



Marubeni



Chapter 5: Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

Array EIA Report

2024

Revision	Comments	Author	Checker	Approver
FINAL	Final	RPS	RPS	RPS

Approval for Issue		
For and on behalf of Ossian OWFL	Paul Darnbrough	28 June 2024

Prepared by:	RPS
Prepared for:	Ossian Offshore Wind Farm Limited (OWFL)
Checked by:	Andrew Logie
Accepted by:	Fraser Malcolm
Approved by:	Paul Darnbrough

© Copyright RPS Group Plc. All rights reserved.

The report has been prepared for the exclusive use of our client.

The report has been compiled using the resources agreed with the client and in accordance with the scope of work agreed with the client. No liability is accepted by RPS for any use of this report, other than the purpose for which it was prepared. The report does not account for any changes relating to the subject matter of the report, or any legislative or regulatory changes that have occurred since the report was produced and that may affect the report. RPS does not accept any responsibility or liability for loss whatsoever to any third party caused by, related to or arising out of any use or reliance on the report.

RPS accepts no responsibility for any documents or information supplied to RPS by others and no legal liability arising from the use by others of opinions or data contained in this report. It is expressly stated that no independent verification of any documents or information supplied by others has been made.

RPS has used reasonable skill, care and diligence in compiling this report and no warranty is provided as to the report's accuracy.

CONTENTS

5. Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation	1
5.1. Introduction.....	1
5.2. Purpose of the Chapter	1
5.3. Policy and Legislative Context	1
5.4. Good Practice in Consultation.....	2
5.5. EIA Stakeholder Engagement.....	3
5.6. Other Stakeholder Engagement.....	5
5.6.1. Pre-Application Public Consultation.....	5
5.6.2. Stakeholder Engagement Manager	5
5.6.3. Information Provision and Awareness Raising	5
5.7. Feedback and Reporting.....	5
5.7.1. Other Array Feedback.....	6
5.8. References	7

TABLES

Table 5.1: Summary of the Aarhus Convention Relevant to Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation.....	1
Table 5.2: Summary of EIA Directive and Regulations Relevant to Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation	2
Table 5.3: PAC Principles Considered within this Array EIA Report	3
Table 5.4: Guiding Principles for Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation.....	3
Table 5.5: Summary of the Pre-Scoping Workshops.....	4
Table 5.6: Summary of Consultation Notes Issued to Consultees	4

5. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

5.1. INTRODUCTION

1. This chapter of the Array Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report summarises the stakeholder engagement and consultation undertaken by Ossian Offshore Wind Farm Limited (Ossian OWFL) (hereafter referred to as the ‘Applicant’) during the pre-Application phase of the Ossian Array (hereafter referred to as “the Array”) EIA Report.
2. This chapter provides an overview of stakeholder engagement and consultation up to submission of this Array EIA Report, aligning with Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) (Scottish Government, 2018) advice that: *“Informal consultation at the pre-application stage and ongoing dialogue with MD-LOT, its advisors and other stakeholders, including local interest groups and the public will also help to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to all stakeholder concerns (including the public) and that opinions are integrated into the project decision making process.”*
3. The Applicant has undertaken thorough stakeholder engagement and has considered all feedback gathered throughout the consultation process as part of the pre-Application stage within the Array EIA Report. Engagement with stakeholders will continue during the post-Application phase to further inform decision making and project design as the Array is further developed.

5.2. PURPOSE OF THE CHAPTER

4. The Array EIA Report provides the Scottish Ministers, statutory and non-statutory stakeholders with adequate information to determine the likely significant effects (LSE¹) of the Array on the receiving environment. This is further outlined in volume 1, chapter 1.
5. In particular, this chapter along with its accompanying appendix summarises:
 - the policy and legislative context associated with consultation adhered to during the pre-Application phase for the Array;
 - the stakeholder engagement principles applied to the pre-Application phase.
 - a list of stakeholders consulted/approached for feedback; and
 - key feedback received during the pre-Application phase.
6. Further detail of all pre-Application consultation undertaken is detailed in volume 3, appendix 5.1. Moreover, key stakeholder consultation and feedback received is included within the relevant chapters of this Array EIA Report (volume 1, chapter 6; volume 2, chapters 7 to 20).
7. As the Array is located in Scottish offshore waters (12 nm to 200 nm), the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 that requires the Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) does not apply. Nevertheless, these principles are considered good practice for undertaking public engagement and have been considered and applied, where appropriate, throughout the consultation process (refer to section 5.4 for further information).

5.3. POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

8. Volume 1, chapter 2 presents the policy and legislation of relevance to renewable energy infrastructure. Policy specifically in relation to stakeholder engagement and consultation is contained in the Aarhus Convention (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)) documents and the EIA Regulations and represent best practice in respect of how to consult with members of the public on major projects (Aarhus Centres, 2024).

9. Table 5.1 and Table 5.2 present a summary of the regulatory and legislative requirements relevant to stakeholder consultation and engagement.

Table 5.1: Summary of the Aarhus Convention Relevant to Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

Summary of Relevant Legislation	How and Where Considered in the Array EIA Report
General	
The Aarhus Convention sets down basic rules to promote the participation of the public in environmental matters and to improve the enforcement of environmental law (Aarhus Centres, 2024). It entered into force in October 2001. Parties to the Convention are required to make provisions to allow public authorities and individuals rights as part of the principles of participative democracy (Aarhus Centres, 2024).	The Array EIA Report is accessible digitally at https://ossian-eia.com/ and hard and/or electronic copies will be placed at multiple publicly accessible locations. Final locations of hard and/or electronic copies will be agreed with MD-LOT post Array application and advertised via public notices as appropriate.
Access to Information	
The right of members of the public to receive environmental information that is held by public bodies and these bodies are obliged to maintain and make available this information. The Access to Information pillar has been implemented in EU Directive 2003/4/EC on Public Access to Environmental Information.	The Array EIA Report is accessible digitally at https://ossian-eia.com/ and hard and/or electronic copies will be placed at multiple publicly accessible locations. Final locations of hard and/or electronic copies will be agreed with MD-LOT post Array application and advertised via public notices as appropriate.
Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making	
Article 6 of the Aarhus Convention establishes the right to participate in environmental decision-making involving the activities listed in Annex I to the Convention and activities that are not listed in the Annex but may have a significant effect on the environment. Public authorities are required to make arrangements to enable the public and non-governmental organisations to comment on plans or programmes relating to the environment.	The Array EIA Report is accessible digitally at https://ossian-eia.com/ and hard and/or electronic copies will be placed at multiple publicly accessible locations. Final locations of hard and/or electronic copies will be agreed with MD-LOT post Array application and advertised via public notices as appropriate.
The right for comments to be taken into account in decision making, and information on the final decision and reasons for it made available (European Commission, 2024).	Consultation responses from the pre-Application phase have been considered in the decision making process for the Array EIA Report and are detailed within this chapter.
This part of the Aarhus Convention has been implemented by EU Directive 2003/35/EC on public participation (‘the Public Participation Directive’), which is now incorporated <i>inter alia</i> into EIA Directive 2011/92/EU.	
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters	
The right to review procedures to challenge public decisions that have been made without respecting the two aforementioned rights or environmental law in general (European Commission, 2024).	Implemented in Scotland through the availability of relevant statutory challenge and Judicial Review processes.
Article 6, paragraph 5 of the Aarhus Convention states that <i>“Each Party should, where appropriate, encourage prospective applicants to identify the public concerned, to enter into discussions, and to provide information regarding the objectives of their application before applying for a permit”</i> .	The Applicant has provided, and commits to continue to provide, ongoing opportunities for the public to participate in consultation and decision making for the Array, ensuring that information provided is accessible, accountable, appropriate, meaningful and proportionate. A non-technical summary is provided as part of the Array EIA Report to easier access to information for non-specialists.

Table 5.2: Summary of EIA Directive and Regulations Relevant to Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

Summary of Relevant Legislation	How and Where Considered in the Array EIA Report
General	
<p>Part 1 Article 5 (1) (b) of the Directive states that an EIA includes “the carrying out of consultation, publication and notification as required by Parts 5, 6, 7 and, where relevant, Part 9.”</p> <p>Transposed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation 4(b) of Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017; Regulation 5(b) of Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017); and Regulation 4(a) of Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007. 	<p>Considered throughout the Array EIA Report and as detailed within this chapter.</p>
<p>Part 1 Article 18 (1) requires Scottish Ministers, as soon as reasonably possible, to provide a copy of the EIA application/report, any additional information supplied by the Applicant for consultation.</p> <p>Transposed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation 16(1) of Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017; Regulation 17(1) of Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017); and Regulation 17(1) of Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007. 	<p>The Array EIA Report is accessible digitally at https://ossian-eia.com/ and hard and/or electronic copies will be placed at multiple publicly accessible locations. Final locations of hard and/or electronic copies will be agreed with MD-LOT post Array application and advertised via public notices as appropriate.</p>
<p>Part 1 Article (20) of the Directives states that an EIA report is submitted in relation to an EIA application, the Applicant must ensure that a reasonable number of copies of the EIA report are available for inspection at any place named in the notice published under EIA Regulation 16(1) as a place at which copies of the EIA report may be inspected.</p> <p>The EIA Regulations require that the Applicant must provide copies of the EIA report in accordance with the terms of the notice published under regulation 16(1).</p> <p>Transposed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulations 18(1) and (2) of Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017; Regulations 20(1) and (2) of Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017); and Regulations 12(3) and 16(2)(e) of Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007. 	<p>The Array EIA Report is accessible digitally at https://ossian-eia.com/ and hard and/or electronic copies will be placed at multiple publicly accessible locations. Final locations of hard and/or electronic copies will be agreed with MD-LOT post Array application and advertised via public notices as appropriate.</p>

5.4. GOOD PRACTICE IN CONSULTATION

- Throughout the development phase of the Array, the Applicant has carried out consultation with statutory and non-statutory consultees, and with members of the public following the principles and good practice set out below:
 - the Aarhus Convention (Aarhus Centres, 2024);
 - the EIA Regulations;
 - Marine Consenting and Licencing Guidance (Scottish Government, 2018); and
 - the Gunning Principles.
- The Applicant has sought to engage with stakeholders throughout the pre-Application phase, following advice from MD-LOT outlined in paragraph 2. In addition, this advice also notes that “*Details of all the consultation undertaken as part of the EIA, leading up to application, should also be documented (including how any concerns/issues have been addressed)*” (Scottish Government, 2018).
- The Applicant has reviewed and considered all feedback provided as part of stakeholder consultation in the pre-Application phase, and this is documented in the technical chapters of this Array EIA Report (see section 5.7).
- The approach to consultation for the Array has followed the Gunning Principles of “fair and worthwhile” consultation as proposed in 1985 and accepted by the Mr. Justice Hodgson in Gunning vs. Brent London Borough Council. The Gunning Principles for consultation delineates that consultation is legitimate only when the following four principles are met:
 - proposals must still be at a formative stage;
 - proposals must include sufficient information to facilitate intelligent consideration and thus an informed response;
 - adequate time is given for consideration and response; and
 - consultation responses must be conscientiously considered as part of the decision-making process.
- The Applicant is committed to stakeholder engagement across all phases of the Array with statutory stakeholders, non-statutory stakeholders and the public. Throughout the pre-Application phase, stakeholders have been fully informed with development progress and have been provided sufficient opportunity to influence the proposals as they have been developed in advance of Application submission. This approach has allowed the Applicant to consider and, where appropriate, incorporate both technical and non-technical views within the assessment.
- As outlined in paragraph 7, although the PAC Regulations do not apply for the Array, its principles have been considered throughout the development of this Array EIA Report. In particular, the principles outlined within the PAC Regulations as stated within Table 5.3 have been followed by the Applicant for the Array.

Table 5.3: PAC Principles Considered within this Array EIA Report

PAC Principles	How and Where Considered in the Array EIA Report
<p>Regulation 5(1): “The prospective applicant for a marine licence who considers that the activity in respect of which a licence may, or is to, be sought which may, or is to, be of a class or description prescribed in regulation 4 may notify the Scottish Ministers requiring a pre-application consultation statement from them”.</p> <p>Regulation 6(2): The prospective applicant for a marine licence must give notification that an application for a marine licence is to be submitted to:</p> <p>(a)the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses (Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB));</p> <p>(b)the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA);</p> <p>(c)the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA);</p> <p>(d)Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot); and</p> <p>(e)any delegate for a marine region where the application for a marine licence is for an activity which is to be carried out wholly or partly in that region.”</p> <p>(HM Government, 2013)</p>	<p>The MCA, NLB, NatureScot and other marine delegates have been consulted throughout the pre-Application phase. For further detail, refer to volume 3, appendix 5.1.</p>
<p>Regulation 7(1): “The prospective applicant for a marine licence must:</p> <p>(a)hold at least one pre-application consultation event at which those persons mentioned in regulation 6(2), and members of the public, may provide comments to the prospective applicant as regards the licensable marine activity to which the application for a marine licence is to relate”.</p> <p>(HM Government, 2013)</p>	<p>The Applicant has held multiple pre-Application events, including hosting technical pre-Scoping workshops (paragraph 19) and also five engagements with the public (paragraph 32).</p>
<p>Regulation 7(1): “The prospective applicant for a marine licence must:</p> <p>(b)publish in a local newspaper a notice containing:</p> <p>(i)a description, including the location of the licensable marine activity for which the marine licence is to be sought;</p> <p>(ii)details as to where further information may be obtained concerning the proposed licensable marine activity;</p> <p>(iii)the date and place of the pre-application consultation event;</p> <p>(iv)a statement explaining how persons wishing to provide comments to the prospective applicant relating to the proposed licensable marine activity may do so, and the date by which this must be done; and</p> <p>(v)a statement that comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the Scottish Ministers and that if the prospective applicant makes an application for a marine licence that there will be an opportunity for representations to be made to the Scottish Ministers on the application.”</p> <p>(HM Government, 2013)</p>	<p>The Applicant has published advertorials in local newspapers such as Fishing News (Fishing News, 2024), the Courier (Dundee) (Ramos, 2024a) and the Press and Journal (Ramos, 2024b) via print and digital channels (including sponsored posts on social media channels (Facebook and Instagram). The advertorials directed readers to a virtual consultation platform where information about the Array could be found and comments made via a web form. Further detail of this can be found here: https://ossian-eia.com/array-public-consultation/.</p>
<p>Additional notification may be provided via press releases, mail drops, online newspapers, social media, e-mail distribution lists, and/or via the Array’s website.</p>	<p>Information has been made available via a bespoke virtual consultation platform, and the use of a specific Ossian website (Ossian Wind Farm, 2024a, b) and LinkedIn page.</p>

16. Table 5.4 sets out the guiding principles in relation to stakeholder engagement and consultation that have been adopted by the Applicant in relation to the Array. These principles comply with the Gunning Principles set out paragraph 13.

Table 5.4: Guiding Principles for Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

Guiding Principle	Justification
Accessible	Information should be easy to access and communicated in a way that is appropriate to the stakeholder group. It should try to avoid industry jargon where possible. The consultation process should be inclusive and easy to participate in, for all stakeholders.
Meaningful	A two-way consultation process will be adopted to allow stakeholders a real opportunity to influence development of the Array. The Applicant will review and consider all feedback received through the stakeholder engagement and consultation process. Feedback will be considered and used to inform key decisions.
Transparent	The stakeholder engagement and consultation process will be transparent, so that stakeholders can understand how their feedback was considered.
Proportionate	Communication should be proportionate to the development being proposed and the potential for impact on receptors.
Accountable	This ensures that feedback has been considered, responded to and recorded. Careful record keeping of submissions and the review process are features of this principle.

5.5. EIA STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

17. A thorough statutory and non-statutory stakeholder engagement process has been undertaken by the Applicant. The Applicant has aimed to present a proportionate Array EIA Report, informed by robust and regular engagement with stakeholders to incorporate advice, address concerns and develop appropriate mitigation required. This has included meetings, correspondence, meeting minutes and provision of digital documentation.
18. Since the conclusion of the ScotWind leasing round in January 2022, the Applicant has regularly engaged with MD-LOT through quarterly meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to provide general project updates and receive notification of any forthcoming regulatory guidance or updates. NatureScot are invited to attend these calls.
19. The pre-Scoping workshops for the Array were held in November 2022, covering a range of technical topics. The aim of these workshops was to present the proposed scope of the EIA, available data sets to inform the baseline environment and the approach to assessment that would be presented in the Array EIA Scoping Report. Table 5.5 provides a summary of the topics covered at these pre-Scoping workshops and the stakeholders who attended.

Table 5.5: Summary of the Pre-Scoping Workshops

Date	Topics Covered	Consultees in Attendance
14 November 2022	Biological topics (Physical Processes, Benthic Subtidal Ecology, Fish and Shellfish Ecology and Ornithology) and Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MD-LOT; Marine Directorate - Science, Evidence, Digital and Data (MD-SEDD) (previously Marine Scotland Science (MSS)); NatureScot; and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).
15 November 2022	Shipping and Navigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MD-LOT; Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA); and Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB).
15 November 2022	Commercial Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MD-LOT; MD-SEDD; NatureScot; Scottish Fishermen’s Federation (SFF); North and East Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (NECRIFG); and Scottish White Fish Producers Association.
17 November 2022	Marine Mammals and Subsea Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MD-LOT; MD-SEDD; and NatureScot.

- The Array EIA Scoping Report (Ossian OWFL, 2023; volume 3, appendix 6.1) took account of feedback received at the pre-scoping workshops, setting out the scope of impacts to be assessed as part of the Array EIA Report and the method of assessment to be used. The Array EIA Scoping Report was submitted to MD-LOT in March 2023. Following its review by the Scottish Ministers, it was issued for formal consultation between 16 March 2023 and 04 May 2023, Following the consultation period MD-LOT issued the Ossian Array Scoping Opinion on 14 June 2023 (MD-LOT, 2023; volume 3, appendix 6.2).
- The Applicant submitted a draft stakeholder engagement plan (dSEP) which is appended to Array EIA Scoping Report (Ossian OWFL, 2023; volume 3, appendix 6.1). This document aimed to facilitate efficient and streamlined engagement and consultation following publication of the Ossian Array Scoping Opinion during the pre-Application phase.
- Following the pre-Scoping workshops, as outlined in the indicative schedule within the dSEP, a series of virtual post-Scoping workshops were proposed. However, due to limited stakeholder availability particularly relating to ecology topics, some consultations occurred over email through submission of consultation notes. These notes have been appended to this report to support the approach followed in the Array EIA Report and are listed below in Table 5.6.

Table 5.6: Summary of Consultation Notes Issued to Consultees

Consultation Note Title	Consultees Issued To	Location in this Array EIA Report
Environmental Deoxyribonucleic Acid (eDNA) Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NatureScot 	Volume 3, appendix 5.1, annex A
Marine Mammal Methodology Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NatureScot MD-LOT 	Volume 3, appendix 5.1, annex B
Underwater Noise Methodology Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NatureScot 	Volume 3, appendix 5.1, annex C
Marine Mammal Note 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NatureScot MD-LOT 	Volume 3, appendix 5.1, annex D
Marine Mammal Note 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NatureScot MD-LOT 	Volume 3, appendix 5.1, annex E
Ornithology Consultation Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NatureScot RSPB 	Volume 3, appendix 5.1, annex F

- The Applicant carried out bi-lateral engagement alongside the workshops to maintain an open dialogue with all stakeholders throughout pre-Scoping and post-Scoping stages. This took the form of written correspondence, and online and in-person meetings and workshops.
- The Applicant have recorded all consultation undertaken pre- and post-Scoping in a stakeholder database using a specialised consultation tool called Tractivity. Volume 3, appendix 5.1 provides a summary of consultation discussions and feedback received in the pre-Application phase (post-Scoping).
- The dSEP outlined other key topics requiring post-Scoping consultation, including marine archaeology, shipping and navigation, aviation, military and communications, commercial fisheries, and socioeconomics. Key discussions and feedback are noted below:
 - Marine Archaeology – meetings and written correspondence with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) to discuss scoping out of the marine archaeology chapter from the Array EIA Report. Following this consultation and provision of the draft marine archaeology technical report and outline Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and Protocol for Archaeological Discoveries (PAD), it was agreed with HES that a marine archaeology chapter would be prepared and submitted as part of the Array EIA Report. In addition, further information on study areas and data sets was provided.
 - Shipping and Navigation –meetings and written correspondence with the MCA, NLB and UK Chamber of Shipping (CoS) has been ongoing to discuss issues and concerns with regard to shipping and navigation within the Array. The Applicant has also engaged with regular commercial vessel operators which use routes in the vicinity of the Array and wider routing in the region to gain an understanding of how the Array may impact them. A Hazard Workshop with various consultees was held in August 2023 to discuss key issues, concerns and hazards within the Array which have been incorporated into the shipping and navigation chapter. In addition, the Applicant has been engaging with Morven Offshore Wind Farm, with and without the MCA, NLB and UK CoS, to collaborate on stakeholder concerns.
 - Commercial Fisheries – meetings have been held with commercial fisheries stakeholders to discuss data sets and key findings of the commercial fisheries technical report and chapter, and to “ground truth” the data used.

- Aviation, Military and Communications – written correspondence was issued to various aviation stakeholders, including the Ministry of Defence – Defence Infrastructure Organisation (MOD-DIO), NATS and Aberdeen International Airport – Safeguarding, and follow up meetings were held with interested parties to discuss their Ossian Array Scoping Opinion representations and additional concerns with the Array. The stakeholder’s preferred mitigation approaches were also discussed with engagement ongoing on this.
 - Socio-economics – consultation letters were issued to economic development and local authority organisations. As construction and operation and maintenance ports are currently unknown, these letters were issued to local authorities associated with the potential port locations along the east coast of Scotland. These letters summarised the proposed approach to assessing socio-economic impacts, including the economic and social impacts to be considered, and comments were sought from each recipient. Follow up meetings were held with Scottish Enterprise and Dundee City Council to discuss these points further.
26. The responses captured as part of the pre-Scoping workshops, Ossian Array Scoping Opinion (MD-LOT, 2023) and the post-Scoping consultation events are further detailed within the relevant chapters (volume 1, chapter 6 and volume 2, chapters 7 to 20) and within volume 3, appendix 5.1.
27. The Applicant has engaged with other developers in the ScotWind leasing East and North-East regions to collaborate on issues of shared concern and to identify opportunities for addressing evidence gaps and identifying mitigation and management solutions at a regional and strategic level to address potential cumulative impacts. Collaboration has taken place across a number of topics including the following:
- Offshore Ornithology;
 - Shipping and Navigation;
 - Commercial Fisheries; and
 - Aviation, Military and Communications.
28. The Applicant will continue to engage and contribute to collaborative initiatives throughout all stages of project development and delivery, where appropriate to do so.

5.6. OTHER STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

5.6.1. PRE-APPLICATION PUBLIC CONSULTATION

29. As the Array is located approximately, 80 km from the Aberdeenshire coast at the closest point it was considered most effective to undertake public consultation virtually to ensure engagement across a broad geographic area.
30. The Applicant held a virtual Public Exhibition between 22 January to 19 February 2024 to allow members of the public to visit the exhibition, meet members of the Ossian team and ask questions on the proposals for the Array whilst they are still in the pre-application development stage.
31. The virtual Public Exhibition included a web form to allow visitors to provide comments on the proposals and request further information. The Public Exhibition materials remain live for stakeholders to view, and feedback continues to be accepted via a dedicated Ossian e-mail address and through planned engagement.
32. The Applicant ran five targeted virtual question and answer (Q&A) sessions, as listed below, seeking to ensure feedback was received from as diverse a range of public groups as possible covering key aspects of the Array EIA. Feedback on these topics was received up until 01 March 2024.
- Project introduction Q&A undertaken on 24 January 2024;
 - Biological and Physical EIA Q&A undertaken on 30 January 2024;
 - Supply chain Q&A undertaken on 09 February 2024;
 - Human EIA Q&A undertaken on 16 February 2024; and
 - General drop-in session undertaken on 28 February 2024.

33. Consultation events were advertised in the Fishing News, the Courier (Dundee) and the Press and Journal (including their website and social media platforms) (see Table 5.3).

5.6.2. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

34. Since the development of the Array, a dedicated Stakeholder Engagement Manager (SEM) has been in place to facilitate and support engagement with the community. They have carried out engagement with public, businesses and organisations in the form of virtual and in person meetings. The SEM is available 9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday, or alternatively by appointment outside of these hours. Contact details for the SEM have been made available on the Array website, and public exhibitions and online events.
35. A mailing list has also been created for the Array and is managed by the SEM. This list will be expanded allows members of the public to opt-in to updates of the Array, such as notifications of upcoming public consultation sessions.

5.6.3. INFORMATION PROVISION AND AWARENESS RAISING

Fisheries Liaison Officer

36. A Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) has been engaged on Ossian since September 2023 to act as a liaison between the Applicant and the fishing industry. The FLO has the delegated authority to fully represent the Applicant on fisheries related issues, such as attending necessary Commercial Fisheries Working Groups (CFWGs), when in place, and seeking agreement on any necessary works relating to the Array. The Applicant has appointed Natural Power to act as FLO on the Array and Proposed offshore export cable corridor(s) application. The Applicant are also supported by dedicated in-house Commercial Fisheries Manager to lead on the Applicant’s representation on strategic fisheries work.

Information provision, project website and digital information

37. Stakeholders have had the opportunity to contact the Applicant via e-mail and the project website throughout the pre-Application phase. The SEM has made themselves available for virtual, phone or in-person meetings whenever requested by stakeholders.
38. A dedicated email address has been administered throughout the pre-Application phase at: contact@ossianwindfarm.com.
39. A dedicated website was hosted by the Applicant and can be found here: <https://www.ossianwindfarm.com/>.
40. The Ossian website has been kept up to date with relevant information including information on aspects of the wider project, ways to contact the project team and a document repository for stakeholders to access as required.
41. The Applicant made available a digital version of the Array EIA Scoping Report (Ossian OWFL, 2023b) via the Ossian website to allow easy access and user flexibility. The Applicant will make digital versions of the Array EIA Report and Array Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) available following application submission.

5.7. FEEDBACK AND REPORTING

42. All feedback received throughout the pre-Application phase was recorded and collated by the Applicant including feedback received by non-written means. A separate report outlining the full detail of this consultation is provided within volume 3, appendix 5.1.

43. The Applicant has reviewed and considered all feedback received throughout the pre-Application process, and as described/sign-posted in this document. This feedback has been used to inform key decisions on the development of the Array and to inform the assessment of the Array through both the Array EIA Report and the Array RIAA (Ossian OWFL, 2024).
44. Feedback received relating to the Array technical chapters has been addressed in topic chapters (volume 2) and their appendices (volume 3).

5.7.1. OTHER ARRAY FEEDBACK

45. Community Benefit Funds were raised at various points throughout the development phase of the Array, by a range of stakeholders. The Applicant is committed to the creation of a community benefit fund in the event of successful consent. In this event, the Applicant will consult with stakeholders to develop a Community Benefit Fund in the most appropriate manner.

5.8. REFERENCES

Aarhus Centres (2024). *The Aarhus Convention*. Available at: <https://aarhus.osce.org/about/aarhus-convention>. Accessed on: 17 April 2024.

European Commission (2024). *The Aarhus Convention and the EU*. Available at: https://environment.ec.europa.eu/law-and-governance/aarhus_en. Accessed on: 17 April 2024.

Fishing News (2024). “*The quest for net-zero on an epic scale*”, Fishing News (print and digital), 15 January 2024. Available at: <https://fishingnews.co.uk/news/ossian-wind-farm-the-quest-for-net-zero-on-an-epic-scale-ad/>. Accessed on: 28 May 2024.

HM Government (2013). *The Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2013/286/contents/made>. Accessed on: 15 May 2024.

MD-LOT (2023). *Scoping Opinion for Ossian Array*. Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team. Edinburgh

Ossian OWFL. (2023a). *Ossian Array EIA Scoping Report*. Available at: https://marine.gov.scot/sites/default/files/ossian_wind_-_array_eia_scoping_report_-_eor0811a.pdf. Accessed on: 24 April 2024.

Ossian OWFL (2023b). *Digital Array EIA Scoping Report*. Available at: <https://ossian-eia.com/offshore-scoping/>. Accessed on: 17 April 2024.

Ossian OWFL (2024). *Ossian Array Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA)*.

Ossian Wind Farm (2024a). *Ossian launches first wind farm Array public consultation*. Available at: <https://www.ossianwindfarm.com/news/take-part-in-our-public-consultation-for-the-array>. Accessed on: 28 May 2024.

Ossian Wind Farm (2024b). *Ossian public consultation Q&A sessions*. Available at: <https://www.ossianwindfarm.com/news/links-to-ossian-public-consultation-qanda-sessions>. Accessed on: 28 May 2024.

Ramos, B.J. (2024a). “*Pioneering project powers Scotland’s net-zero journey*”, The Courier, 25 January 2024, pg. 21.

Ramos, B.J. (2024b). “*Pioneering project powers Scotland’s net-zero journey*”, Press and Journal, 25 January 2024, pg. 22.

Scottish Government (2018). *Marine Scotland Consenting and Licensing Guidance. For Offshore Wind, Wave and Tidal Energy Applications*. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/consultation-paper/2018/10/marine-scotland-consenting-licensing-manual-offshore-wind-wave-tidal-energy-applications/documents/00542001-pdf/00542001-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/00542001.pdf>. Accessed on: 15 April 2024.

Ossian



Marubeni



Ossian Offshore Wind Farm Limited

Inveralmond House
200 Dunkeld Road
Perth
PH1 3AQ

Project Office

Fourth Floor
10 Bothwell Street
Glasgow
G2 6NT

ossianwindfarm.com