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23rd March 2022

**Boston AEF (Alternative Energy Facility) / National Infrastructure Planning
(NIP) examination**

(Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010095)

Eastern IFCA (EIFCA) comments for Deadline 9 – 24th March 2022

Of the items to be presented at Deadline 9, we judge that only the Report on the Implications for European Sites – RIES – is of relevance to EIFCA, and we limit our comments to that item.

We offer the comment that many of the points which we presented at Deadline 7 (1st March 2022) as in document EN010095-001088-DL7 are relevant in connection with European Marine Sites. Specifically, we highlight the following relevant points –

- Potential effects arising from airborne emissions, especially in connection with possible effects on saltmarsh and shellfish beds. These points were identified in sections 1a, 3a, and 7a of our comments at Deadline 7.
- Potential effects arising from the increased shipping, especially in connection with anchoring and erosion. Both of these have the potential to impact seabed habitats. These points were identified in sections 2a and 4a of our comments at Deadline 7.
- Potential effects arising from surface water run-off. This point was identified in section 1b of our comments at Deadline 7.

It may well be the case that these points are to be addressed in other sections of the overall examination; we raise them now to highlight that they interact with European sites. We accept that the Statutory Nature Conservation Body – Natural England – have the ultimate responsibility for assessing the impacts of plans and projects against the conservation objectives of European sites, and ultimately we defer to their advice.