

Hornsea Project Three Offshore Wind Farm Team,
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy,
c/o the Planning Inspectorate,
3D Eagle Wing,
Temple Quay House,
Temple Quay,
Bristol,
BS1 6PN

cc. Orsted Hornsea Project Three (UK) Limited

Your Refs: EN010080
Our Ref: Co_2020_02_13-136

13 February 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Application by Orsted Hornsea Project Three (UK) Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Hornsea Project Three Offshore Wind Farm and associated offshore and onshore infrastructure

Re: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION AND COMMENTS ON LATE REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AND NOTIFICATION OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE’S DECISION TO SET A NEW DATE FOR DETERMINATION OF THE APPLICATION

Thank you for your letter of 31st October 2019 that set out questions to the Applicant on matters relating to extent of compensation and level of derogation detail.

On 10th December 2019 Eastern IFCA submitted a response to your letter of 27th September 2019 that sought information from the Applicant on compensatory measures for Sandbanks and Ornithology, and on matters relating to measures of equivalent environmental benefit for Marine Conservation Zones. Our response stated that Eastern IFCA had no comment to make in relation to ornithological matters, and had not changed its position relating to sandbanks – i.e. maintained concerns that the export cable is planned to cross an area of the Wash & North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC) that Eastern IFCA has closed to demersal fishing.

I am writing now to provide an update on Eastern IFCA's response of 10th December 2019, which reflects developments since that date. On 10th December 2019, Eastern IFCA was not aware of any compensatory measures being proposed by the Applicant. However, on 7th January 2020, Eastern IFCA was contacted by the Applicant with a view to discuss compensatory measures relating to fishing, that had been suggested by Natural England. The Applicant informed Eastern IFCA that Eastern IFCA had been suggested as a delivery partner for compensatory measure projects that related to inshore fisheries. Eastern IFCA subsequently met with the Applicant to discuss two potential compensatory measures relating to subtidal sandbanks in the Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC: one for the restoration of intertidal mussel beds, and one a marine litter/ghost fishing project.

Eastern IFCA are supportive in principle of these two potential compensatory measures, subject to full feasibility assessments being conducted and subject to the Applicant providing funding for them.

Eastern IFCA would not be supportive of compensatory measures that restrict fishing opportunities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries on this response.

Yours sincerely,

Judith Stoutt

Judith Stoutt
Senior Marine Science Officer
Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority