



# Hornsea Project Four

## Outline Fisheries Coexistence and Liaison Plan

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## Revision Summary

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A	29/09/2021	Courtney French, Orsted	David King, Orsted	Julian Carolan, Orsted
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## Revision Change Log

<i>Rev</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Description</i>
B	13-15	Section 3	Added additional information on commercial fisheries roles and responsibilities. Added additional table for timescales of information provision.

## Table of Contents

1	Introduction .....	5
1.1	Introduction .....	5
2	Hornsea Four .....	8
2.1	Overview .....	8
2.2	Fishing Activity within Hornsea Four .....	8
3	Fisheries Liaison - Communication .....	13
3.2	Communications protocol.....	14
4	Legislation and Guidance .....	15
4.1	Relevant Legislation .....	15
5	Safety Management.....	16
6	Conclusion.....	17
7	References .....	18

## List of Tables

Table 1: Key Commercial Fisheries Roles. ....	13
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## List of Figures

Figure 1: Hornsea Four Project Area. ....	7
Figure 2: UK Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) by Value (Average 2013-2017) Source: MMO.....	9
Figure 3: Dutch VMS by value (2014-2018) Source: Institute for Marine Resources and Ecosystem Studies (IMARES). ....	10
Figure 4: Belgian VMS by value (2010 – 2014) Source: Institute for Agriculture Fisheries & Nutrition (Dutch) (ILVO). ....	11
Figure 5: Danish VMS by density (2011-2015) Source: Danish Fisherman’s Association (DFA).....	12

## Glossary

Term	Definition
The Applicant	Orsted Hornsea Project Four Ltd.
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for one or more Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP).
EIA Regulations	The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended).
Fishing Industry Representative (FIR)	An individual(s) who acts as a central point of contact within the fishing community and represents an unbiased view of fishing industry activity in the region within which the Hornsea Four array area and offshore cable corridor are located.
Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO)	An individual(s) appointed by Hornsea Four to act as primary point of contact for the fishing industry when direct communication with the developer is required.
Holderness Fishing Industry Group (HFIG)	Holderness Fishing Industry Group represents the nearshore, inshore, and offshore Fishermen of the Holderness Coast running from Flamborough Head southwards to Spurn Point.
Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm	The term covers all elements of the project (i.e. both the offshore and onshore). Hornsea Four infrastructure will include offshore generating stations (wind turbines), electrical export cables to landfall, and connection to the electricity transmission network. Hereafter referred to as Hornsea Four.
Marine Management Organisation	A United Kingdom (UK) government department that license, regulate and plan commercial fisheries activities in the seas around England, with jurisdiction from 0 to 12 nm.
National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations	A UK organisation comprised of members from Producers' Organisations, fishermen's groups and individuals, representing fishermen in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands.
Orsted Hornsea Project Four Ltd.	The Applicant for the proposed Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm Development Consent Order (DCO).
Planning Inspectorate (PINS)	The agency responsible for operating the planning process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).

## Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
AfL	Agreement for Lease
CFA	Commercial Fisheries Advisor
CFCP	Commercial Fisheries Coexistence Plan
CFLO	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer
CfD	Contracts for Difference
COLREGS	International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea
DCO	Development Consent Order
DFA	Danish Fisherman's Association
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
FID	Final Investment Decision
FIR	Fishing Industry Representative
FLOWW	Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group
HFIG	Holderness Fishing Industry Group
ILVO	Institute for Agriculture Fisheries & Nutrition (Dutch)
IMARES	Institute for Marine Resources and Ecosystem Studies
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
NFFO	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation
NIA	Non-Interference Agreement
Nm	Nautical Miles
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
NtM	Notice to Mariners
OFIR	Offshore Fishing Industry Representative
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
UK	United Kingdom
VHF	Very High Frequency
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Introduction

#### 1.1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1.1 Orsted Hornsea Project Four Limited (hereafter the 'Applicant') is proposing to develop Hornsea Project Four Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter 'Hornsea Four'). Hornsea Four will be located approximately 69 km offshore from the East Riding of Yorkshire coast in the Southern North Sea and will be the fourth project to be developed in the former Hornsea Zone (please see [Volume A1, Chapter 1: Introduction](#) for further details on the Hornsea Zone). Hornsea Four will include both offshore and onshore infrastructure including an offshore generating station (wind farm), export cables to landfall, and connection to the electricity transmission network. The location of Hornsea Four is illustrated in [Figure 1](#). The Order Limits combines the search areas for the onshore and offshore infrastructure.
- 1.1.1.2 The Hornsea Four Agreement for Lease (AfL) area was 846 km<sup>2</sup> at the Scoping phase of project development. In the spirit of keeping with Hornsea Four's approach to Proportionate Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), the project has given due consideration to the size and location (within the existing AfL area) of the final project that is being taken forward to Development Consent Order (DCO) application. This consideration is captured internally as the "Developable Area Process", which includes Physical, Biological and Human constraints in refining the developable area, balancing consenting and commercial considerations with technical feasibility for construction.
- 1.1.1.3 The combination of Hornsea Four's Proportionality in EIA and Developable Area process has resulted in a marked reduction in the array area taken forward at the point of DCO application. Hornsea Four adopted a major site reduction from the array area presented at Scoping (846 km<sup>2</sup>) to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) boundary (600 km<sup>2</sup>), with a further reduction adopted for the Environmental Statement (ES) and DCO application (468 km<sup>2</sup>) due to the results of the PEIR, technical considerations and stakeholder feedback. The evolution of the Hornsea Four Order Limits is detailed in [Volume A1, Chapter 3: Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives](#) and [Volume A4, Annex 3.2: Selection and Refinement of the Offshore Infrastructure](#).
- 1.1.1.4 This document provides an outline of what is to be included in the final Commercial Fisheries Coexistence Plan (CFCP). The document will provide a high-level outline of the Applicant's plan to coexist with the fishing industry during the pre-construction and construction phase of Hornsea Four. This is an outline document, which encompasses the wide range of development options under consideration for Hornsea Four to allow post-consent flexibility in the final Hornsea Four design. Subject to receiving the DCO, Contracts for Difference (CfD), Final Investment Decision (FID) and a confirmed construction programme, a final CFCP will be drafted.
- 1.1.1.5 Provision will be made for the final CFCP to be revised as appropriate should elements of Hornsea Four change (within the maximum design scenario) prior to, and during construction, or if there are changes to the information regarding relevant fishing activities.

## **1.1.2 Background**

- 1.1.2.1 Following consultation with UK fisheries stakeholder the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation (NFFO), it has been agreed that an Outline Fisheries Coexistence and Liaison Plan would be produced. To date, the Applicant has managed fisheries coexistence via open and transparent communications, timely notices for surveys and consultation meetings with fisheries stakeholders. It is anticipated that evidence-based commercial fisheries agreements will be sought during the construction phase where there is a demonstrable financial dependency.
- 1.1.2.2 It is expected that fishing will resume once construction is completed. A separate CFCP will be drafted for the Hornsea Four operational phase detailing how Hornsea Four endeavours to coexist with the fishing industry.



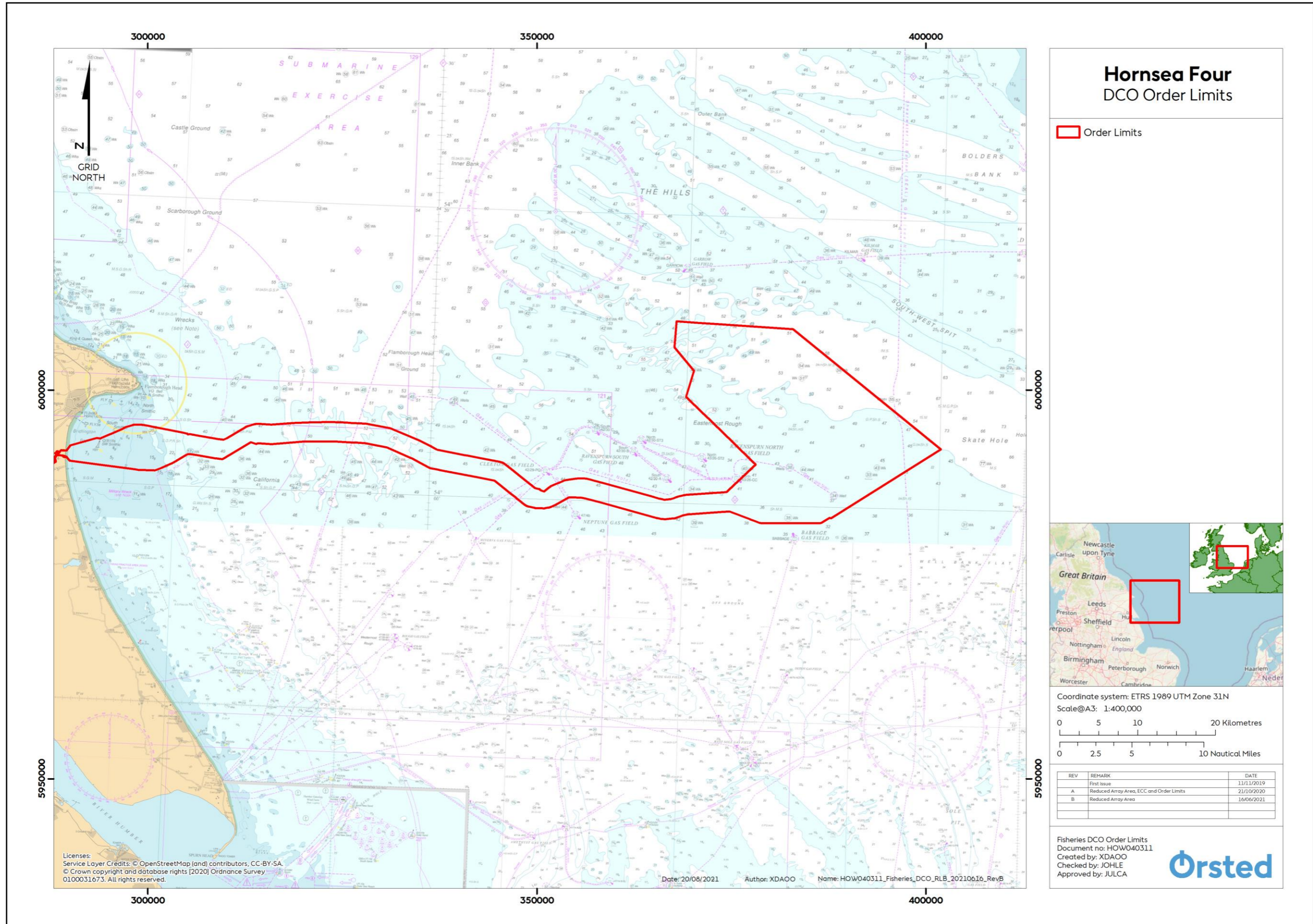


Figure 1: Hornsea Four Project Area.



### 1.1.3 Purpose

1.1.3.1 This Outline Fisheries Coexistence and Liaison Plan presents how Hornsea Four aims to coexist with the commercial fishing industry. The aim of the report is to provide an overarching document that will include details on fisheries liaison, engagement, safety issues and mitigation strategies where necessary.

### 1.1.4 Principles of Coexistence

1.1.4.1 Hornsea Four regards coexistence as the joint presence of both industries, working together within the Hornsea Four area and believes that coexistence between Hornsea Four and commercial fishery stakeholders can be achieved through a systematic and timely approach to project maintenance planning during operation. An approach of avoiding and reducing impacts to both industries is the most sustainable approach to coexistence, as recommended in the Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group (FLOWW) guidelines<sup>1</sup>. A successful coexistence strategy will require open and transparent communication between the Hornsea Four operators and the fishing industry. Therefore, the support and engagement of both parties are required.

1.1.4.2 Generally, relations with the fishing industry within the vicinity of Hornsea Four are healthy. Hornsea Four has ensured collaborative communication throughout consultation periods and throughout all site investigation surveys.

## 2 Hornsea Four

### 2.1 Overview

2.1.1.1 It is anticipated that Hornsea Four will install a maximum of 180 turbines. The earliest possible date that onshore construction could commence is January 2024. The maximum total construction duration (onshore and offshore) is five years and one month (61 months). A single phase of offshore construction is anticipated over approximately 3 years.

2.1.1.2 The Hornsea Four export cable corridor is 109 km in length and makes landfall on the Holderness coast south of Bridlington.

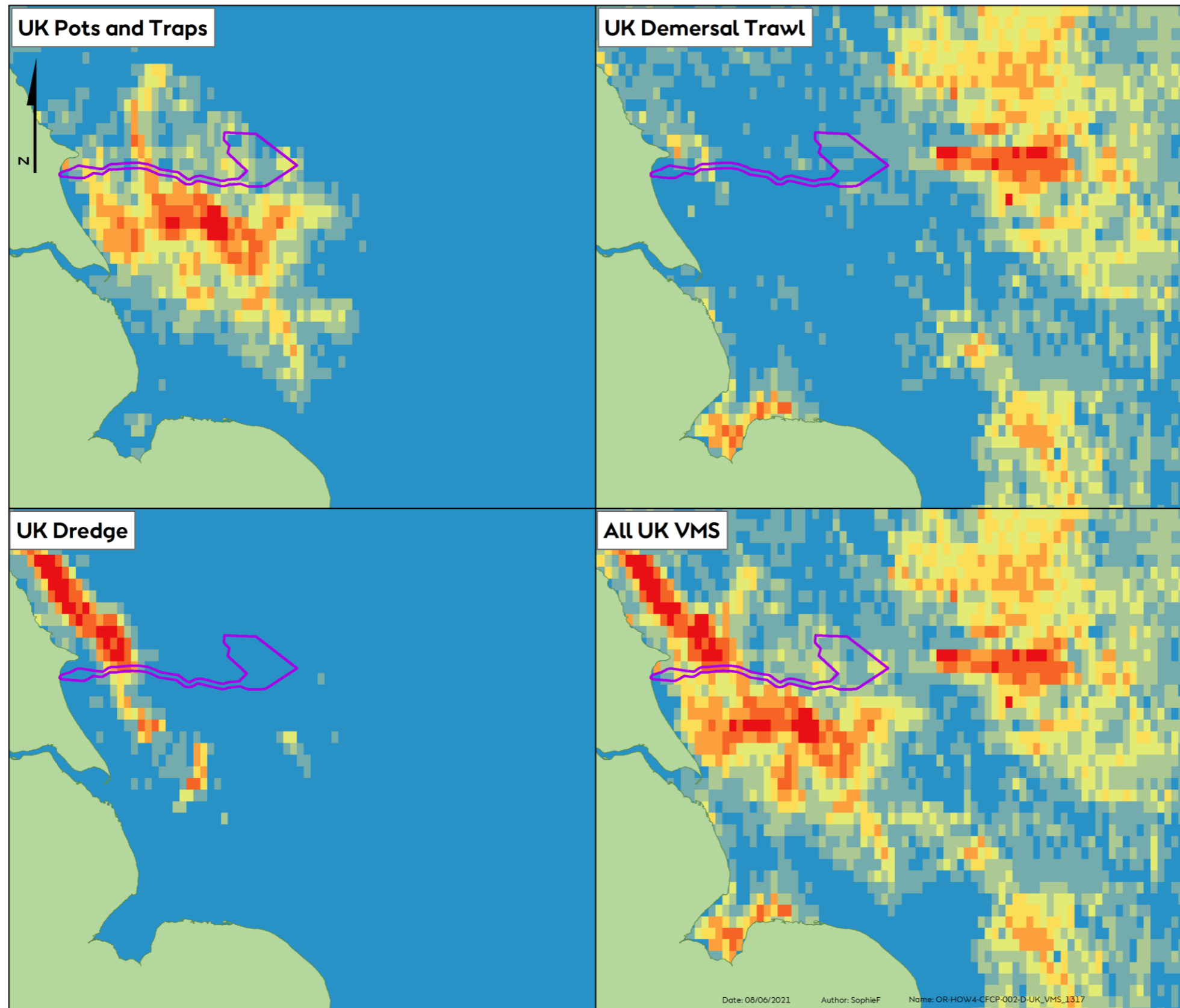
### 2.2 Fishing Activity within Hornsea Four

2.2.1.1 The Holderness coast is host to the largest static gear fishery in European waters, targeting crab and lobster, with a value of ~ £18 million per annum (Source: Marine Management Organisation (MMO) 2019). In excess of 40 static gear vessels target the Hornsea Four export cable and array area, the majority of which are represented by Holderness Fishing Industry Group (HFIG). A high number of the static gear vessels that target the area are under 15 m and as such, their effort is not depicted in [Figure 1](#).

2.2.1.2 The Hornsea Four area is also targeted by Belgian, Dutch, Danish and French mobile fishing techniques, mostly by trawling (pelagic, beam and demersal) and industrial sandeel trawling [Figure 5](#).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sff.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/FLOWW-Best-Practice-Guidance-for-Offshore-Renewables-Developments-Jan-2014.pdf>



### Hornsea Four

Figure 2  
UK VMS by value (2013-2017)

DCO Order Limits (Offshore)

**Average UK VMS Value (£) (2013-2017)**

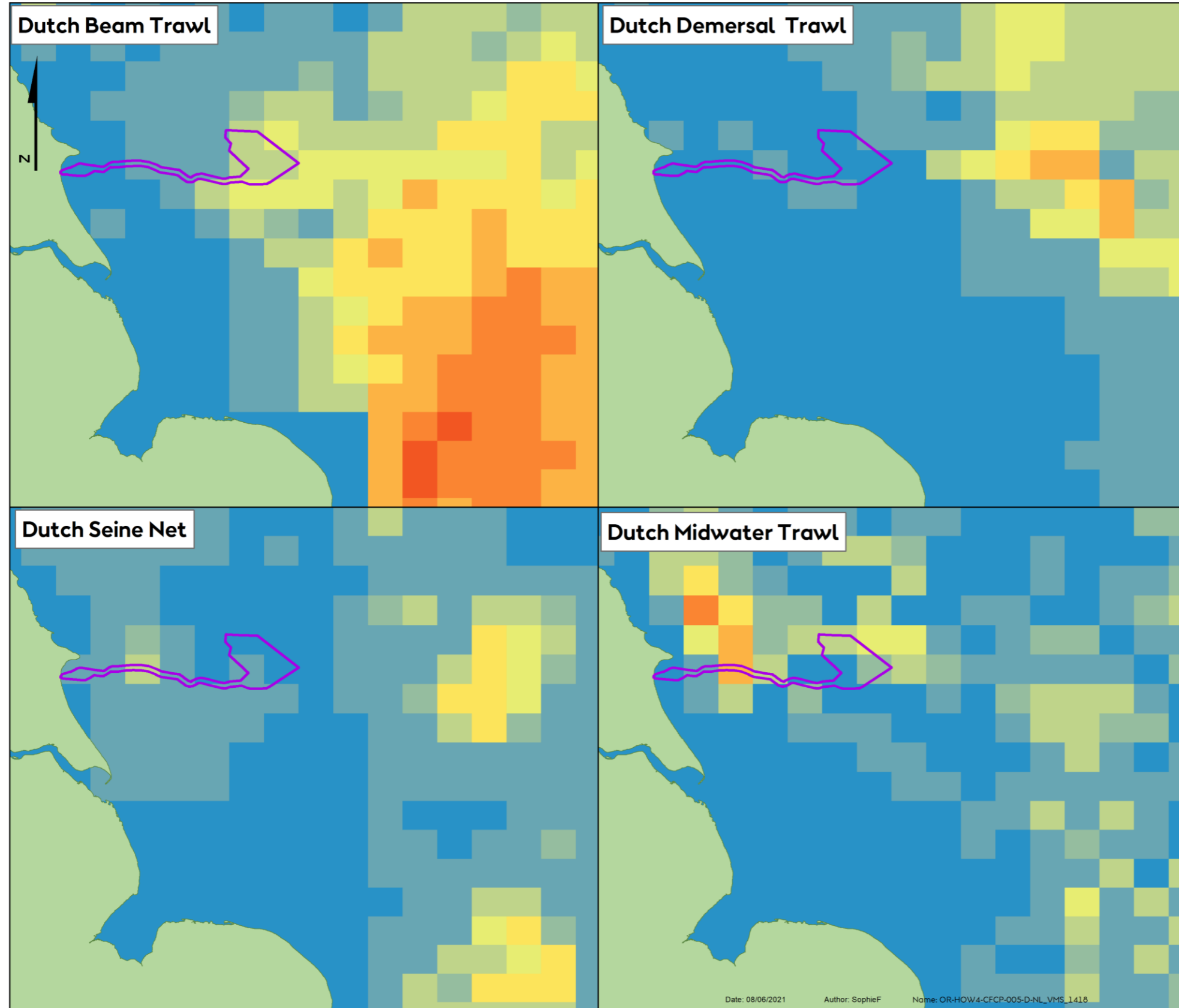
- No value
- Less than £1,000
- £1,000 to £3,000
- £3,000 to £6,000
- £6,000 to £10,000
- £10,000 to £20,000
- £20,000 to £35,000
- More than £35,000

Coordinate system: British National Grid  
Scale@A3: 1:400,000  
0 2.5 5 10 Kilometres  
0 1 2 4 Nautical Miles

REV	REMARK	DATE
A	First Issue	11/10/2019
B	Boundary Update	16/09/2020
C	Template Update	15/01/2020
D	DCO Boundary Update	08/06/2021

UK VMS  
Document no: HOW4-CFCP-002  
Created by: SF  
Checked by: VCL  
Approved by: CONFR

Figure 2: UK Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) by Value (Average 2013-2017) Source: MMO.



### Hornsea Four

Figure 3  
Dutch VMS by value (2014-2018)

DCO Order Limits (Offshore)

**Average Dutch VMS Value (€) (2014-2018)**

- No value
- Less than €5,000
- €5,000 to €10,000
- €10,000 to €50,000
- €50,000 to €100,000
- €100,000 to €250,000
- €250,000 to €500,000
- €500,000 to €1,000,000
- €1,000,000 to €1,500,000
- Greater than €1,500,000

Coordinate system: British National Grid  
Scale@A3: 1:400,000

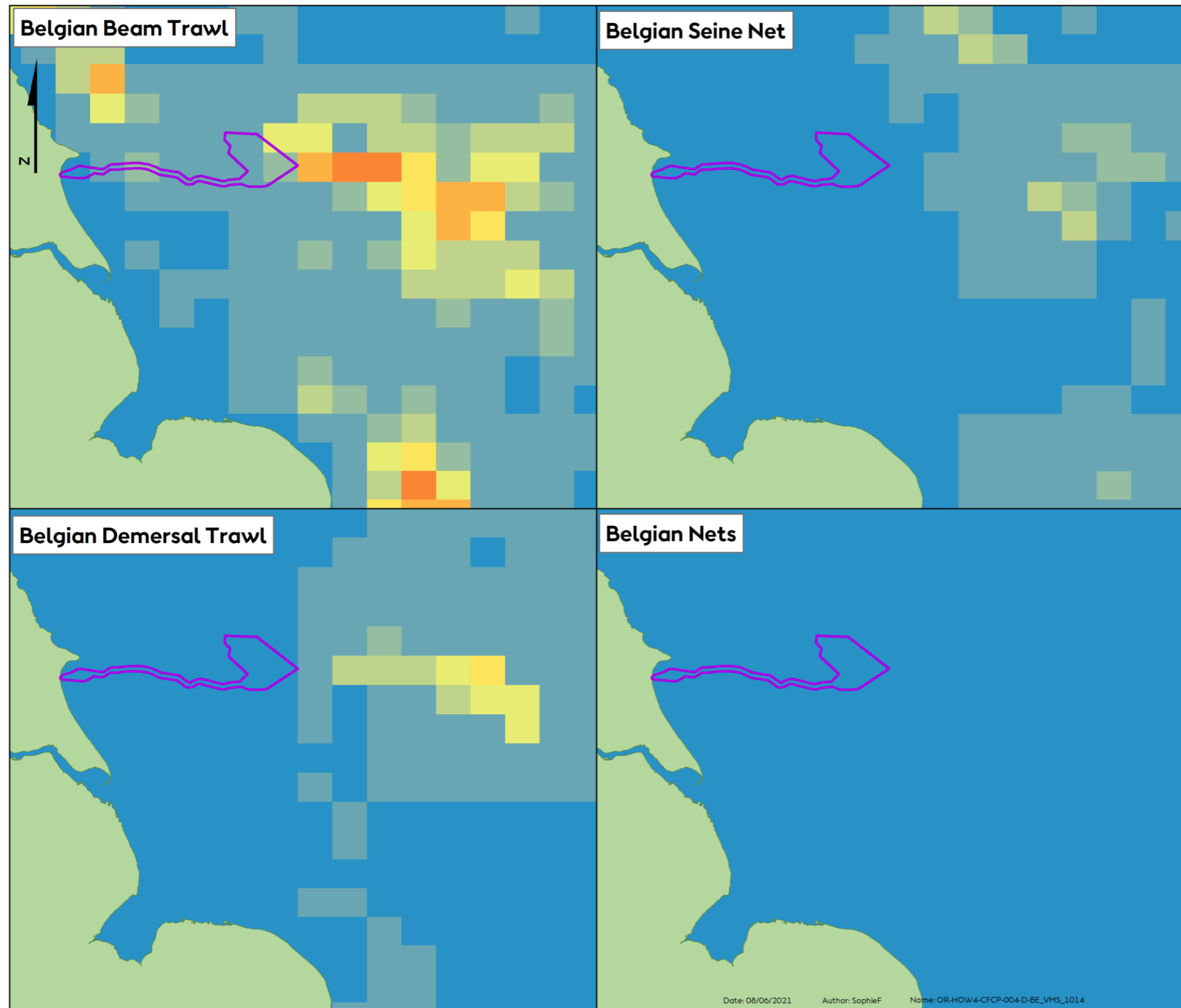
0 2.5 5 10 Kilometres

0 1.25 2.5 5 Nautical Miles

REV	REMARK	DATE
A	First Issue	11/10/2019
B	Boundary Update	16/09/2020
C	Template Update	15/01/2020
D	DCO Boundary Update	08/06/2021

UK VMS  
Document no: HOW4-CFCP-005  
Created by: SF  
Checked by: VCL  
Approved by: CONFR

Figure 3: Dutch VMS by value (2014-2018) Source: Institute for Marine Resources and Ecosystem Studies (IMARES).



### Hornsea Four

Figure 4  
Belgian VMS by value (2010 – 2014)

□ DCO Order Limits (Offshore)

**Average Belgian VMS value (€) (2010-2014)**

**Beam\_Euro\_AVG1014**

- Less than €5,000
- €5,000 to €10,000
- €10,000 to €25,000
- €25,000 to €50,000
- €50,000 to €100,000
- €100,000 to €250,000
- €250,000 to €500,000
- €500,000 to €750,000
- Over €750,000

Coordinate system: British National Grid  
Scale@A3: 1:400,000

0 2.5 5 10 Kilometres

0 1.25 2.5 5 Nautical Miles

REV	REMARK	DATE
A	First Issue	11/10/2019
B	Boundary Update	16/09/2020
C	Template Update	15/01/2020
D	DCO Boundary Update	08/06/2021

UK VMS  
Document no: HOW04-CFCP-004  
Created by: SF  
Checked by: VCL  
Approved by: CONFR

Figure 4: Belgian VMS by value (2010 – 2014) Source: Institute for Agriculture Fisheries & Nutrition (Dutch) (ILVO).

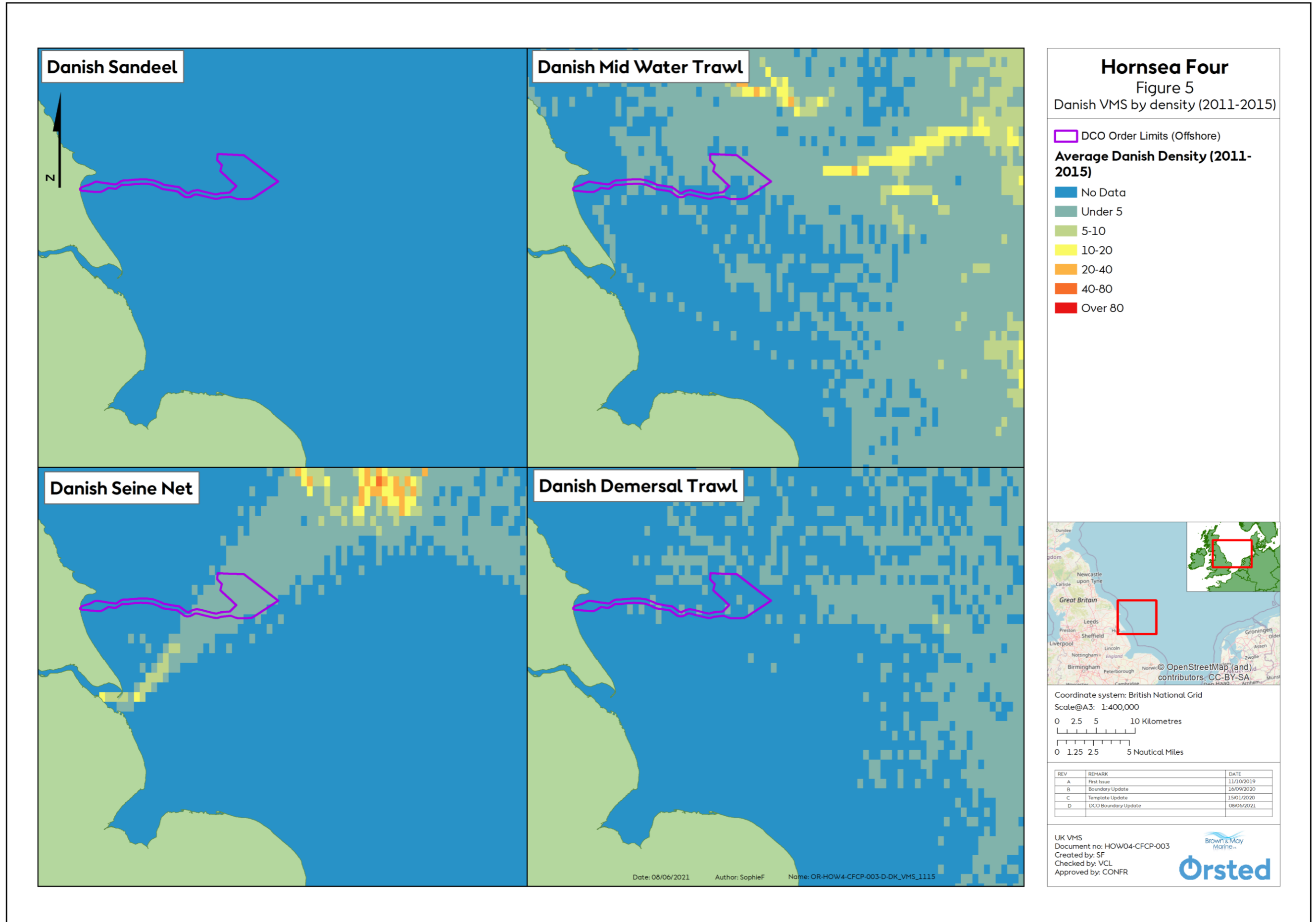


Figure 5: Danish VMS by density (2011-2015) Source: Danish Fisherman's Association (DFA).



### 3 Fisheries Liaison - Communication

3.1.1.1 The Applicant has contracted a Fishing Industry Representative (FIR) and a Commercial Fisheries Advisor (CFA) to assist with fisheries liaising and to maintain a positive and open working relationship with the fishing industry. The FIR and CFA have and will continue to maintain regular communications with the fishing industry via Notices to Mariners (NtMs), Kingfisher bulletins, project update emails and meetings with individual fishermen and also fisheries' representatives such as NFFO, HFIG and European fisheries stakeholders. This will continue throughout pre-construction and construction phase of Hornsea Four.

3.1.1.2 The FIR and CFA are and will continue to be the key points of routine contact for fisheries stakeholders. The duties of the FIR and CFA are specifically to liaise with the local fishing community in order to minimise any potential for conflict. The FIR and CFA maintain relations with the fisheries stakeholders, communicate any concerns to the Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO), advise on survey works, timings and locations of Hornsea Four activities. More details on roles are in [Table 1](#).

**Table 1: Key Commercial Fisheries Roles.**

Role	Responsibility
Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO)	<p>Courtney French – Orsted                      Mob: 07796447372                      Email: CONFR@orsted.co.uk</p> <p>Key Orsted point of contact for all fisheries stakeholders. The CFLO will have delegated authority to fully represent Hornsea Four on fishing issues with the support of the FIR (see below). The CFLO may delegate much of the day-to-day liaison between the fishing industry and the project to the FIR and FLO, the CFLO will be the primary point of contact for the fishing industry when direct communication with the developer is required.</p>
Onshore Fishing Industry Representative (FIR)	<p>Nick Garside - NFFO                      Mob: 07538827013                      Email: nick.garside@live.co.uk</p> <p>Provide Hornsea Four with guidance on fishing activities in the area and drawing attention to particular fishing sensitivities. The FIR is often first point of day-to-day contact for local fishermen. The FIR although contracted by the Project must be independent of Hornsea Four, and therefore a third-party FIR has been contracted. The FIR will ensure the timely provision of information regarding programmed vessel movements or delays. In addition, this communication channel also facilitates dissemination of information, for example urgent bulletins in the event of any marine hazards (e.g. loss of plant onto the seabed).</p>
Commercial Fisheries Advisor (CFA)	<p>Sophie Farenden - Brown and May Marine                      Mob: 07525128344</p>

Role	Responsibility
	<p>Email: sophie.farenden@brownmay.com</p> <p>Provide Hornsea Four with guidance on fishing activities in the area and draws attention to specific fishing sensitivities.</p> <p>Responsible for supporting and advising the CFLO in the management of commercial fisheries stakeholder engagement. The CFA is the key point of contact for fishermen. The CFA should establish and maintain effective communications between Hornsea Four, any contractors or sub-contractors and fishermen during the pre-construction and construction phase of the wind farm, and ensure compliance with best practice guidelines whilst doing so</p> <p>Commercial Fisheries Advisor will report to the CFLO.</p>
Offshore Fishing Industry Representative (OFIR)	<p>An OFIR may be onboard survey vessels and construction vessels to assist with offshore communications with fishing vessels.</p> <p>The OFIR helps ensure survey operations run smoothly and efficiently by facilitating co-operation between all parties (Offshore Contractors and Fishermen)</p> <p>OFIR reports to the CFLO and Survey Managers</p>

## 3.2 Communications protocol

3.2.1.1 The main elements of the Hornsea Four commercial fisheries liaison activities to date have been and will continue to be:

- To identify and pro-actively engage with commercial fisheries stakeholders, statutory and non-statutory bodies and organisations that have the potential to be affected by Hornsea Four activities;
- To continue with the organisation and attendance at meetings with HFIG and NFFO as the primary forums for engagement with UK commercial fishing stakeholders;
- To formulate, agree and implement efficient communication channels for distributing project related information to stakeholders;
- To continue to obtain and address the concerns of commercial fisheries stakeholders to be used in the formulation of mitigation strategies; and
- To maintain a CFA as the main point of contact for fishermen throughout Hornsea Four phases of development, as well as engaging a FIR, as appropriate, for day-to-day contact, from pre-construction to completion and commissioning of Hornsea Four.

3.2.1.2 Any communications will be given within certain timeframes in order to allow for sufficient prior notice and planning for relevant stakeholders.

**Table 2: Timescales of information provision**

Activity	Timing
Construction activities	Notices and information distribution to the fishing community not less than 2 weeks prior to the commencement of offshore construction activities.
Pre and post construction surveys	Notices and information distribution to the fishing community not less than 7 days prior to the commencement of offshore construction activities.
Operation and Maintenance (O&M activities)	Indicative schedule and plan of activities distribution not less than 2 weeks prior to the commencement of planned major maintenance activity/campaign.  Notice to Mariners sent out not less than 5 days prior to commencement of planned maintenance activity/campaign.
Meetings	Consultation meetings as required throughout the project development.
Unscheduled liaison	Additional Unscheduled liaison and consultation will be undertaken by either the FLO or the FIR as required to address issues or fishermen's concerns as they arise.

## 4 Legislation and Guidance

### 4.1 Relevant Legislation

4.1.1.1 In normal circumstances the provisions laid down by the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972 (COLREGS) are sufficient to ensure that actions taken by fishing vessels and those restricted in their ability to manoeuvre when two vessels are approaching allow both to continue operating with minimum disruption. By virtue of their design and nature of their work, many of the survey and construction vessels will be defined as restricted in their manoeuvrability (Rule 3g). All vessels should strictly observe the relevant requirements of COLREGS. In accordance with this, relevant lights and shapes should be displayed at all times and appropriate sound signals used as required. In addition, it is important to note COLREGS Rule 18c which states '*A vessel engaged in fishing when underway shall, so far as possible, keep out of the way of a vessel restricted in her ability to manoeuvre*'. All fishing vessels operating in the area should be aware that it is an offence to break or injure any submarine cable, either wilfully or by culpable negligence, under the Submarine Telegraph Act 1885.

4.1.1.2 The final CFCP will be developed in consultation with the relevant fisheries stakeholders and in accordance with the FLOWW guidelines "Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison - Best Practice guidance for offshore renewables developers" (FLOWW 2015) (as stated in Co180 which can be found in [Volume A4 Annex 5.2: Commitment Register](#)), and "FLOWW Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Disruption Settlements and Community Funds" (FLOWW 2015); as updated and whenever reasonably possible.

## 5 Safety Management

### 5.1.1 Fishing Gear Clearance Zones

5.1.1.1 Fishing gear clearance zones will be provided to the fishing interests prior to site investigation surveys and construction commencing. Evidence-based non-interference agreements will be established for those fishermen that have a demonstrable economic dependency upon the fishing gear clearance zone. More details will be added to this section when DCO, CfD, FID and a confirmed construction programme are finalised for Hornsea Four.

5.1.1.2 The UK potting fleet is the only fishery that has been assessed as having the potential to sustain a moderate adverse impact (i.e. significant in EIA terms) during the construction phase (Source: [Volume A2, Chapter 9: Commercial Fisheries](#)). Prior to construction and following completion of the final design phase, the Applicant will review the potential impacts of construction on an individual basis for affected UK potting vessels, liaising directly with fishing individuals to establish an evidence-based approach to agree further mitigation or, where appropriate, compensation in the form of a Non-Interference Agreement (NIA) where significant effects are identified. As per the "FLOWW Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison" (FLOWW 2014), if coexistence is not possible, mitigation for disruption and displacement of fishing during construction is considered in the first instance, with commercial compensation only being used as a last resort when there are significant residual impacts that cannot otherwise be mitigated. However, compensation should only be paid on the basis of factually accurate and justifiable claims. There is therefore an obligation upon affected fishermen to provide evidence to corroborate any claims (FLOWW 2014).

### 5.1.2 Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) for Fisheries Communications

5.1.2.1 Healthy communication between the Applicant and the fishing vessels targeting the Hornsea Four area is paramount. A fisheries interaction Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) will be drafted and provided to any vessel undertaking work on behalf of the Applicant Four and will explain the fishing activities within the Hornsea Four area, key vessels, the seasonality of the fishing activity and the type of vessels that may be encountered. The SOP will outline the key steps to take in order to prevent an incident and what to do should an incident occur. The SOP will also explain the distribution of roles and responsibilities with regard to fisheries liaison, provide emergency contact details in the case of an incident, explain what to do, what steps to take, and who to contact.

### 5.1.3 Code of Good Practice for Vessels

5.1.3.1 A code of good practice will be drafted for those vessels working for the Applicant. These will be agreed and adhered to following DCO, CfD, FID and a confirmed construction programme.

### 5.1.4 Data Sharing

5.1.4.1 The Applicant endeavours to share survey works schedules via a NtM, and an OFIR if onboard will communicate the Hornsea Four vessel movements with fishing vessels

regularly targeting the Hornsea Four array via Very High Frequency (VHF). Regular VHF Sécurité announcements will also be made to all vessels.

5.1.4.2 The Applicant will also share survey fishing gear clearance areas, in both WGS84 Latitude and Longitude (Decimal Degrees, Minutes) and also in plotter format (such as MaxSea, Olex & Seddina formats), where applicable. By providing the clearance areas in plotter format, it reduces the risk of human error whilst inputting the coordinates and saves the fishing industry time inputting a long list of coordinates.

5.1.4.3 The Hornsea Four FIR and CFA will also be available for the fishing industry to contact should they have any queries or health, safety and environment observations.

5.1.4.4 The Applicant endeavours to have quarterly meetings, where required, with fishing industry representatives to provide project updates.

### **5.1.5 Gear Loss and Damage Procedure**

5.1.5.1 Prior to the commencement of construction, the Applicant will provide details regarding gear loss and gear damage procedure. It is likely to be in line with that utilised by oil and gas companies and other renewable energy developers throughout the UK.

## **6 Conclusion**

6.1.1.1 The Applicant believes that the strategies outlined in this document will allow for successful co-existence between Hornsea Four and the fishing industry. The strategy outlined above will require open and transparent communication between Hornsea Four and the fishing industry in the form of NtMs, OFIRs onboard survey vessels and NIAs, where applicable, with individuals who have a demonstrable economic dependency within the Hornsea Four area. The Applicant will continue engaging with the local fishing industry throughout the development phase of Hornsea Four and manage any concerns raised by the fishing industry.



## 7 References

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

Fisheries Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables group FLOWW (2015) FLOWW Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Disruption Settlements and Community Funds (FLOWW 2015).

Marine Management Organisation (MMO) (2019) IFISH database with landing statistics data for UK registered vessels for 2013 to 2017 with attributes for: landing year; landing month; vessel length category; country code; ICES rectangle; vessel/gear type; species; live weight (tonnes); and value; and landing year; landing month; vessel length category; country code; vessel/gear type; port of landing; species; live weight (tonnes); and value.