



SOFIA **OFFSHORE** **WIND FARM**

**PRE CONSTRUCTION PLANS
AND DOCUMENTATION:
PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT AND
MONITORING PLAN:
FISHERIES CO-EXISTENCE
PLAN**

Date	27 October 2021
Document reference	003631676
Revision	02

Project	Sofia Offshore Wind Farm
Sub-Project or Package	Consents
Document Title	Co-Existence Plan
Document Reference	003631676
Revision	02
Supplier Reference No	

This document and any information therein are confidential property of Sofia Offshore Wind Farm Limited and without infringement neither the whole nor any extract may be disclosed, loaned, copied or used for manufacturing, provision of services or other purposes whatsoever without prior written consent of Sofia Offshore Wind Farm Limited, and no liability is accepted for loss or damage from any cause whatsoever from the use of the document. Sofia Offshore Wind Farm Limited retains the right to alter the document at any time unless a written statement to the contrary has been appended.

Revision	Date	Status/Reason for Issue	Originator	Checked	Approved
01	30/03/21	For MMO approval	S. Nielsen, Precision Marine Survey Limited (PMSL), Carol Cooper	Harriet Thomas	Kim Gauld-Clark
02	27/10/21	Minor amendment	Carol Cooper	Clare Davies	Kim Gauld-Clark

Contents

1. Introduction, scope and approval of the fisheries co-existence plan.....	5
2. Project Description.....	7
2.1 Overview	7
2.2 Ownership of generation and transmission assets.....	8
3. Fisheries Co-existence Plan Overview.....	11
3.1 Introduction.....	11
3.2 Objectives.....	11
3.3 Types of fishing conducted in Sowf array area and Export Cable Corridor.....	11
3.4 General Principles	12
3.5 Communication.....	13
3.6 Navigation and safety zones.....	15
3.7 Marking of Deployed Fishing Gear.....	16
3.8 Snagged Fishing Gear Recovery Procedure.....	17
3.9 Lost and damaged Fishing Gear Claims	17
3.10 Removal of static fishing gear in advance of construction or maintenance activities	19
3.11 Wind farm Vessel Requirements.....	19
3.12 Co-existence and Construction Activities	20
3.13 Co-existence during Operation	22
3.14 Co-existence during Decommissioning.....	23
3.15 Mitigation and the compensation strategy.....	23
4. References	24
APPENDIX A. Fisheries Contact Details (last updated March 2021).....	25
APPENDIX B. Lost AND damaged Fisheries Gear Claim Form	26
APPENDIX C. Static Fishing Gear Encounter Procedure.....	29
APPENDIX D. SOWF: Vessel Code of Good Practice	31

Tables

Table 1 dML Conditions discharged, in Full or Part, through the provision of the Fisheries Co-Existence Plan (as varied in 2021).....	5
Table 2 - Pre and Post Construction Plans and Documents : Relevant Deemed Marine Licence Conditions – DCO Schedule 9: Marine Licence 2: Project B (SOWF) Offshore Generation – Work Nos. 1B and 2T: Part 2 (Variation No. 4, 2021).....	6
Table 3 - DCO Schedule 11: Marine Licence 4: Project B (SOWF) Offshore transmission – Work Nos. 1B,2B, 3T and 2T: Part 2 (Variation No. 4, 2021).....	6
Table 4 Asset ownership of the Wind Farm Operator and Offshore Transmission Owner.	10

Table 5 Anticipated Information Distribution Scheduling (extract from approved SOWF FLP)..... 14

Figures

Figure 1 Sofia Offshore Wind Farm..... 7

Figure 2 Diagram showing the Grid Entry Point between the Wind Farm Operator and Offshore Transmission Owner systems. 10

1. INTRODUCTION, SCOPE AND APPROVAL OF THE FISHERIES CO-EXISTENCE PLAN

- 1.1.1 Sofia Offshore Wind Farm (“SOWF”) was developed and consented by the Forewind Limited Consortium and was previously known as Dogger Bank Teesside B (“Teesside B”). The Dogger Bank Teesside A and B Offshore Wind Farm Order 2015 (“the DCO”) was granted on 4 August 2015 and came into force on the 26th August 2015. The DCO was amended in 2019. The Forewind Limited consortium disbanded and since August 2017, Innogy Renewables UK Limited (“innogy”) held 100% ownership of SOWF under a new subsidiary, Sofia Offshore Wind Farm Limited (“SOWFL”). On 30 June 2020, innogy, and its subsidiary SOWFL, transferred to become part of RWE and are now known as RWE Renewables UK.
- 1.1.2 This document has been drafted to address the requirements of the DCO deemed Marine Licences (dMLs) (as varied in 2021), insofar as is relevant to a Fisheries Co-existence Plan (CoEP). The document sets out the principles of the CoEP in extension of those mentioned in the approved SOWF Fisheries Liaison Plan (FLP) (SOWFL, 2019; Document No: 003238460-02)
- 1.1.3 Table 1 sets out which dML Conditions (as varied in 2021), this document discharges (in Full or Part).

Table 1 dML Conditions discharged, in Full or Part, through the provision of the Fisheries Co-Existence Plan (as varied in 2021)

DCO SCHEDULE 9: MARINE LICENCE 2: PROJECT B (SOWF) OFFSHORE GENERATION - WORK NOS. 1B AND 2T: PART 2 CONDITIONS (VARIATION NO. 4, 2021)	
dML Condition	In Full or Part discharge
Pre-Construction Plans and Documents: 16(d)(v) Project environmental management and monitoring plan: Co-Existence Plan	Full
DCO Schedule 11: Marine Licence 4: Project B (SOWF) Offshore Transmission – Work Nos. 1B, 2B, 3T and 2T: Part 2 Conditions (Variation No. 4, 2021)	
<i>dML Condition</i>	In Full or Part discharge
Pre-Construction Plans and Documents: 14(d)(v) Project environmental management and monitoring plan: Co-Existence Plan	Full

- 1.1.4 This document forms part of a suite of documents that will be produced under the requirements set out within Conditions 16 and 14 of Schedules 9 (Deemed Marine Licence (dML) 2: Project B (SOWF) Offshore Generation – Work Nos. 1B and 2T) (as varied 2021) and 11 (Marine Licence 4: Project B (SOWF) Offshore Transmission – Works Nos. 1B, 2B, 3B and 2T) respectively (as varied in 2021), which require Pre Construction Plans and Documents to be submitted and approved by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and, where relevant in consultation with statutory and non-statutory advisors.

- 1.1.5 This document has been drafted to address the requirements of the dMLs, insofar as is relevant to the preparation of the fisheries CoEP component of the Project Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan for SOWF under Conditions 16(d)(v) and 14(d)(v) of dML Schedules 9 and 11 (as varied in 2021) respectively (Tables 2 and 3).

Table 2 - Pre and Post Construction Plans and Documents : Relevant Deemed Marine Licence Conditions – DCO Schedule 9: Marine Licence 2: Project B (SOWF) Offshore Generation – Work Nos. 1B and 2T: Part 2 (Variation No. 4, 2021)

DCO SCHEDULE 9: MARINE LICENCE 2: PROJECT B (SOWF) OFFSHORE GENERATION – WORK NOS. 1B AND 2T: PART 2 CONDITIONS (VARIATION NO. 4, 2021)

Pre-Construction Plans and Documentation: Project environmental management and monitoring plan

16(d) a project environmental management and monitoring plan that details minimum environmental management requirements expected of all contractors and subcontractors with regards to marine pollution contingency, waste management and disposal, chemical risk assessment and relevant fisheries liaison matters, including details of—;

(iv) the fisheries liaison officer, being a person appointed by the undertaker and charged with communication and liaison with the fishing industry as appropriate through the lifetime of the authorised scheme, to be notified to the marine officer for the MMO’s Northern Marine Area and the MMO Marine Licensing Team. Evidence of liaison must be collated so that signatures of attendance at meetings, agenda and minutes of meetings with the fishing industry can be provided to the MMO if requested; and

(v) a fisheries liaison plan in accordance with the draft fisheries liaison plan, including information on liaison with the fishing industry (including by the fisheries liaison officer referred to in sub-paragraph (iv) and a co-existence plan that details how the project will be constructed and operated taking account of the fisheries industry;

Table 3 - DCO Schedule 11: Marine Licence 4: Project B (SOWF) Offshore transmission – Work Nos. 1B,2B, 3T and 2T: Part 2 (Variation No. 4, 2021)

DCO SCHEDULE 11: MARINE LICENCE 4: PROJECT B (SOWF) OFFSHORE TRANSMISSION – WORK NOS. 2B, 3T AND 2T: PART 2 CONDITIONS (VARIATION NO. 4, 2021)

Pre-Construction Plans and Documentation: Project environmental management and monitoring plan

14(d) a project environmental management and monitoring plan that details minimum environmental management requirements expected of all contractors and subcontractors with regards to marine pollution contingency, waste management and disposal, chemical risk assessment and relevant fisheries liaison matters, including details of—;

(iv) the fisheries liaison officer, being a person appointed by the undertaker and charged with communication and liaison with the fishing industry as appropriate through the lifetime of the authorised scheme, to be notified to the marine officer for the MMO’s Northern Marine Area and the MMO Marine Licensing Team. Evidence of liaison must be collated so that signatures of attendance at meetings, agenda and minutes of meetings with the fishing industry can be provided to the MMO if requested; and

(v) a fisheries liaison plan in accordance with the draft fisheries liaison plan, including information on liaison with the fishing industry (including by the fisheries liaison officer referred to in sub-paragraph (iv)) and a co-existence plan that details how the project will be constructed and operated taking account of the fisheries industry;

- 1.1.6 The CoEP should be read in conjunction with the approved SOWF FLP (SOWFL, 2019). The approved SOWF FLP and this supporting CoEP have been prepared in accordance with the draft FLP produced by Forewind (2014) in order to meet the requirements of Conditions 16(d)(v) and 14(d)(v) of dML Schedules 9 and 11 (as varied in 2021) respectively (see Tables 2 and 3).
- 1.1.7 Section 2 provides an outline of the consented SOWF. Section 3 gives the overview of the co-existence strategy along with details of the CoEP for the various phases of the wind farm.

- 1.1.8 Under the dMLs, this document must be submitted to the MMO for approval, at least 4 months prior to the intended commencement of construction, except where otherwise stated or unless otherwise agreed in writing by the MMO. SOWFL is submitting this document for approval prior to the commencement of the UXO site clearance activities currently anticipated to occur in Q3, 2021.
- 1.1.9 The CoEP will be reviewed during the lifetime of SOWF. It is anticipated that a review will be undertaken in operation when details of the OFTO are known. There will be a further review of the CoEP prior to decommissioning. The MMO will be consulted on any material amendments to the CoEP as required under dML Condition 33, Schedule 9 (Variation No. 4, 2021) and dML Condition 31, Schedule 11 (Variation No. 4, 2021).

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 OVERVIEW

- 2.1.1 The SOWF site is located approximately 165 km offshore on the shallow central area of the North Sea known as the Dogger Bank with the export cable landfall in an area between Redcar and Marske-by-the-Sea (Figure 1). Water depths in the array area are between 21 m and 37 m and water depths along the export cable corridor are up to 82 m.

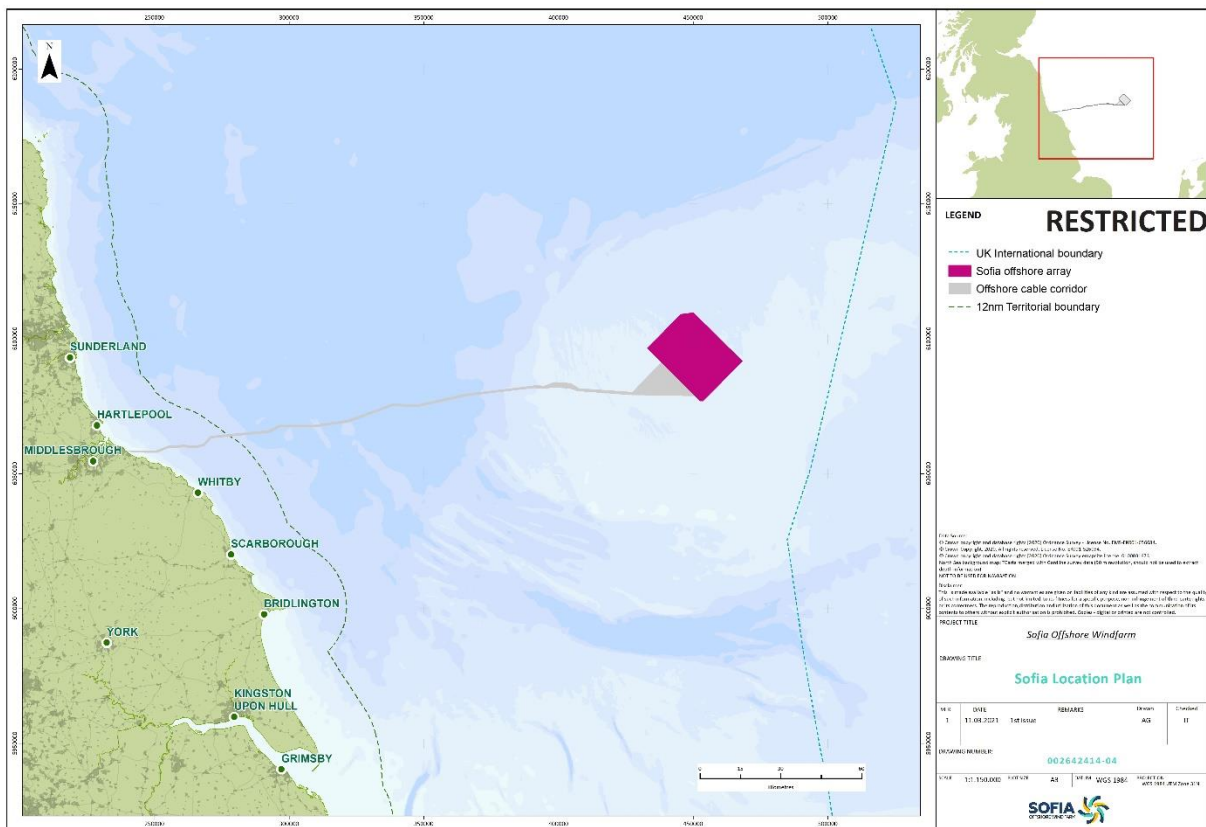


Figure 1 Sofia Offshore Wind Farm.

2.1.2 SOWF has a generating capacity of up to 1.4 gigawatts (“GW”) and connects into an existing National Grid substation at Teesside. The footprint of the layout area is approximately 593 km². Offshore, the DCO (as amended in March 2019) allows for:

- ✦ Offshore wind turbine generating station with a gross electrical output capacity of up to 1.4 gigawatts;
- ✦ Up to 200 wind turbines and supporting tower structures*;
- ✦ Wind turbine foundations and associated support and access structures;
- ✦ One offshore converter platform, and associated foundations;
- ✦ Up to four offshore collector platforms, and associated foundations*;
- ✦ Up to two offshore accommodation or helicopter platform(s) for operations and maintenance activities, and associated foundations*;
- ✦ Subsea inter-array cables between the wind turbines; between wind turbines and offshore collector platforms; between wind turbines and offshore converter platform; linking to meteorological stations and accommodation platforms**;
- ✦ Subsea inter-platform cables: between offshore collector platforms; between offshore collector platforms and the High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) offshore converter platform**.
- ✦ Offshore export cable systems, carrying power from the offshore HVDC converter platform to the landfall(s);
- ✦ Crossing structures at the points where project cables cross existing subsea cables and pipelines or other Dogger Bank project cables;
- ✦ Up to five offshore meteorological monitoring stations. This is in addition to the two meteorological stations which were subject to an earlier and separate consent application and installed in 2013;
- ✦ Protection against scour and subsea foundation damage;
- ✦ Seabed preparation measures;
- ✦ Cable protection measures; and
- ✦ Up to ten vessel mooring buoys.

* Since the project was consented, the detailed design has been ongoing and the project currently comprises 100 WTGs and one HVDC offshore converter platform (OCP). There will be no offshore collector platforms or helicopter platforms, and no meteorological masts.

** The wind turbine generators will connect to each other and then directly, via the HVAC (High Voltage Alternating Current) subsea array cables, to the HVDC offshore converter platform.

2.2 OWNERSHIP OF GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION ASSETS

2.2.1 SOWFL will design, procure, construct and commission the offshore generation system and the transmission system. Following commissioning, SOWFL (the Wind Farm Operator (“WFO”)) will transfer the transmission assets to a licensed Offshore Transmission Owner (“OFTO”). SOWFL will retain ownership of the offshore generation system.

- 2.2.2 The offshore boundary of ownership between SOWFL and the OFTO occurs at the high-voltage and low-voltage interface within the OCP between the generation system and the transmission system and is known as the Grid Entry Point (“GEP”). The foundations of the OCP will be in the ownership of the OFTO.
- 2.2.3 Table 4 and Figure 2 shows the breakdown in asset ownership and boundary locations between the generation system and the transmission system.

Table 4 Asset ownership of the Wind Farm Operator and Offshore Transmission Owner.

NON OFTO (GENERATION)	OFTO (TRANSMISSION)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> up to 200 wind turbines and supporting tower structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 400 kV bay at the existing National Grid Lackenby substation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wind turbine foundations and associated support and access structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 400 kV HVAC cables linking the OCS (Onshore Converter Station) to the National Grid substation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> subsea inter-array cables (950 km maximum) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One OCS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> array cable protection measures (where necessary) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 320 kV HVDC onshore and offshore export cables linking the OCS to the OCP (~230 km offshore, ~7 km onshore), export cable protection measures where necessary.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the 66 kV switchgear, SCADA systems and the control and protection panels located at the OCP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One OCP, comprising of the HVDC converter system, converter transformers, 66 kV AC and HVDC switchgear, auxiliary cooling system, diesel generators, control systems, battery DC (Direct Current) and UPS (Uninterruptable Power Supply) systems.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OCP foundations and protection against scour and subsea foundation damage (where necessary)

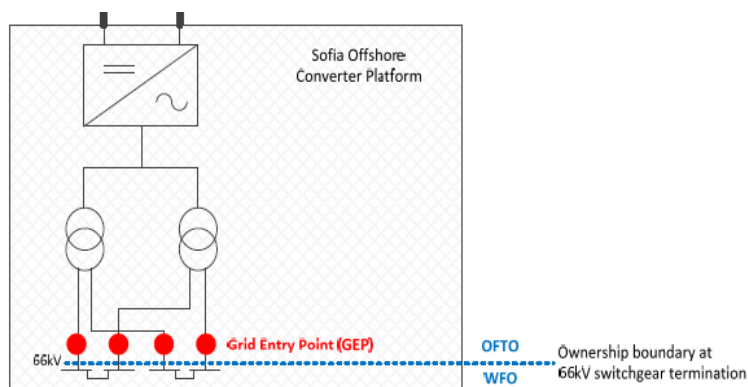


Figure 2 Diagram showing the Grid Entry Point between the Wind Farm Operator and Offshore Transmission Owner systems.

3. FISHERIES CO-EXISTENCE PLAN OVERVIEW

3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1 The purpose of the CoEP is to facilitate a positive co-existence between SOWF and commercial fishing interests. The principles within this Plan will be applicable to the pre-construction, construction, operation and decommissioning phases of SOWF.
- 3.1.2 SOWF believes that the fishing industry and the wind farm can co-exist with one another in all SOWF project areas (offshore turbine array and export cable corridor). The most sustainable approach to co-existence is to avoid and reduce impacts both to the commercial fishing industry and offshore wind developer and ensure that both parties can continue to work side by side in a positive manner, whilst maintaining a productive working relationship at both high and low levels of representation.
- 3.1.3 This CoEP is broadly based on the FLOWW Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison (2014), the emerging FLOWW Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries-Cable Interactions, Planning and Mitigation, And Guidance on The Offshore Transmission Owners (OFTOs) Regime (v0.4, FLOWW 2020) as well as engagement with fishermen through the development and pre-construction phases of SOWF.

3.2 OBJECTIVES

- 3.2.1 The objectives of the CoEP in relation to commercial fisheries are set out below:
- ☛ Conduct pre-construction, construction, operation and decommissioning activities relevant to the wind farm whilst ensuring the health and safety of the SOWF workforce, their Contractors and third parties (e.g. fishing vessels);
 - ☛ To undertake pre-construction, construction, operation and decommissioning activities whilst minimising disturbance to other activities as far as reasonably practicable; and
 - ☛ To provide accurate information in relation to pre-construction, construction, operation and decommissioning activities to local fishermen in a timely manner in order to support co-existence.

3.3 TYPES OF FISHING CONDUCTED IN SOWF ARRAY AREA AND EXPORT CABLE CORRIDOR

- 3.3.1 Several different types of commercial fishing occur within the wind farm array and export cable corridor. The broad types of fishing which occur in the inshore (out to 6 nautical miles (nm)) along the export cable corridor, the remaining extent of the export cable and array areas are set out below, along with the main target species for each:
- ☛ Inshore area - (horizontal direction drill exit pit and export cable corridor to 6nm): Potting (for lobster, edible crab), netting (trammel & gill nets, for cod, sole and sea bass)

- ✦ Export cable corridor (offshore from 6nm to array area): Potting (for lobster and edible crab), scallop dredging, trawling (cod, haddock, whiting, lemon sole, dover sole).
- ✦ Array area: Seine netting (plaice, turbot and lemon sole), demersal trawling (sandeel and plaice), pelagic netting (sandeel and herring) and beam trawling (plaice and lemon sole).

3.4 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- 3.4.1 The SOWF CoEP complements the approved FLP (SOWFL, 2019) and includes the following key elements:
- ✦ Measures to minimise, as far as is practicably feasible, potential impacts on fisheries – the need for any mitigation measures will be developed and agreed in consultation with the fishing industry;
 - ✦ Maintaining a Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) as the main point of contact for SOWF and the fishing industry throughout the project, as well as engaging Fishing Industry Representatives (FIR's) as appropriate;
 - ✦ Presence of a Fisheries Liaison Representative (FLR) on construction and survey vessels as appropriate, to communicate directly with fishermen and provide information to the FLO;
 - ✦ Promotion of productive co-existence through the provision of cable specification and installation plans to fisheries stakeholders (including the use of cable protection measures where required) and the sharing of results from the Post Installation Survey Reports;
 - ✦ Consideration of the use of guard vessels where required based on the outcome of risk assessments which will work within a code of good practice. Local fishing vessels will be utilised where reasonably practicable;
 - ✦ Management of the construction and operation of the wind farm in accordance with the Construction Phase Health and Safety Plan (the CPH&SP) through the Marine Co-ordination Centre;
 - ✦ Notifications as required under relevant dML Conditions such as Notices to Mariners (NtM's), Kingfisher Bulletin/FOGA ApS (Danish Fishing Industry online portal) and radio broadcasts;
 - ✦ Notification as required for Safety Zones around construction and maintenance activities;
 - ✦ Reporting as required under dML Conditions such as to the UKHO to ensure navigational charts are updated;
 - ✦ Appropriate aids to navigation implemented and managed, as agreed with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Trinity House and as required under the provisions of the dMLs;
 - ✦ Code of conduct for SOWF vessels undertaking project related activities;
 - ✦ Reference to the SOWF emergency response procedures, incident management and reporting procedures which will be set out within the Emergency Response and Co-operation Plan (prepared with due regard to the dML Conditions 18 and 16 of Schedules 9 and 11 (as varied in 2021) and/or use of Emergency Action Cards for each Contractor and other relevant SOWF procedures;
 - ✦ Fishing gear interaction response procedures; and

- ☛ Loss or damage to fishing gear reporting procedures.
- 3.4.2 The following sections provide further information on the above key principles and more detail regarding SOWF's intentions in relation to co-existence.

3.5 COMMUNICATION

- 3.5.1 A successful co-existence strategy requires open and continuous communication between the project operators and the fishing industry. Full details of the communication strategy are provided in the approved FLP (SOWFL, 2019).
- 3.5.2 A FLO will be in place throughout all phases of the wind farm to maintain the dialogue between all parties. A commercial Fisheries Working Group (CFWG) is in the process of being established to facilitate the dialogue between the FLO, SOWFL, the Fishing Industry Representatives (FIR's)¹ (if appointed) and the fishing industry. The FLO will be responsible for maintaining the Fisheries Stakeholder Database to ensure appropriate communication of information. The FLR, or designated alternative (as agreed between SOWF and relevant contractor), will be present on construction and survey vessels in the inshore area and elsewhere along the export cable and array area as appropriate. The FLRs will be responsible for communication from the vessels to the FLO and directly to fishermen at sea. Further details of the responsibilities of the individuals and the Fisheries Stakeholder Database are provided in the FLP (SOWFL, 2019).
- 3.5.3 Details for relevant fisheries liaison contacts are provided in Appendix A. From time to time the contact details provided in Appendix A may be updated outside of the Plan review cycle. Where contact details are updated these will be communicated to the FLO and local fishermen as appropriate. Updates to contact details will not be submitted to the MMO for approval but will be provided for information.
- 3.5.4 Concerns from individual fishermen and vessel owners will be considered throughout all phases of the project. Where possible, mitigation measures will be developed and agreed through consultation with the fishing industry to reduce impacts to fishing activities e.g. partial reopening of works areas to fishing activity during the period of construction if reasonably practicable. Representatives of fishing organisations e.g. FIR's, will be invited to attend dedicated FWG meetings, where specific details of the project design and activities will be discussed, along with mitigation measures aimed at reducing impacts to the relevant fisheries stakeholders. The FLO will be responsible for maintaining communication with the fishing industry during all phases of the project.
- 3.5.5 The SOWFL Marine Co-ordination Centre has responsibility for co-ordinating vessel operations within the offshore construction and operation site via its Duty Marine Co-ordinator Team. Marine Co-ordination Procedures will be implemented to reduce the risk of construction vessels causing disruption or harm to each other, assets and third parties (e.g. fishing or commercial vessels). The FLO will communicate with the Duty Marine Co-ordinator Team.
- 3.5.6 Notices to Mariners (NtM's) will be issued at least 10 working days prior to the commencement of any licenced offshore operations detailing the dates of activities, area of operation, vessel identity, nature of the works and contact details. Subsequently NtM's will

¹ The FIR's, if appointed, will be representative of all fleet segments and fishing activity present within the SOWF development footprint.

be updated and reissued at weekly intervals during construction activities and within 5 days of any planned operations and maintenance works. NtM's will include (but not be limited to) the following:

- ☞ A description of the new works to be undertaken will include charts illustrating any;
 - ☞ Construction and maintenance exclusion zones with coordinates provided in Degrees Decimal Minutes;
 - ☞ Approximate schedule of works;
 - ☞ Details of the vessels involved in the works including the vessels contact details;
 - ☞ The locations and timings of any Safety Zones to be imposed around construction and maintenance vessels;
 - ☞ Health and safety standards expected from Contractor;
 - ☞ Contractor obligations;
 - ☞ Coordinates of activities - longitude and latitude in WGS84 Degrees Decimal Minutes (DDM); and
 - ☞ Conflict avoidance response procedures.
- 3.5.7 In addition, details of the vessel routes, timings and locations of construction and maintenance activities will be published in the Kingfisher Bulletin at least 7 days before commencement of the relevant activities.
- 3.5.8 Safety messages will be broadcast to inform other vessels of actions using the 'Securité' message if there is important detail relevant to navigation. The radio broadcasts shall be made by the Contractor vessel, the guard vessel, the FLR's, or the MCC.
- 3.5.9 Information in relation to SOWF activities as detailed in the approved FLP (see extract Table 5 below) will be provided to the fishing industry by the FLO as set out below.

Table 5 Anticipated Information Distribution Scheduling (extract from approved SOWF FLP)

Type of Information	Timescale	Information distribution
Fisheries Liaison Plan	Submission to the MMO prior to the commencement of site investigations Reviews expected in operation, at three yearly intervals during operation and prior to decommissioning.	MMO FLO liaison FWG meetings
Relevant SOWFL, OFTO, FLO, FIR, FLR, CFCSS² contacts	To be updated as required	FLO liaison SOWF website
Summary of Construction Method Statements for Site Clearance, Horizontal	Reasonable timescale prior to the commencement of specific construction activities	FLO liaison FWG meetings

² CFCSS – Commercial Fisheries Compensation Strategy Specialist

Type of Information	Timescale	Information distribution
Directional Drill at Landfall, Wind Turbine Foundations and Offshore Converter Platform		
Summary of Cable Specification and Installation Plan for Export and Array Cables	Reasonable timescale prior to the commencement of construction activities	FLO liaison FWG meetings
Surveys	Notification of commencement of surveys to all fisheries stakeholders not less than 14 days prior to survey mobilisation	FLO liaison FWG meetings
Relevant post construction survey output (e.g. cable post installation surveys)	Reasonable timescale post completion of surveys	FLO liaison FWG meetings
O&M activities	Reasonable timescale prior to the commencement of O&M activities	FLO liaison FWG meetings

3.6 NAVIGATION AND SAFETY ZONES

- 3.6.1 Navigational aids will be installed, monitored and maintained on the wind farm both temporarily for construction activities and on the permanent structures in accordance with the requirements of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and Trinity House (TH) through the approval of the Aids to Navigation Management Plan (dML Schedule 9 Condition 16(h) and dML Schedule 11 Condition 14(h)). This Management Plan sets out emergency procedures and reporting/notification requirements (including NtM) and use of the PANAR system³ for any failures of navigation aids or damage or decay of the project which could affect safe navigation.
- 3.6.2 Information will be provided to the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office at appropriate times as detailed in the project consents, to ensure all necessary amendments to nautical charts are made.
- 3.6.3 SOWF will undertake all activities in accordance with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (“COLREGs”) and all vessels within the wind farm shall be expected to adhere to COLREGs.
- 3.6.4 Applications for Safety Zones will be made to the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) at the appropriate time in accordance with The Electricity (Offshore Generating Stations) (Safety Zones) (Applications Procedures and Control of Access) Regulations 2007 (SI No 2007/1948).
- 3.6.5 Typically Safety Zone applications during construction will be made for:
 -  A 500 metre safety zone established around each wind turbine or offshore substation (including any associated or partially constructed infrastructure (e.g. foundations), whilst construction work is being performed as indicated by the presence of construction vessels; and

3 <https://www.trinityhouse.co.uk/mariners-information/panar-online-reporting>

- ☞ *Beam trawls:* Any such trawl used within or outside of UK territorial waters should be marked with the port letters and numbers (PLN) of the vessel, including gear both in use and carried on board the vessel. This information should be displayed on every beam.
- ☞ *Passive/static gear:* The PLN details should be marked on all passive gear, within or outside of UK territorial waters. Marker buoys should be used on all passive gear used outside of 12nm. Use of buoys is also recommended within UK territorial waters.
- ☞ A full specification for the PLN labels and marker buoys is detailed in the guidance, including size, colour and location for attachment.
- ☞ Commercial fishermen are further advised to contact their local Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) to confirm any local marking requirements in all cases. All static fishing gear should be appropriately marked with the fishing vessels' PLN within 6nm.
- ☞ *Lost gear:* The guidance specifies that an attempt must be made to recover any lost gear, and that equipment must be carried on board in order to retrieve gear. Any irretrievable gear should be notified to authorities within 24 hours of loss. Full details of this procedure are provided in the guidance.

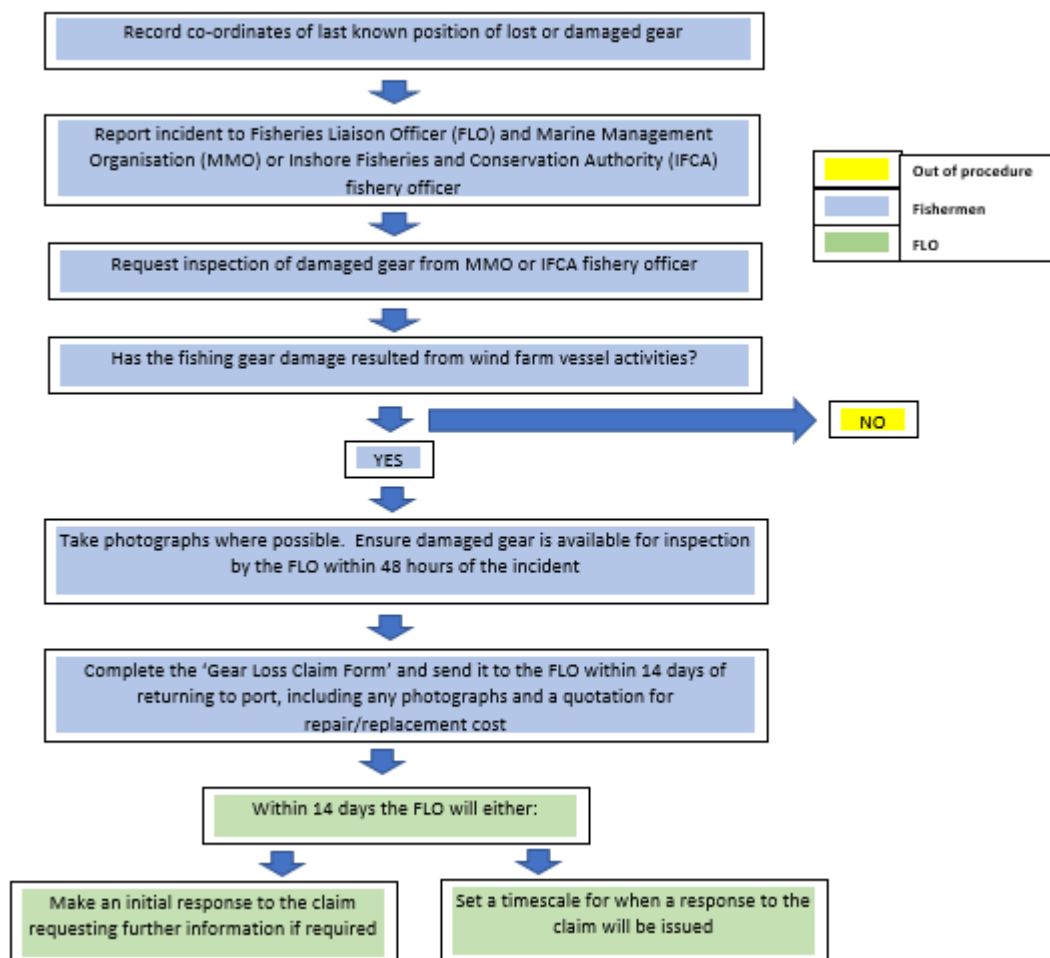
3.8 SNAGGED FISHING GEAR RECOVERY PROCEDURE

- 3.8.1 The following procedure must be followed by commercial fishermen in the event of lost, damaged or snagged gear associated with the project.
- ☞ If the snagged gear is not easily retrieved, do not apply any winch or engine power which might endanger the safety of the vessel and its crew.
 - ☞ Advise the coastguard and the SOWF Duty Marine Co-ordination Team immediately of any snagged fishing gear (see contact details in Appendix A), giving an accurate position of the vessel.
 - ☞ On no account should fishing vessel skippers use grapnels in an attempt to recover fishing gear lost or cut away in the vicinity of the wind farm infrastructure.
 - ☞ If gear is slipped, it's location must be marked by buoys and position confirmed to the coastguard and the FLO.
 - ☞ The incident must be recorded in the vessel logbook including date, time, location, depth and type of gear lost/ damaged.
 - ☞ If a claim is intended to be made for loss or damage to fishing gear the Lost Gear Procedure set out in Section 3.9 must be followed.

3.9 LOST AND DAMAGED FISHING GEAR CLAIMS

- 3.9.1 In order to make a claim in respect of any lost or damaged fishing gear, the following procedure should be undertaken by commercial fishermen:
- ☞ Once a decision has been reached that gear has been lost or snagged, the coordinates of the last known position must be recorded by the fisherman. Preferably to include a clear image of the vessel's plotter screen. The FLO and/or SOWF Marine Coordinator are to be notified as soon as possible.

- ☞ On return to port after gear has been lost or damaged within the wind farm, the incident must be reported by the fisherman to the FLO and an MMO or IFCA fishery officer and a request made that damaged gear be inspected.
- ☞ If a claim for lost or damaged gear is to be made on the basis of loss or damage resulting from the wind farm vessel activities, fishermen should take photographs if possible and/or make damaged gear available for inspection by the FLO within 48 hours of the incident occurring.
- ☞ A completed claim form (see Appendix B for template available on SOWF website <https://sofiawindfarm.com/latest/publications-documents/>) to be sent to the FLO within 14 days of the vessel's return to port following the incident. This should include background information on the incident as well as details of actions taken, including how attempts were made to recover the gear. The form should be supported with photographs of any damaged gear and a quotation for repair/ replacement of the gear.
- ☞ The FLO will make an initial response to the claim within 14 days, requesting further information if required, or setting out a timescale for when a response to the claim will be issued.



3.10 REMOVAL OF STATIC FISHING GEAR IN ADVANCE OF CONSTRUCTION OR MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

3.10.1 Following liaison with the fishing industry and the required notifications have been made as detailed within the SOWFL FLP and this CoEP, SOWFL will expect the identified areas for construction and maintenance activities to be clear of static fishing gear in advance of activities commencing on the confirmed dates. This is to avoid Health and Safety (“H&S”) risks associated with snagging of unexpected gear, damage to fishing gear and the potential for significant delays to essential construction or maintenance thus potentially having longer term implications for other users of the areas affected.

3.10.2 In the unlikely event that static fishing gear is found to be present within areas of construction or maintenance following liaison with the fisheries industry and all relevant notifications have been made, the following processes will be followed:

- ✦ The Contractor or FLR shall notify the FLO of the static gear present providing full details of the gear type, identifying markings and location;
- ✦ The FLO shall take all appropriate actions to identify the owner of the static fishing gear and request in writing, notification of receipt of request within 4 days and removal of the gear within an agreed period depending on health and safety consideration and on the timetable of construction or maintenance activities;
- ✦ If no response is received within 4 days and depending on the timetable of construction or maintenance activities, SOWFL Contractors may remove or make safe for construction or maintenance activities any static fishing gear found in the affected areas. The approach to be taken is outlined in Appendix C. These works will be carried out under the appropriate marine licencing processes.
- ✦ If an owner of the static fishing gear has been identified, any retrieved gear will be made available for collection by the owner, within an agreed time period. Alternatively a claim form for lost gear will be provided for completion.

3.10.3 In certain circumstances where emergency inspections or repair works to cables are required, static fishing gear may need to be removed or made safe under the provisions of the appropriate marine licence process. SOWFL and the FLO will contact the owner as soon as possible and within 48 hours following identification of the gear to confirm the nature of the works required and to agree a timeline and responsibilities for emergency removal. If there are no identifying markings on the fishing gear and the owner is not able to be identified within 48 hours, the static fishing gear will be removed under the appropriate marine licence process.

3.11 WIND FARM VESSEL REQUIREMENTS

3.11.1 All construction vessels engaged in activities associated with the wind farm in the array area or export cable corridor shall operate under the projects’ ‘Vessel Requirements’ contract document (SOWFL, 2020; Document No. 003397928-03). A Code of Good Practice has also been established by SOWFL in order to maintain appropriate levels of cooperation and communication between vessels engaged on SOWF activities and commercial fishing vessels (Appendix D).

3.12 CO-EXISTENCE AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

- 3.12.1 All works within the wind farm array area and along the export cable corridor will be carried out in accordance with approved documentation (such as Construction Method Statements, Cable Specification and Installation Plans) as required by the project consents. In addition, contract documentation sets out detailed requirements in relation to aspects such as H&S, Vessel Requirements and Environmental Management.
- 3.12.2 The array and export cables will be designed and installed based on the outcome of comprehensive reviews of the geophysical survey data gathered during the 2020 site investigations and also the Cable Burial Risk Assessments carried out based on the principles within the Carbon Trust Cable Burial Risk Assessment Methodology (2015).
- 3.12.3 The aim will be to bury the array and export cables where feasible. Where this is not practicable, remedial cable protection will be designed to consider the ability to be 'over-trawlable' as far as feasible. Post installation surveys, as set out in the SOWF Geophysical (Bathymetrical) Monitoring Plan (SOWFL, 2019) and as required under the project consents, shall be undertaken and reported to confirm the installation of infrastructure as designed.

Export Cable

- 3.12.4 During export cable pre-construction and construction activities, working areas are required to be temporarily clear of static fishing gear and owners shall be required to remove such equipment to permit operations to proceed
- 3.12.5 Information exchange between SOWFL, the FLO and the fishing industry in relation to the site investigations that were undertaken between Q1 – Q3 2020 enabled the removal of gear to be limited to periods when survey vessels would be in specific areas of the nearshore export cable route.
- 3.12.6 Within the array area, site clearance and infrastructure construction will be phased, as far as feasible, to allow fishing to continue in areas where no construction is being undertaken.
- 3.12.7 For the unexploded ordnance (UXO) and site clearance (e.g. boulder clearance, pre trenching and pre lay grapnel run) and installation of the export cable, there will be a zonal approach in the areas of static gear fisheries. A zonal approach will ensure that fishing could continue throughout the majority of the export cable route except in 'closed zones' where construction activities are occurring. Once completed in these areas, the 'closed zones' will then be opened up to fishing, with other zones then being closed off. This will enable static gear fisheries to be restricted, particularly out to 12nm, for limited periods of time when works are occurring in specific areas as opposed to the whole time period for the entire 220km export cable. The following sets out the anticipated zonal approach for the export cable.
- 3.12.8 Initially in Q3 2021, there will be fisheries exclusions within the nearshore zone KP0 to KP10 for UXO clearance. In 2022 there will be further exclusions for site clearance of the exit pit for the horizontal directional drill and for a short section of the export cable route out to KP3. There will also be UXO clearance in the areas from KP10 to KP220 in 2022 but any fisheries exclusions will be restricted to locations where potential UXO have been identified. In 2023, there will be fisheries exclusions between KP0 and KP130 and finally in 2024, between KP130 to KP220 for site clearance and cable installation.
- 3.12.9 Access to fishing grounds along sections of the export cable route will remain closed until the cable is fully protected by backfill, natural infill or where required, rock berm. The current expectation is that the cable will be laid and shortly after buried either by backfilling, natural

infill or rock berm. The programme is not finalised, but in a worst case scenario there would be a period of 10 weeks between the lay of a cable and the burial of the cable, with approximately 6 weeks being the anticipated time period.

- 3.12.10 Once the detail of the sequence of activities for the site clearance and export cable installation has been determined, NtM and Kingfisher Bulletin notifications will be issued to inform other sea-users and will be updated throughout the construction period as required under the consent. A guard vessel may be present to warn sea users of unburied cables, and to advise the FLO who will inform the fishing industry on the status of the works. Once the export cable is protected, post survey installation hydrographic information will be provided to the relevant authorities so that Admiralty charts can be updated accordingly.

Wind Turbine Generator Foundations, Wind Turbines and Offshore Converter Platform within the Array Area

- 3.12.11 In the array area, Safety Zones will be applied for as outlined in Section 3.6 around fixed surface piercing structures where construction or major maintenance activities will be undertaken. No vessels will be allowed within these areas unless involved in the construction or major maintenance of the wind farm. The Safety Zones will be monitored.
- 3.12.12 Construction of the Wind Turbine Generator (WTG) foundations and Offshore Converter Platform (OCP) and installation of the wind turbines in the array area will also be zoned and as such will minimise disruption to fishing activities.
- 3.12.13 The first offshore operations associated with the WTG foundation installation will be any required “preparatory” works in the form of site clearance operations (boulder clearance and seabed preparation) anticipated to commence in mid-2023. The works will take place at discreet locations within the array area in a pre-planned sequence (with a latitude of flexibility) with minimal anticipated disruption to fishing operations.
- 3.12.14 Construction activities will commence with the installation of rock placement to form scour protection pads at each of the WTG foundation locations (also anticipated to start in mid-2023). This activity will involve the use of one or more fall pipe installation vessels, which will install the rocks to a pre-designed form and sequence across the array area. Installation zones comprising a fixed number of scour protection locations will be identified and communicated to the fishing industry via the FLO, NtM and the Kingfisher Bulletin. The scour protection installation works will continue on a zoned basis until all WTG foundation locations are completed. Post installation surveys will be undertaken and the as-built locations reported to the FLO for ongoing communication to the fishing industry and also to the relevant authorities so that charts can be updated accordingly).
- 3.12.15 The WTG Foundations will be installed in a pre-determined sequence in installation cycles of 3 foundations per cycle. Works are anticipated to start in late 2023 and be completed by end 2024. It is expected that the Contractor will generally install the foundations on a string by string or adjacent foundation basis though deviation from this general principal may be required in order to maximise operability.
- 3.12.16 As for the WTG foundations, a zonal approach will also be followed for the installation of the wind turbines onto the foundations. Installation of the wind turbines is anticipated to commence in early 2025 and be completed in early/mid 2026.
- 3.12.17 It is anticipated that the OCP will be installed in mid-2024 and a jack up barge will be present next to the structure until early 2025.

3.12.18 As with the scour protection installation, large areas of the array area will remain unrestricted during the WTG foundation, OCP and wind turbine installation works except where scour protection pads have been installed. Once the sequence of activities for each installation works has been determined, the NtM and Kingfisher Bulletin notifications will be issued to inform other sea-users and updated throughout the construction activities as appropriate. Once all infrastructure are completed, post survey installation reports will be provided to the relevant authorities so that charts can be updated accordingly.

Array Cables within the Array Area

3.12.19 The array cables installation work will be undertaken in phases. Any required site clearance works (boulder clearance and pre-ploughing) will be the initial phase located primarily in the southern and eastern parts of the array area approximately one year prior to cable installation in a set sequence. Site clearance is anticipated to occur in mid-2023.

3.12.20 The array cables are installed in strings [effectively “loops”] between the WTG Foundations and OCP. Installation will be undertaken in a series of zones across the array area. Large areas of the site would therefore remain unrestricted during the array cable installation works which will be occurring mid- to late-2024.

3.12.21 Once the sequence of activities for the site clearance and array cable installation has been determined, the NtM and Kingfisher Bulletin notifications will be issued to inform other sea-users and updated throughout the construction activities as appropriate. A guard vessel will be present to monitor works and unburied cables and to advise the FLO who will inform the fishing industry on the status of the works. Once the array cables are installed, post survey installation reports will be provided to the relevant authorities so that charts can be updated accordingly.

3.13 CO-EXISTENCE DURING OPERATION

3.13.1 The maintenance of the wind farm will be detailed in the Offshore Maintenance Plan required for the project under dML Schedules 9 and 11. Maintenance must be carried out in accordance with the approved Plan. As detailed previously, the MCC will manage vessels within the wind farm area. Notifications for any maintenance works will be through NtM and Kingfisher Bulletin. The FLO will be retained during the operation of the wind farm for ongoing communication with the fishing industry.

3.13.2 There are no intentions to restrict fishing activity within the wind farm areas during operation with restrictions being limited to the standard safety areas around platforms only (50m). If required for major maintenance operations, an application for a Safety Zone will be made at the appropriate time as detailed in Section 3.6.

3.13.3 As detailed above, cables will be installed based on a detailed review of the geophysical survey data collected in 2020 and the outcome of the Cable Burial Risk Assessments. These have considered the nature and extent of fishing (as well as a number of other factors) in the array area and along the length of the export cable route as detailed in the Carbon Trust Cable Burial Risk Assessment Methodology (2015).

3.13.4 Monitoring during the operational period of the wind farm will be carried out along the length of the array and export cables and at the locations of the WTG and OCP foundations at regular intervals. Where necessary, any repairs to scour protection around WTG foundations and for damaged or exposed cables will be carried out as soon as feasible after identification in accordance with consent conditions. As soon as a hazard is identified in accordance with procedures in the Offshore Maintenance Plan, appropriate measures will be implemented.

These may include, but not be limited to, NtM, AIS tracking, marking of any exposed cables or affected scour protection as directed by Trinity House, and the use of SOV or guard vessels to protect exposed cables if required. Any additional licences that may be required for repair works will be obtained from the MMO prior to works being undertaken.

3.14 CO-EXISTENCE DURING DECOMMISSIONING

- 3.14.1 An updated Decommissioning Programme setting out the current expectations for decommissioning will be submitted to BEIS in advance of construction commencing for approval. This will be in accordance with the Outline Decommissioning Statement (Forewind, 2015). The full details in respect to the removal of assets for decommissioning will not be confirmed until the final Decommissioning Programme is approved prior to decommissioning. The same principles and rules observed during the construction phase will be applied to the removal of assets where relevant. Any permissions required for decommissioning will be obtained and as appropriate, will include consideration of commercial fisheries and navigation.

3.15 MITIGATION AND THE COMPENSATION STRATEGY

- 3.15.1 As far as practicable, SOWFL will endeavour to ensure the continuation of fishing activities and minimise the exclusion of fishing during the various phases of the wind farm, where it is safe and practicable to do so, or implement mitigation measures (e.g. the use of fishing vessels as guard vessels) in agreement with the fishing industry. For the nearshore site investigation surveys undertaken in 2020, a fishing vessel was contracted as a guard vessel, and SOWFL will continue to investigate opportunities for the various phases of the wind farm.
- 3.15.2 For the pre-construction and construction phases, where co-existence or mitigation cannot be reached, a robust and comprehensive Compensation Strategy for disruption payments will be implemented as outlined in the approved FLP (SOWFL, 2019). In summary, where there is a well-established record of static gear fisheries operations which cannot be relocated, compensation will be considered by SOWF. Compensation will not be offered to mobile fisheries operations. Negotiations are ongoing with static gear fisheries for the various phases of the wind farm construction.
- 3.15.3 There is no intention to exclude fisheries from the wind farm array during the operational phase of SOWF⁵ and therefore no compensation will be paid. SOWF staff will continue to liaise with the fishing industry throughout the lifetime of the wind farm. From time to time it may be necessary to exclude fishermen from certain areas during maintenance activities but it is expected that this will be over small extents of the SOWF generation and transmission areas at any one time and therefore, will not cause significant disruption to fishermen.

⁵ Except for safety zones around SOWF infrastructure where required, such as around turbines or platforms.

4. REFERENCES

Carbon Trust (2015) Cable Burial Risk Assessment Methodology Guidance for the Preparation of Cable Burial Depth of Lowering Specification CTC835, February 2015

Forewind (2014) Dogger Bank Teesside A & B, Deadline VII Fisheries Liaison Plan. Document Reference: F-EXL-DVII-016 FLP.

Forewind (2015) Dogger Bank Teesside A & B Deadline IX Appendix 3 Outline Decommissioning Statement

FLOWW (2014) FLOWW Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison.

FLOWW (2020) FLOWW Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries-Cable Interactions, Planning and Mitigation, And Guidance on The Offshore Transmission Owners (OFTOs) Regime: Draft v.04

SOWFL (2019) Fisheries Liaison Plan including Co-Existence

SOWFL (2020) Employer's Requirements Part A – Annex A11.2: Vessel Requirements

APPENDIX A. FISHERIES CONTACT DETAILS (LAST UPDATED MARCH 2021)

SOWFL Contact Details

Jonathan Grigg
SOWF Construction Manager
Sofia Offshore Wind Farm Limited
Windmill Hill Business Park ·
Whitehill Way·
Swindon·
SN5 6PB

Tel: 0330 1229670

E-mail: comms_sofia@rwe.com

SOWF Marine Coordinator – TBC

Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO)

Nigel Proctor BSc. (Hons) MIBiol CBiol
Managing Director
Precision Marine Survey Limited
Church Farm, Main Road,
Thorngumbald,
East Yorkshire
United Kingdom
HU12 9NE

Tel: 01964 624423

Fax: 01964 623352

Mobile: 07702 730891

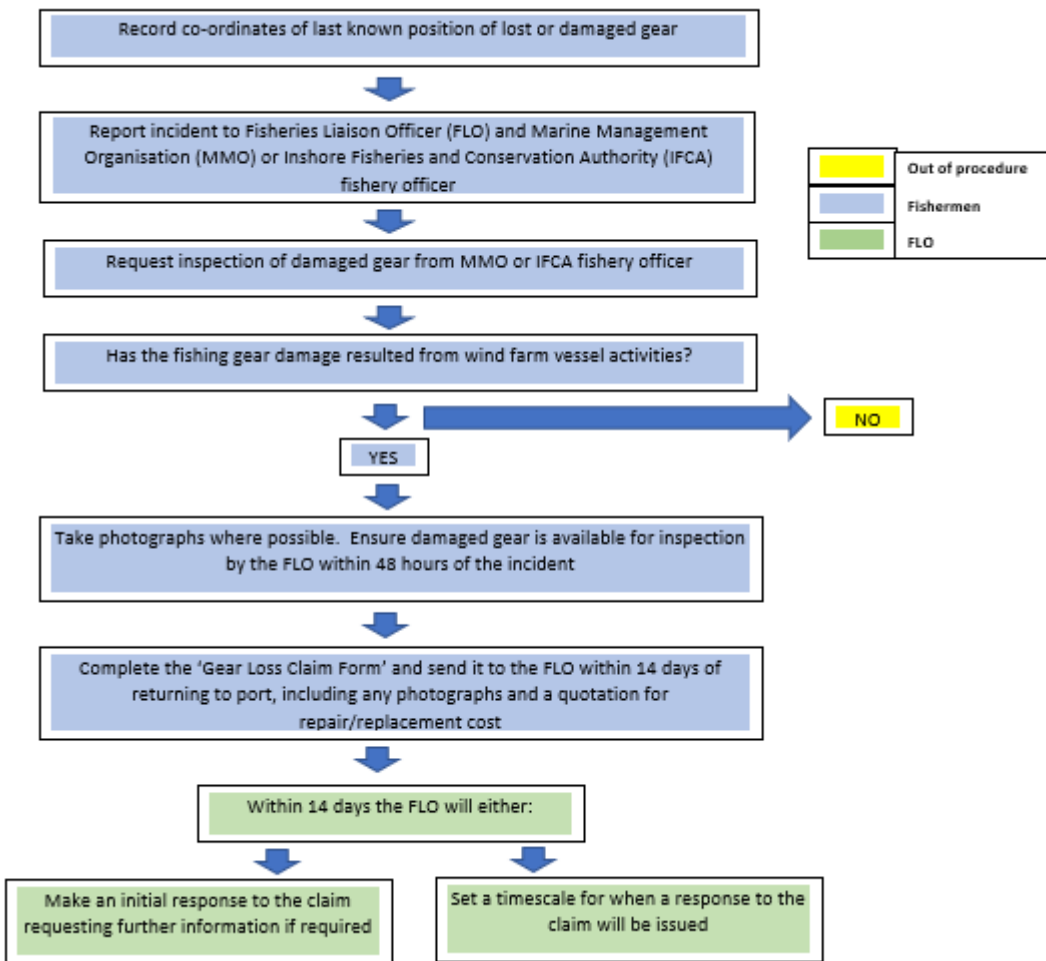
E-mail: n.proctor@precisionmarine.co.uk

Web: <http://www.precisionmarine.co.uk>

APPENDIX B. LOST AND DAMAGED FISHERIES GEAR CLAIM FORM

SOFIA OFFSHORE WIND FARM PROCEDURE AND CLAIM FORM: LOST AND SNAGGED GEAR

[HTTPS://SOFIAWINDFARM.COM/LATEST/PUBLICATIONS-DOCUMENTS/](https://sofiawindfarm.com/latest/publications-documents/)



CLAIMANT & VESSEL DETAILS

Name of Skipper/ Owner	
Name of vessel and registration number	
Contact details of skipper/ owner	

Home Port	
Fishing Association	
Length of vessel (m)	
Design of vessel	
Description of deck layout	
GEAR DETAILS	
General description	
Number of pots per fleet	
Fleet length	
Number of fleets	
Number of surface markers	
Description of surface markers	
INCIDENT DETAILS	
Date and time of where incident occurred	
Co-ordinates of where incident occurred (lat and long- WGS84 Degrees Decimal Minutes)	

Water depth					
Weather conditions at time of incident					
Description of how the incident occurred and seabed type if known (e.g. shot around a wreck, direction gear was shot, description of damage to gear) Description of any actions taken in any attempts to recover the fishing gear.					
Description of creel gear lost or damaged. Include details of item (e.g. pots, buoys, lines), type (e.g. size, weight), manufacturer, age of gear, number of items, and repair replacement cost					
Item	Type	Manufacturer	Age of gear	Number	Repair/ replacement cost
Replacement or repair cost of the components lost					
Any additional description of gear lost or damaged or estimated catch loss					
Any other comments					
Return Form to:			Precision Marine Survey Limited Church Farm, Main Road, Thorngumbald, East Yorkshire United Kingdom HU12 9NE		

APPENDIX C. STATIC FISHING GEAR ENCOUNTER PROCEDURE

Prior to undertaking construction activities in the export cable corridor or array area, one of the Contractor support vessels (or other SOWFL vessel), if other vessel duties allow, will check for and report the presence of static fishing gear.

If the vessel encounters any fishing gear or surface marker buoys (SMBs) within the works area on the reconnaissance activities the following steps shall be followed provided it is safe to do so:

- ☛ Photograph the gear/SMBs
- ☛ Record the latitude and longitude of the gear/SMBs (in WGS84 DDM);
- ☛ Record identification marks such as vessel name or port letters and numbers on SMBs or type of fishing gear
- ☛ Make a record of the type of SMB, e.g. white can, two white cans, orange pellet; etc
- ☛ If more than one surface marker buoy location is detected details for each location shall be taken.

If the fishing gear owners can be identified from the SMBs and the relevant fishing vessel is in the area, the Contractor vessel shall communicate directly with the fishing vessel to facilitate the immediate removal of the fishing gear.

The Contractor vessel shall inform the FLO of the details recorded. On receiving detail of the fishing gear the FLO shall:

- ☛ Make enquiries with known fishermen to determine ownership of the gear;
- ☛ In the event that the gear owner is identified, the FLO shall request the gear is removed immediately subject to weather and operational activities.

If the gear owner cannot be identified or does not agree to move gear immediately (or within a time period agreed), the FLO shall contact relevant organisations, including the local Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) and Marine Management Organisation (MMO) local office.

In the event that gear removal or relocation becomes necessary and relevant permissions are in place the gear removal or relocation shall adhere to the following:

- ☛ The vessel crew carrying out the gear removal shall make note of the exact latitude and longitude position of the surface marker buoy(s) (WGS84 DDM);
- ☛ The vessel crew shall, where practicable, video the whole recovery process, taking digital images of all the contents of each pot. Where video is not possible, the reasons for this e.g. inclement weather/safety concerns, must be clearly stated in the notification to the FLO.
- ☛ Where the gear is to be relocated on the sea floor, the pots shall be left intact rather than emptied. The fleet shall be laid in the approximate direction and spacing between pots as it was recovered. Lat/long coordinates of the laid down SMBs and fleet location shall be recorded. The new positions of the relocated fishing gear will be given to the local IFCA (NEIFCA) and the MMO. The FLO shall liaise with relevant organisations as required under any necessary permissions in relation to any relocation and or recovery activities.

- ☞ Notification of the fishing gear relocation will be provided to local fishing industry representatives, and a request for information in respect to ownership will be made i.e., original position and type of marker buoy, number of pots in fleet etc. Once ownership has been determined, the 'new' location of the gear will be made available.

APPENDIX D. SOWF: VESSEL CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

The following Code of Good Practice has been established by SOWFL in order to maintain appropriate levels of cooperation and communication between vessels engaged on SOWF activities and commercial fishing vessels.

The code will be distributed to all vessel masters operating under contract to SOWFL in the array area and export cable corridor through the toolbox talk delivered by the FLO. The following code guidelines should be read and adhered to:

- ✦ Maintain awareness of, and ongoing adherence to The International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972 (COLREGs).
- ✦ Incorporate potential interactions with fishing vessels and their gear into risk assessments prior to undertaking work for SOWFL.
- ✦ Ensure that any objects accidentally dropped are managed in accordance with the SOWFL Dropped Object Plan.
- ✦ Ensure that any objects dropped as a result of force majeure are managed in accordance with the SOWFL Dropped Object Plan.
- ✦ Continue to allow and maintain cooperation with commercial fishing operations taking place in the SOWF array and export cable areas, where there is no threat to navigational safety. This should more specifically include:
 - Maintain polite, proactive and professional communications with fishing vessels when offshore;
 - Maintain open channels to receive direct communications from fishing vessels;
 - Maintain a reasonable speed when requested to do so in proximity to fishing vessels;
 - Observe and report to SOWF any gear deployed or fishing activities observed within the export cable route and array area;
 - Where contracted by SOWF, vessels should only undertake those activities for which they are contracted, and should not undertake any fishing operations.



Registered office

Windmill Hill Business Park
Whitehill Way, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 6PB

Registered in England & Wales, Company Number 07791964