
From: Brown, Emma [mailto:Emma.Brown@naturalengland.org.uk]

Sent: 08 February 2019 17:22

To: Hornsea Project Three

Subject: Hornsea Project Three Deadline 6 Submissions

Good Afternoon,

Please find Natural England's Written Submissions for Deadline 6 of the Hornsea Project Three Offshore Windfarm examination attached.

This includes our written summaries of the Offshore Ecology and DCO Issue Specific Hearings, along with several Annexes which are provided in response to requests made by the Examiner.

Please note Natural England are not providing a response to the Examiners' questions relating to Markham's Triangle MCZ within this submission.

Natural England has reviewed the relevant documents in consultation with JNCC and have prepared a response but we have subsequently received an email from the Applicant offering further clarification. Unfortunately it has not been possible for us to consider this new information in time for today's deadline, but we intend to give this further consideration and provide a response in due course.

Kind regards,

Emma

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Please note I currently work Monday - Thursday

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THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES 2010

HORNSEA PROJECT THREE OFFSHORE WIND FARM

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010080

NATURAL ENGLAND

WRITTEN SUBMISSION FOR DEADLINE 6

ISH 5 Annex H: Natural England's Response to REP5-014

[Apportioning immature Auks to colonies]

Dated 07th February 2019

Natural England's Response to REP5-014.

Appendix 6 to deadline 5 submission – Apportioning immature auks to colonies.

The approach presented within this appendix was suggested by RPSB as a method to apportion immature auks present at Hornsea Project 3 in the breeding season to breeding colonies.

It is based on a method developed by SNH in order to apportion BETWEEN breeding colonies when foraging ranges from multiple colonies overlap a development site.

Natural England welcome the presentation of this approach and consider that it helps to provide context around the likely proportion of immature auks present at the project site that will recruit into the breeding population at FFC SPA.

The apportioning approach requires that a 'foraging range' or in the case of immature birds perhaps a 'dispersal range' is defined to identify which colonies the immatures are likely to be connected to (the applicant treats this as a requirement to identify which colonies immatures originate from, but perhaps the more appropriate factor is where immatures will ultimately recruit into).

As the applicant notes, evidence on the origin, distribution and movements of immature birds is limited, however the applicant defines the range as 470km (based on including North Sea colonies up to and including the firth of forth). In the absence of evidence to suggest otherwise, this range seems a reasonable one, and the resulting apportioning rates are informative (guillemot – 64%, razorbill – 82%, puffin - 8% of birds apportioned to FFC SPA).

However we would note that the precautionary assumption regarding the apportioning of immature auks in the breeding season would be to assume 100% of immature birds are apportioned to FFC SPA.