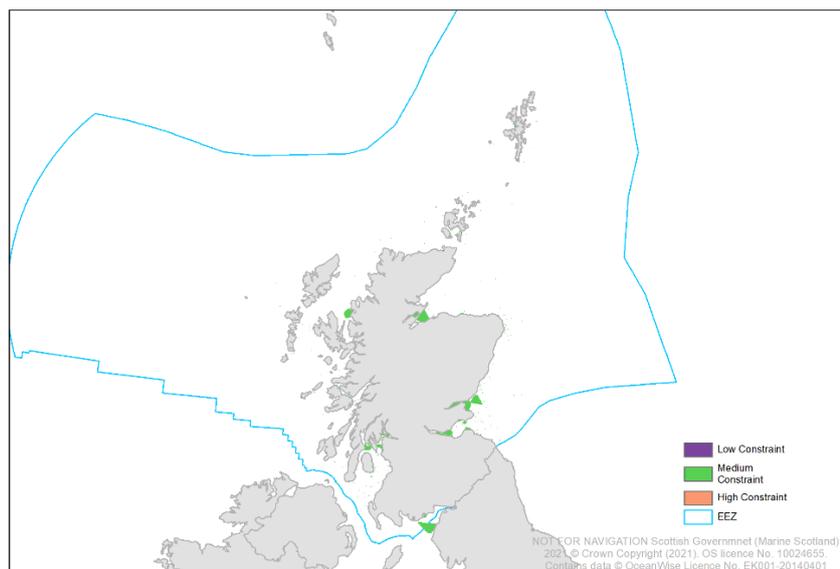


Figure 34 - Recreation activity, reclassified for constraint analysis

<sup>21</sup> RYA – UK Coastal Atlas of Recreational Boating - [uk-coastal-atlas-of-recreational-boating \(rya.org.uk\)](http://uk-coastal-atlas-of-recreational-boating.rya.org.uk)

Magic Seaweed - <https://www.magicseaweed.com/>

Windsurf magazine - <https://www.windsurf.co.uk/>

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<b>Name/Description</b>	ScotMap (inshore commercial fishing)
<b>Source</b>	Scottish Government <sup>22</sup>
<b>Weighting applied</b>	10 (max score = 30)

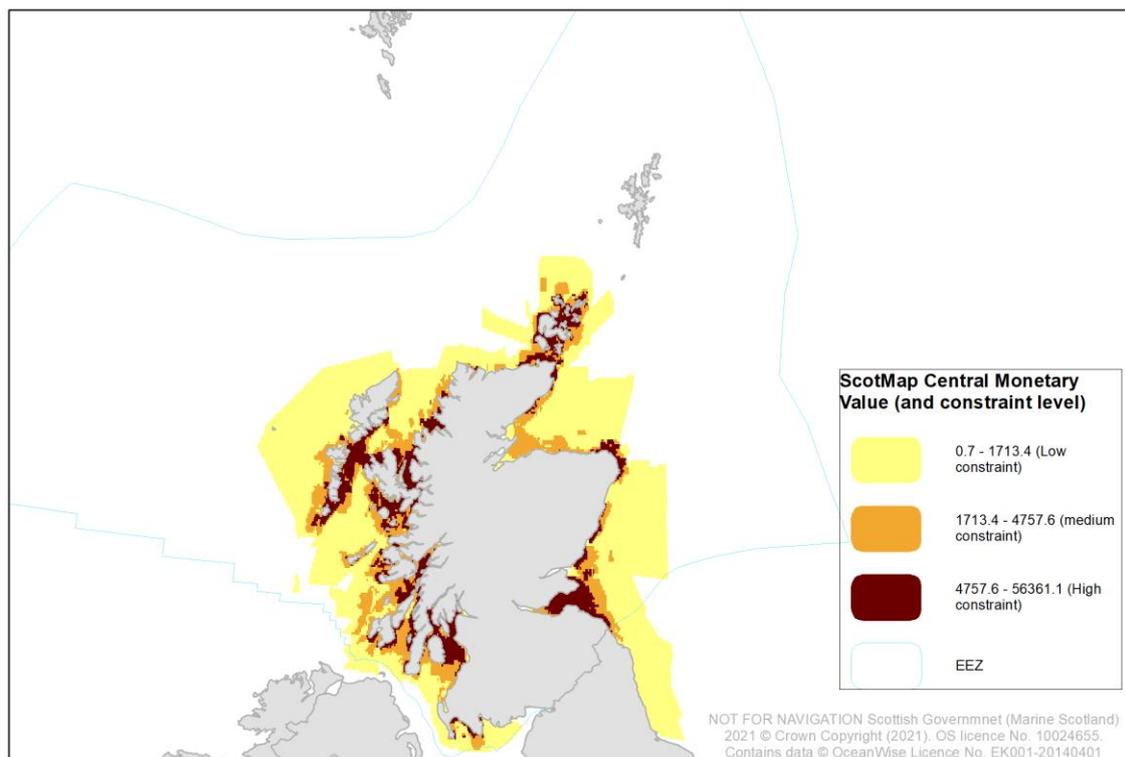


Figure 35 - ScotMap monetary value, constraint classifications

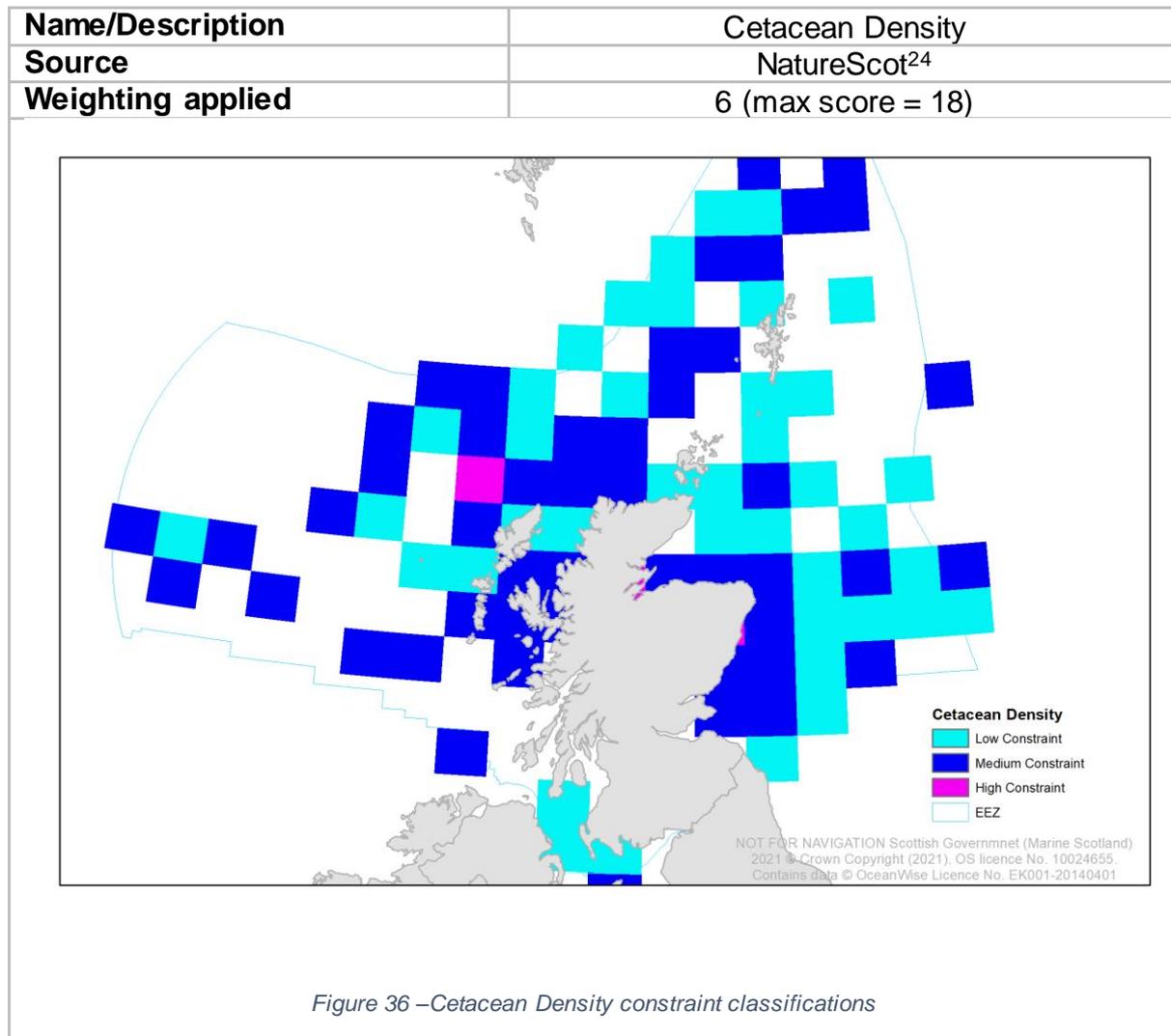
Also included but not depicted above due to visibility at national scale:

- Designated Seal Haul-out areas ( High constraint with weighting of 8. Max score = 24). These data can be seen on [Marine Scotland Maps](#)<sup>23</sup>

<sup>22</sup> [ScotMap - Inshore Fisheries Mapping Project in Scotland | Marine Scotland Information](#)

<sup>23</sup> [Marine Scotland - National Marine Plan Interactive \(atkinsgeospatial.com\)](#)

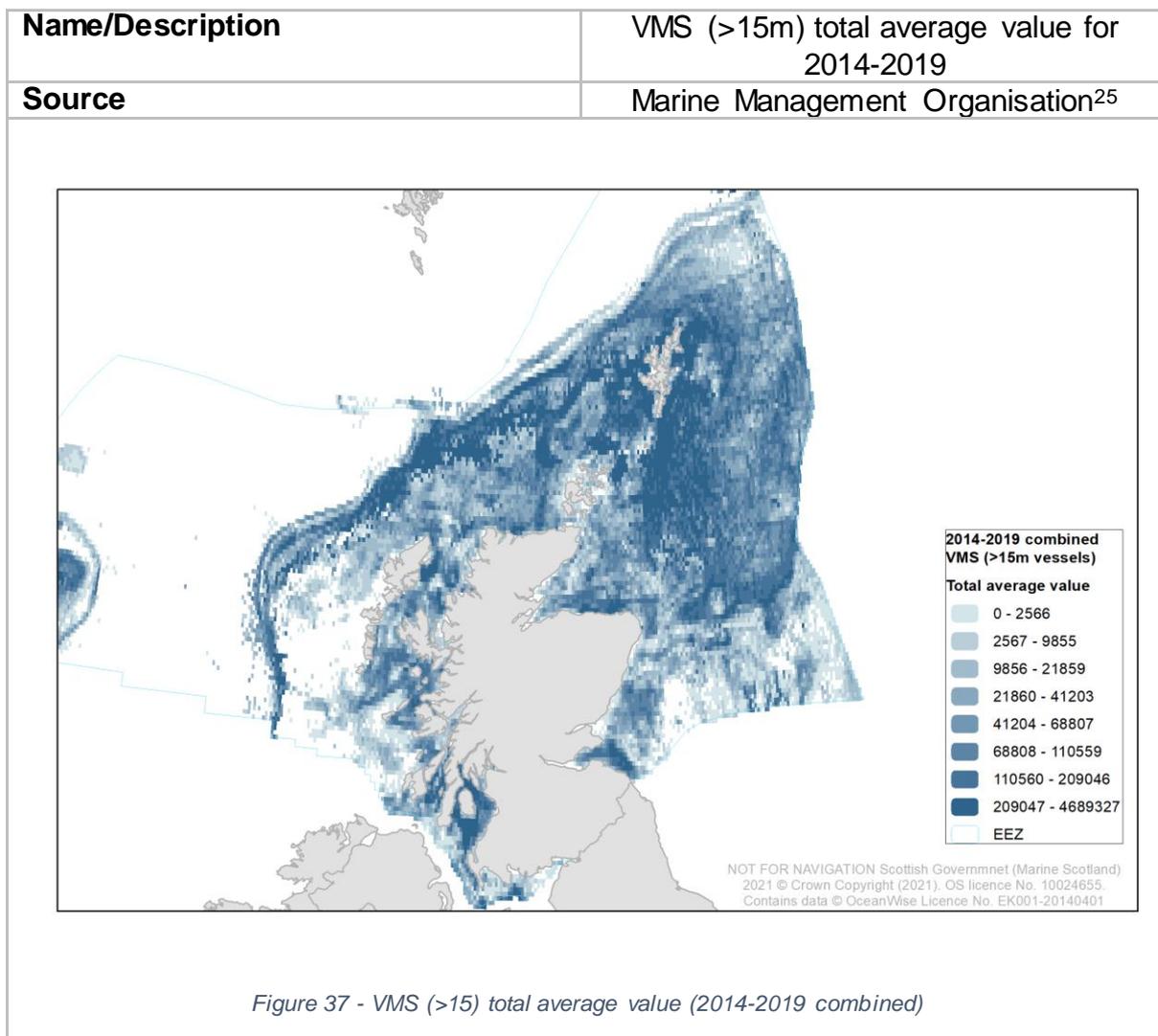
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<sup>24</sup> [Natural Spaces - Scottish Natural Heritage \(snh.gov.uk\)](http://snh.gov.uk)

## 12. Commercial Fisheries data

Excluding the ScotMap data, commercial fisheries data has not been integrated into the opportunity and constraint analysis in the same way as data described above. As a core component of the planning process is the targeting of oil and gas electrification, there is greater potential for overlap with larger commercial fishing activity, with both the oil and gas infrastructure and the larger vessels occupying similar spaces or regions of the North Sea. To address this, key areas of interest were identified based on the analysis described above and then a series of commercial fisheries data were examined and used to refine the areas of interest into the Areas of Search. This has allowed for key fishing locations, identified through the use of general VMS data and gear specific representations, to be avoided.



<sup>25</sup> [Marine Management Organisation Dataset URLs](#)

Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG) Planning Specification and Context Report

<b>Name/Description</b>	VMS bottom trawl fishing intensity (2009 – 2016) – ICES SR.2017.17
<b>Source</b>	ICES SR.2017.17 <sup>26</sup>

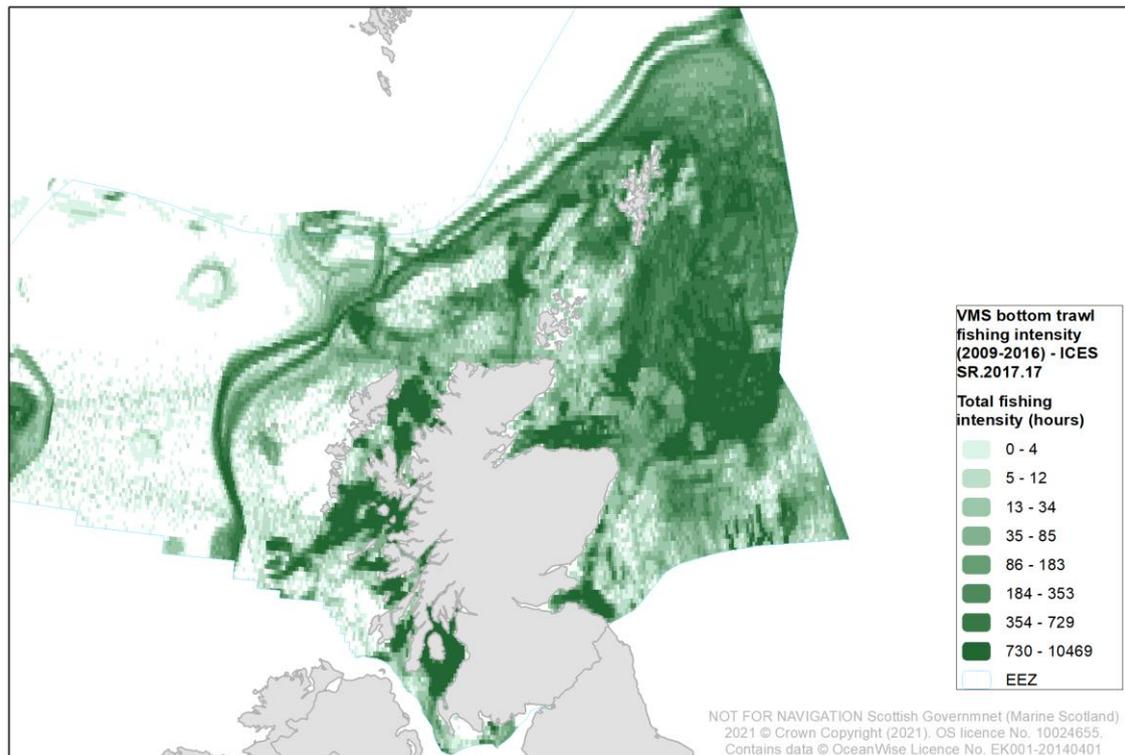
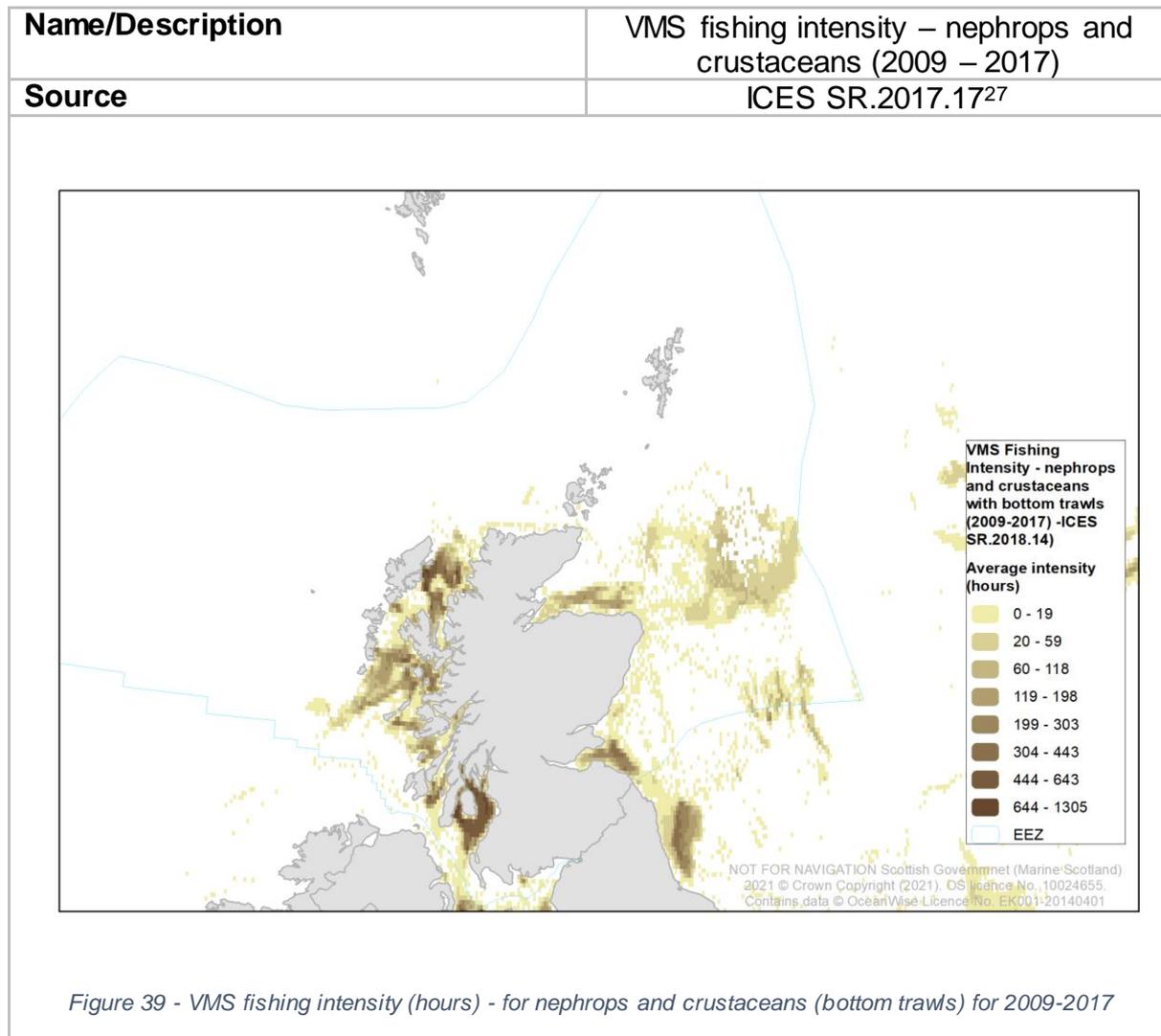


Figure 38 - VMS bottom trawl fishing intensity (hours) for 2009-2016

<sup>26</sup> [data outputs - Marine \(ices.dk\)](https://data.ices.dk/)



<sup>27</sup> [data outputs - Marine \(ices.dk\)](https://data.ices.dk)

## 13. Consultation Information and Respondent Information Form

### 13.1 Responding to this consultation

We are inviting responses to this consultation by midnight on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

Please respond to this consultation using the Scottish Government's consultation platform, Citizen Space. You can view and respond to this consultation online at: <https://consult.gov.scot/marine-scotland/smp-innovation-and-targeted-oil-and-gas/>

You can save and return your responses while the consultation is still open. Please ensure that consultation responses are submitted before the closing date (20<sup>th</sup> October 2021).

If you are unable to respond online please complete the Respondent Information Form (see "Handling your Response" below) and send your completed Respondent Information Form and response to [SectoralMarinePlanning@gov.scot](mailto:SectoralMarinePlanning@gov.scot)

Or by post to:

Offshore Wind Sectoral Marine Plan Consultation  
Marine Scotland Planning and Policy (GB North)  
Scottish Government, Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ

### 13.2 Handling your response

If you respond via Citizen Space (<http://consult.scotland.gov.uk>) you will be directed to the Respondent Information Form. Please indicate how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are happy for your response to be published.

If you are unable to respond via [Citizen Space](#) please complete and return the Respondent Information Form. If you ask for your response not to be published, we will regard it as confidential and we will treat it accordingly. All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would, therefore, have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

### 13.3 Next steps in the process

Where respondents have given their permission for their response to be made public (and after we have confirmed that they contain no defamatory material) responses will be made available to the public at <http://consult.scotland.gov.uk>. If you use Citizen Space to respond, you will receive a copy of your response via e-mail. Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence to help us. Responses will be published where we have been given permission to do so.

#### 13.4 Comments and complaints

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to: [SectoralMarinePlanning@gov.scot](mailto:SectoralMarinePlanning@gov.scot)

#### 13.5 Scottish Government consultation process

Consultation is an essential part of the policy-making process. It gives us an opportunity to consider your opinion and expertise on a proposed area of work.

You can find all our consultations online: <http://consult.scotland.gov.uk>. Each consultation details the issues under consideration, as well as a way for you to give us your views, either online, by e-mail or by post.

Consultation may involve seeking views in a number of different ways, such as public meetings, focus groups, or other online methods such as Dialogue (<http://www.ideas.gov.scot>).

Responses will be analysed and used as part of the decision making process, along with a range of other available information and evidence. We will publish a report of this analysis for every consultation. Depending on the nature of the consultation exercise the responses received may:

- Indicate the need for policy development or review;
- Inform the development of a particular policy;
- Help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals; or
- Be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented.

While details of particular circumstances described in a response to a consultation exercise may usefully inform the policy process, consultation exercises cannot address individual concerns and comments, which should be directed to the relevant public body.

## 14. Questions for consultees

Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG) – Areas of Search Consultation

1. What is your name

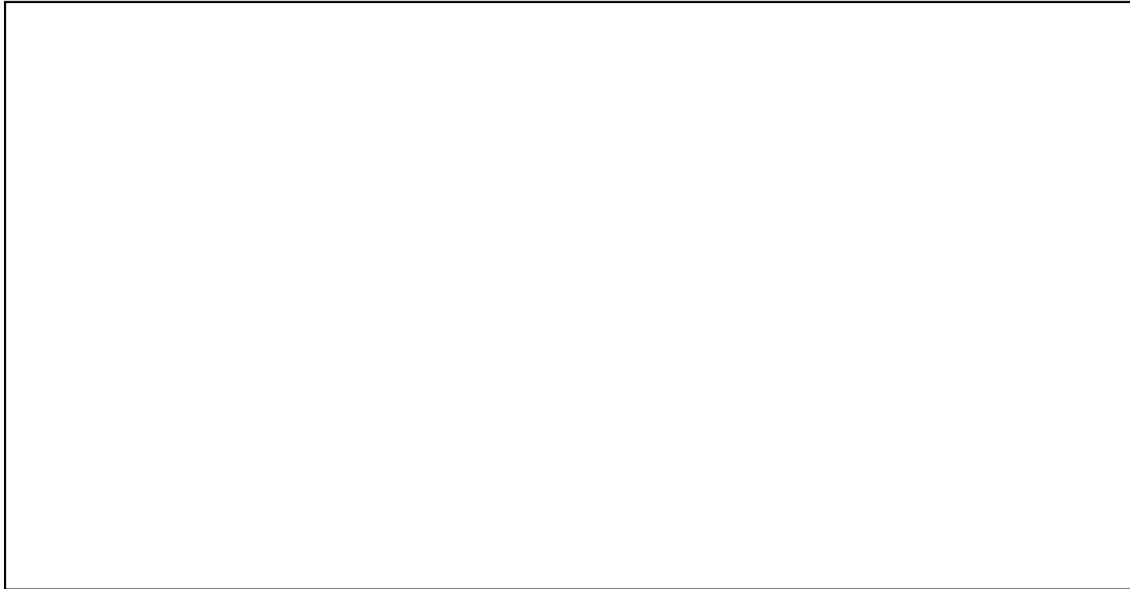
2. What is your email address?

3. What is your organisation?

4. Do you have any comments on the Plan Specification content? Please exclude comments on the plan parameters and spatial analysis discussion as these are addressed separately.

Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG) Planning Specification and Context Report

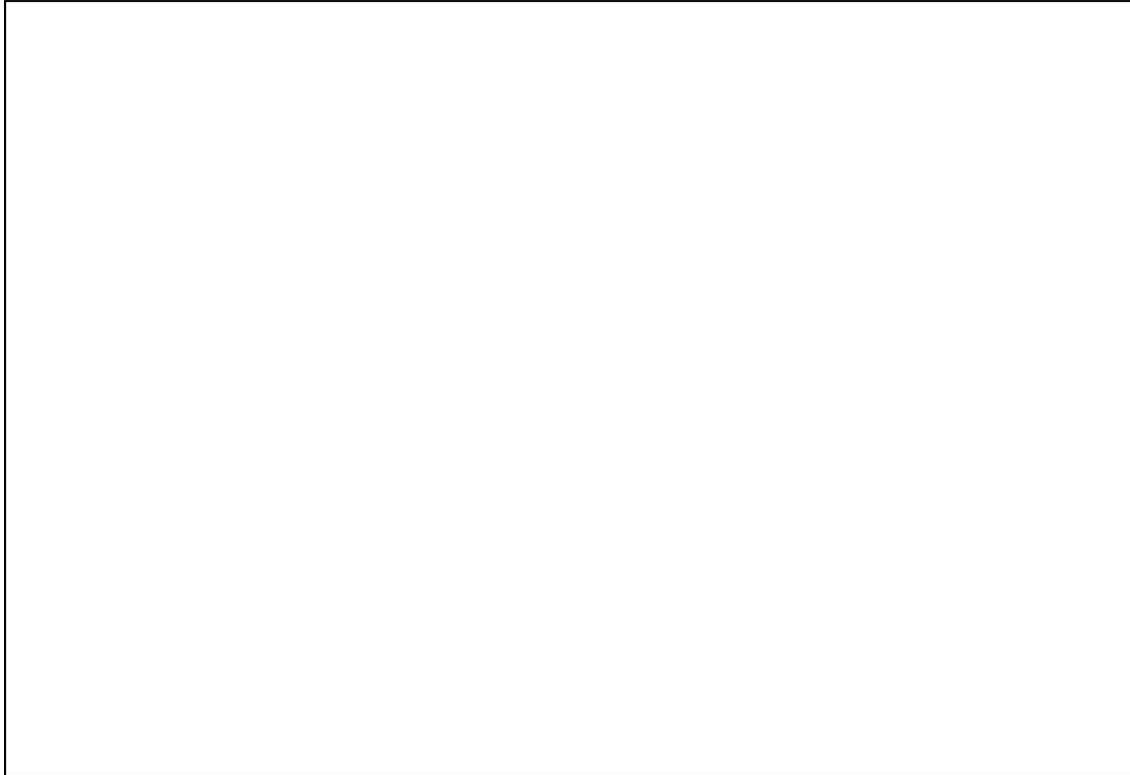
5. Do you have any comments on the plan parameters/specifications? These parameters (section 8) set out the types of projects that will be considered under this plan, the size of these projects and the ways in which they will be considered spatially (e.g. the locations in which projects can or cannot be located).



6. Do you have any comments or information you would like to provide, to support or otherwise seek the removal of, the Areas of Search (AoS) identified in the map included in the Plan Specification (section 9)? These comments/data can be related to specific AoS or more general in nature. Please identify particular AoS in your response when appropriate. Any data you wish to include in your response can also be provided below.



7. Please use this space to provide any additional comments not captured by the previous questions

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for providing additional comments or responses to the previous questions.

If you wish to provide any data to support your response please attach these to your response in a compressed (zip) format. These data can be sent to [sectoralmarineplanning@gov.scot](mailto:sectoralmarineplanning@gov.scot).

## Consultation on the Areas of Search and Plan Specification for the Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG)

### RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

**Please Note** this form **must** be completed and returned with your response.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy: <https://beta.gov.scot/privacy/>

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- Individual  
 Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Phone number

Address

Postcode

Email

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name  
 Publish response only (without name)  
 Do not publish response

#### Information for organisations:

The option 'Publish response only (without name)' is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published.

If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again

Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG) Planning Specification and Context Report

in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

No