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East Anglia TWO Offshore Windfarm

Best Practice Protocol for Minimising Disturbance to Red-Throated Diver

Applicants: East Anglia TWO Limited
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Applicable to East Anglia TWO



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Description of Revisions

Rev	Page	Section	Description
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Glossary of Acronyms

AEoI	Adverse Effect on Integrity
DML	Deemed Marine Licence
MMO	Marine management Organisation
NE	Natural England
PEMP	Project Environmental Management Plan
SPA	Special protection Area



Glossary of Terminology

Applicant	East Anglia TWO Limited
East Anglia TWO project	The proposed project consisting of up to 75 wind turbines, up to four offshore electrical platforms, up to one construction, operation and maintenance platform, inter-array cables, platform link cables, up to one operational meteorological mast, up to two offshore export cables, fibre optic cables, landfall infrastructure, onshore cables and ducts, onshore substation, and National Grid infrastructure.
East Anglia TWO windfarm site	The offshore area within which wind turbines and offshore platforms will be located.
Generation Deemed Marine Licence (DML)	The deemed marine licence in respect of the generation assets set out within Schedule 13 of the draft DCO.
Transmission DML	The deemed marine licence in respect of the transmission assets set out within Schedule 14 of the draft DCO.



1 Introduction

1. This document provides a best practice protocol to minimise disturbance to non-breeding red-throated diver which is a qualifying feature of the Outer Thames Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA). A final best-practice protocol for minimising disturbance to red-throated divers during construction and operation will be adopted and will be provided as part of the project environmental management plan (PEMP) to be approved by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and secured under condition 17 of the Generation Deemed Marine Licence (DML) and condition 13 of the Transmission DML.

2 Vessel Disturbance Mitigation

2. Once further information is available about the port(s) that will be used for construction, operations and maintenance then appropriate vessel traffic management measures including, where relevant, some or all of the following best practice examples, will be included in the PEMP in agreement with the MMO and NE:
 - Avoid and minimise vessel traffic, where possible, during the most sensitive time period for red-throated diver between November and March 1st inclusive.
 - Restrict vessel movements where possible to existing navigation routes (where the densities of divers are typically relatively low).
 - Where it is necessary to go outside of established navigational routes, avoid rafting birds either en-route to the windfarm sites from port and/or within the windfarm sites (dependent on location) and where possible avoid disturbance to areas with consistently high diver density.
 - Avoid over-revving of engines (to minimise noise disturbance).
 - Briefing of vessel crew on the purpose and implications of these vessel management practices (through, for example, tool-box talks).