



Hornsea Project Four

Outline Gannet Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan: Bycatch reduction

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Table of Contents

1	Introduction.....	5
2	Background.....	5
3	Consultation.....	5
4	Bycatch Reduction Measure	6
4.1	Scale and location of compensation	6
4.2	Design of bycatch reduction technique(s)	6
4.3	Delivery mechanism.....	6
4.4	Monitoring and adaptive management.....	6
4.5	Reporting	7
4.6	Programme for implementation and delivery.....	7
4.7	Discharge of consent condition.....	7
5	Fish Habitat Enhancement	7
5.1	Scale and location of resilience measure	7
5.2	Design of seagrass habitat restoration programme.....	7
5.3	Delivery mechanism.....	7
5.4	Monitoring and adaptive management.....	8
5.5	Reporting	8
5.6	Programme for implantation and delivery.....	8
5.7	Discharge of consent condition.....	8

Acronyms

Term	Definition
DCO	Development Consent Order
FFC	Flamborough and Filey Coast
GCP	Gannet Compensation Plan
GCIMP	Gannet Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan
OOEG	Offshore Ornithology Engagement Group
SPA	Special Protection Area

1 Introduction

1.1.1.1 This document sets out the outline for the Bycatch reduction Gannet Compensation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (GCIMP) that will be developed by the Applicant, in consultation with the proposed Offshore Ornithology Engagement Group (OOEG), should consent for Hornsea Four be granted and compensation for Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) required. The GCIMP will be developed in accordance with the Gannet Compensation Plan (GCP) which provides a detailed account of the strategy supporting the potential compensation and resilience measures for gannet. The GCIMP will be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval.

1.1.1.2 The following sections of this document set out the proposed content of the GCIMP. The GCIMP will be structured as follows:

- **Section 2:** Background
- **Section 3:** Consultation
- **Section 4:** Bycatch Reduction Measure
 - **Section 4.1:** Scale and location of compensation
 - **Section 4.2:** Design of the bycatch reduction technique(s)
 - **Section 4.3:** Delivery mechanism
 - **Section 4.4:** Monitoring and adaptive management
 - **Section 4.5:** Reporting
 - **Section 4.6:** Programme for implementation and delivery
 - **Section 4.7:** Discharge of consent condition
- **Section 5:** Fish Habitat Enhancement
 - **Section 5.1:** Scale and location of resilience measure
 - **Section 5.2:** Design of seagrass habitat restoration programme
 - **Section 5.3:** Delivery mechanism
 - **Section 5.4:** Monitoring and adaptive management
 - **Section 5.5:** Reporting
 - **Section 5.6:** Programme for implementation and delivery
 - **Section 5.7:** Discharge of consent condition

2 Background

2.1.1.1 This section will provide context to the GCIMP, confirming the reason for its need, its aims and objectives, and the latest project status.

3 Consultation

3.1.1.1 This section will summarise all relevant consultation that has taken place through the OOEG in the development of the GCIMP. Where relevant, any outstanding issues under discussion (with clarity as to the steps necessary to resolve any such matters) will be included. Ongoing engagement, for example to provide updates on monitoring, (post-discharge of the GCIMP) will be outlined here.

4 Bycatch Reduction Measure

4.1 Scale and location of compensation

- 4.1.1.1 This section will identify the scale of compensation proposed to be provided and how this relates to the consent decision made by the Secretary of State. This section will then also detail the specific location(s) at which the compensation will be delivered, and those fisheries that will be of relevance to the measure. The evidence base included in support of the GCP will help inform these aspects ([G1.42 Compensation Measures for FFC SPA: Gannet Bycatch Reduction: Ecological Evidence](#) (submitted at Deadline 1 [REP1-064])). The results of any monitoring of gannet bycatch carried out pre-implementation of bycatch reduction technique(s) will also be detailed here as this may influence the location(s) and/or relevant fisheries.
- 4.1.1.2 If the Applicant has elected to pay a contribution to the Marine Recovery Fund ("MRF") or equivalent fund then this section shall include the sum of the contribution as agreed between the Applicant and Defra in consultation with the OOEG. If the contribution is in substitution for the bycatch reduction compensation measure then the relevant sections in this KCIMP will not be completed as they will no longer be required. For the avoidance of doubt, the Applicant's obligations to deliver compensation measures shall either be discharged through the delivery of strategic compensation through the contribution to the MRF, or through the delivery of compensation measures as currently set out, within the KCIMP.
- 4.1.1.3 Alternatively, if the contribution to the MRF is an adaptive management measure then the relevant [Section 4.4](#) shall include details as to the trigger for payment of the contribution.

4.2 Design of bycatch reduction technique(s)

- 4.2.1.1 This section will identify the design of the bycatch reduction technique(s) proposed to be provided, including any updates to the evidence base ([G1.42 Compensation Measures for FFC SPA: Gannet Bycatch Reduction: Ecological Evidence](#) (submitted at Deadline 1 [REP1-064])) to demonstrate the confidence that the compensation measure will be able to deliver the required level of bycatch reduction of the target species. The evidence base provided in support of the GCP and engagement with the OOEG and relevant parties of the fishing industry will be important in informing the specific design aspects of the bycatch reduction technique(s).

4.3 Delivery mechanism

- 4.3.1.1 This section will describe the mechanisms by which Hornsea Four will ensure the bycatch reduction measure can be implemented across the relevant fishery.

4.4 Monitoring and adaptive management

- 4.4.1.1 This section will identify the monitoring and adaptive management principles and processes that have been discussed with the OOEG, including the scenarios under which adaptive management measures are required. It will be developed in line with the evidence base that has been provided in support of the GCP. Following discharge of the GCIMP, the OOEG will be consulted in relation to the implementation of any required adaptive management as outlined in the Consultation [Section 3](#) above. Specific topics of discussion for inclusion within the OOEG, and therefore the purpose of the group, will be regarding site selection, project/

study design, monitoring, adaptive management options. The focus of the OOEG will be specifically to deliver the compensation for Hornsea Four and therefore other topics beyond this will be out of scope.

- 4.4.1.2 At this initial stage it is assumed that some level of pre-implementation monitoring of bycatch (prior to the deployment of the bycatch reduction measure), followed by a longer-term monitoring of the uptake and success of the measure will be undertaken. This might be in collaboration with, or undertaken by, relevant established monitoring schemes (such as the UK BMP database).

4.5 Reporting

- 4.5.1.1 This section will set out the reporting requirements associated with the monitoring and adaptive management. In doing so, it will confirm the necessary objectives and timescales for the reporting.

4.6 Programme for implementation and delivery

- 4.6.1.1 This section will confirm the programme for the implementation and long-term delivery of the compensation.

4.7 Discharge of consent condition

- 4.7.1.1 This section will signpost how, based on the content of this report, the Secretary of State can approve this document with reference to the relevant paragraphs in the DCO.

5 Fish Habitat Enhancement

5.1 Scale and location of resilience measure

- 5.1.1.1 This section will identify the scale of the resilience measure proposed to be provided and how this relates to the consent decision made by the Secretary of State. This section will then also detail the specific location(s) at which the resilience measure will be delivered, and those forage fish species that will be of relevance to the measure. The evidence base included in support of the GCP will help inform these aspects. The results of any monitoring of prey fish species carried out pre-implementation of seagrass restoration, such as fish nursery assessment and Stable Isotope Analysis in order to explore connectivity of seagrass to offshore seabird foraging areas, will also be detailed here.

5.2 Design of seagrass habitat restoration programme

- 5.2.1.1 This section will identify the design of the seagrass restoration programme(s) proposed to be provided as part of the suite of compensation measures. The OOEG will be informed of the site selection process and will be consulted on throughout the delivery programme.

5.3 Delivery mechanism

- 5.3.1.1 This section will confirm the nature and status of any consents, land access agreements, and any other relevant approvals that were necessary to secure the implementation of the resilience measure and include a programme for delivery of any outstanding approvals. Noting locations for the seagrass restoration resilience measure will be informed through feasibility studies and research surveys in order to maximise successful delivery of measures.

5.4 Monitoring and adaptive management

5.4.1.1 This section will identify the monitoring and adaptive management principles and processes that have been discussed with the OoEG, including the scenarios under which adaptive management measures are required. It will be developed in line with the evidence base that has been provided in support of the GCP. Following discharge of the GCIMP, the OoEG will be engaged in order to inform the adaptive management measures and monitoring efforts for site specific seagrass restoration, as outlined in the Consultation [Section 3](#) above. Specific topics of discussion for inclusion within the OoEG, and therefore the purpose of the group, will be regarding delivery, monitoring and adaptive management options. The focus of the OoEG will be specifically to deliver the compensation and resilience measures for Hornsea Four and therefore other topics beyond this will be out of scope.

5.5 Reporting

5.5.1.1 This section will set out the reporting requirements associated with the monitoring and adaptive management. In doing so, it will confirm the necessary objectives and timescales for the reporting.

5.6 Programme for implantation and delivery

5.6.1.1 This section will confirm the programme for the implementation and long-term delivery of the resilience measure and any ongoing monitoring or management in relation to seagrass restoration.

5.7 Discharge of consent condition

5.7.1.1 This section will signpost how, based on the content of this report, the Secretary of State can approve this document with reference to the relevant paragraphs in the DCO.