



# Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Projects

Draft Statement of Common Ground with Eastern  
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

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## Glossary of Acronyms

BGS	British Geological Survey
CIA	Cumulative Impact Assessment
CSCB	Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds
CSIMP	Cable Specification and Installation Monitoring Plan
DCO	Development Consent Order
DEL	Dudgeon Extension Limited
DEP	Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIFCA	Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
EPP	Evidence Plan Process
ES	Environmental Statement
ETG	Expert Topic Group
ETG	Expert Topic Group
FLCP	Fisheries Liaison and Coexistence Plan
IPMP	In-Principle Monitoring Plan
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
MEEB	Measures of Equivalent Environmental Benefit
MRF	Marine Recovery Fund
OWEIP	Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
SEL	Scira Extension Limited
SEP	Sheringham Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project

## Glossary of Terms

Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (DEP)	The Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension onshore and offshore sites including all onshore and offshore infrastructure.
DEP offshore site	The Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension consisting of the DEP wind farm site, interlink cable corridors and offshore export cable corridor (up to mean high water springs).
Evidence Plan Process (EPP)	A voluntary consultation process with specialist stakeholders to agree the approach, and information to support, the EIA and HRA for certain topics.
Expert Topic Group (ETG)	A forum for targeted engagement with regulators and interested stakeholders through the EPP.
Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) zones	The areas within the onshore cable route which would house HDD entry or exit points.
Landfall	The point at the coastline at which the offshore export cables are brought onshore, connecting to the onshore cables at the transition joint bay above mean high water
Offshore export cable corridor	This is the area which will contain the offshore export cables between offshore substation platform/s and landfall, including the adjacent Offshore Temporary Works Area.
Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (SEP)	The Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension onshore and offshore sites including all onshore and offshore infrastructure.
SEP offshore site	Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension consisting of the SEP wind farm site and offshore export cable corridor (up to mean high water springs).
The Applicant	Equinor New Energy Limited. As the owners of SEP and DEP, Scira Extension Limited and Dudgeon Extension Limited are the named undertakers that have the benefit of the DCO. References in this document to obligations on, or commitments by, 'the Applicant' are given on behalf of SEL and DEL as the undertakers of SEP and DEP.

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Background

1. This draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared by Equinor New Energy Limited (the Applicant) and Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (EIFCA). It identifies areas of the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (SEP) and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (DEP) Development Consent Order (DCO) application (the Application) where matters are agreed, not agreed or that remain under discussion between the parties.
2. The Applicant has had regard to the Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2015) when compiling this draft SoCG.
3. This draft SoCG has been structured to reflect topics of the Application which are of interest to EIFCA. The applicable matters considered within this draft SoCG apply to EIFCA’s non-statutory remit. Eastern IFCA’s interest in the SEP and DEP is limited to its overlap with the Eastern IFCA district (0-6nm limit between Haile Sand Fort in the north to Felixstowe in the south). This includes matters related to the inshore section of the export cable route and the proposed potential Measures of Equivalent Environmental Benefit (MEEB).
4. **Table 1** presents the topics included in the draft SoCG with the Applicant and EIFCA. Revision A of the SoCG only includes matters relating to commercial fisheries. Within the next revision, the topics shaded grey in **Table 1** will be included.

*Table 1: Topics included in the draft SoCG (rows shaded grey are to be included in a future iteration of this SoCG)*

Topic/Chapter	Reference	Evidence Plan Process (EPP) (Yes/No)
Commercial Fisheries	APP-098	Yes
Stage 1 Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds (CSCB) Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Assessment	APP-077	Yes
In-Principle CSCB MCZ Measures of Equivalent Environmental Benefit (MEEB) Plan	APP-083	Yes
Benthic Ecology	APP-094	Yes
Fish and Shellfish Ecology	APP-095	Yes

5. Further detail of those topics included in the EPP can be found in the **Consultation Report Appendix 1 (Evidence Plan)** [APP-030]. Details of the consultation undertaken on those topics not included in the EPP are set out in the corresponding chapters of the Environmental Statement (ES).
6. Topic specific matters agreed, not agreed and matters that remain under discussion between the Applicant and EIFCA are included within this draft SoCG. Matters that are not yet agreed will be the subject of ongoing discussion between the Applicant and EIFCA to reach agreement wherever possible, or to refine the extent of disagreement between parties.



7. Throughout the draft SoCG the phrase “Agreed” identifies any point of agreement between the Applicant and EIFCA. The phrase “Not Agreed” identifies any point that is not agreed between the Applicant and EIFCA.

**1.2 Consultation with EIFCA**

8. The Applicant has engaged with EIFCA on the Projects during the pre-Application process, both in terms of informal non-statutory engagement and statutory consultation carried out pursuant to Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008.

9. During the statutory Section 42 consultation, EIFCA provided comments on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) by way of a letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2021.

10. Further to this, a number of meetings were held with EIFCA through the EPP. These are detailed throughout the SoCG and minutes of the meetings are provided as Appendices to the Consultation Report [APP-030].

**1.3 Summary of ‘Agreed’, ‘Not Agreed’ and ‘In Discussion’ Matters**

11. In order to easily identify whether a matter is ‘agreed’, ‘not agreed’ or ‘in discussion’, the colour coding system set out in **Table 2** has been used.

12. Details on specific matters that are ‘agreed’, ‘not agreed’ or ‘in discussion’ between the Applicant and EIFCA are presented in **Table 4**.

*Table 2: Position status key*

Position Status	Position Colour Coding
<p><b>Agreed</b> The matter is considered to be agreed between the parties.</p>	Agreed
<p><b>Not Agreed – no material impact</b> The matter is not agreed between the parties; however, the outcome of the approach taken by either the Applicant or EIFCA is not considered to result in a material impact to the assessment conclusions and the matter is considered to be closed for the purposes of this SoCG. Discussions on these matters have concluded.</p>	Not Agreed – no material impact
<p><b>Not Agreed – material impact</b> The matter is not agreed between the parties and the outcome of the approach taken by either the Applicant or EIFCA is considered to result in a materially different impact to the assessment conclusions. Discussions on these matters have concluded.</p>	Not Agreed – material impact
<p><b>In discussion</b> The matter is neither ‘agreed’ nor ‘not agreed’ and is a matter where further discussion is required between the parties (e.g. where documents are yet to be shared with EIFCA).</p>	In discussion

**2 Statement of Common Ground**

13. A summary of the consultation undertaken to date with EIFCA and the matters agreed, in discussion or not agreed (based on discussions and information



exchanged between the Applicant and EIFCA during the pre-application and examination phases of the Application) are set out below for each of the draft SoCG topic areas.



## 2.1 Commercial Fisheries

14. A summary of consultation relating to commercial fisheries is provided in **Table 3**.

*Table 3: Summary of consultation with EIFCA regarding commercial fisheries*

Date	Contact Type	Topic
<b>Pre-Application</b>		
07/10/2019	Report	Submission of the SEP and DEP <b>Scoping Report</b> [APP-281]. The Scoping Report outlined the existing environment, the impacts to be assessed in the ES, data gathering and key aspects of the assessment.  A Scoping Opinion was received on the 6 <sup>th</sup> of November 2019.
10/06/2021	Written submission	EIFCA response to Section 42 consultation on PEIR. Appendix 4 of the Consultation Report [APP-033].
MEEB ETG	Meeting	Commercial fisheries matters were raised by and discussed with the EIFCA where relevant in relation to the MEEB proposals.
13/10/2021	Meeting	Meetings with EIFCA to provide a project update and discuss EIFCA's section 42 comments in relation to commercial fisheries.
31/01/2022	Email	Provision of draft Outline Fisheries Liaison Coexistence Plan (FLCP).
03/02/2022	Meeting	Meeting with EIFCA to present and discuss the draft Outline FLCP.
<b>Post-Application</b>		
13/02/2023	Meeting	Meeting to discuss the proposed general content and approach to populating this SoCG.
18/04/2023	Meeting	Meeting to discuss outstanding matters relating to this SoCG.

*Table 4 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to Commercial Fisheries*

ID	The Applicant Position	EIFCA Position	Position Summary
<b>Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) – Policy and Planning</b>			
1	Relevant policies and plans have been considered for the purposes of informing the EIA (see Section 12.4.1 of Volume 1, <b>Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</b> [APP-098]).	Eastern IFCA consider that the policies and plans referred to are appropriate. EIFCA have reviewed the <b>Marine Plan Policy Review</b> [REP1-060] and are content with the consideration of the relevant Marine Plan Policies (GOV1, FISH1 and FISH2).	Agreed
<b>EIA – Baseline Environment</b>			
2	Sufficient data has been collated to appropriately characterise the baseline environment for the purposes of informing the EIA (see Section 12.5 of Volume 1, <b>Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</b> [APP-098] and Volume 3, <b>Appendix 12.1: Commercial Fisheries Technical Report</b> [APP-197]).	Available data sources on fishing activities within the cable corridor have been used to inform baseline characterisation. However, the spatial resolution of this data is low (to ICES rectangle). The inshore potting fleet is spatially limited and so consultation and dialogue with industry is essential to fully understand the extent to which inshore potters may be impacted by cable works and ways this could be mitigated (e.g. through considering seasonal and spatial patterns in activities). Eastern IFCA agree that consultation with relevant local fishing associations has taken place but do not know the extent to which this consultation has provided the required information on the fishing activities to be able to confidently assess the potential impacts. This is particularly the case for those launching out of Weybourne, who could be completely excluded from potting during construction activities if their range does not go beyond the cable corridor.	In discussion.
<b>EIA – Assessment Methodology</b>			
3	The potential impacts identified in Section 12.6 of Volume 1, <b>Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</b> [APP-098] represent a comprehensive list of potential impacts on commercial fisheries from SEP and DEP.	Eastern IFCA are content that the potential impacts identified in Section 12.6 of Volume 1, <b>Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</b> [APP-098] represent a comprehensive list of potential impacts on commercial fisheries from SEP and DEP.	Agreed



ID	The Applicant Position	EIFCA Position	Position Summary
4	The impact assessment methodology described in Section 12.4.3 of Volume 1, <b>Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</b> [APP-098] for the EIA provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of SEP and DEP.	Eastern IFCA agree that the impact assessment methodology described in Section 12.4.3 Volume 1, <b>Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</b> [APP-098] of the ES provides an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of SEP and DEP.	Agreed
5	The Realistic Worst Case Scenario presented in Section 12.3.2 of Volume 1, <b>Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</b> [APP-098] is appropriate in relation to commercial fisheries.	Eastern IFCA agree that the realistic worst-case build out scenario for commercial fisheries is considered to be sequential construction (i.e. one project is built before the other).	Agreed
<b>EIA – Project-Alone Assessment Conclusions</b>			
6	The conclusions of the assessment of impacts for construction, operation and decommissioning are agreed (see Section 12.6 of Volume 1, <b>Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</b> [APP-098]).	Construction Impact 2: Sensitivity is assessed as medium. Potting vessels that launch from Weybourne are typically very small inshore boats limited in how far they can travel. Has consultation with industry identified whether cable construction activities could completely restrict these vessels from fishing for a temporary period due to their limited range or access issues? If this is likely, then sensitivity could be assessed as high for some of the fleet.	In discussion
<b>EIA – Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) Conclusions</b>			
7	The conclusions of the assessment of cumulative impacts are agreed (see Section 12.7 of Volume 1, <b>Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</b> [APP-098]).	Eastern IFCA agree with the conclusions drawn around cumulative impacts	Agreed
<b>Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring</b>			
8	Given the impacts of the project, the proposed embedded mitigation outlined in Table 12.3 of Volume 1, <b>Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</b> [APP-098] are appropriate.	Eastern IFCA agree that the proposed embedded mitigation is appropriate.	Agreed
9	The wording of the following requirements and conditions pertaining to commercial fisheries are appropriate and adequate (see 3.1 <b>Draft</b>	In discussion.	In discussion

ID	The Applicant Position	EIFCA Position	Position Summary
	<p><b>Development Consent Order (DCO) (Revision F)</b> [document reference 3.1]):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Part 1 – Requirement 8 of DCO Schedule 2 with reference to an offshore decommissioning programme;</li> <li>b. Part 2 - Condition 7(12) of DCO Schedules 10 and 11 and Condition 6(12) of Schedules 12 and 13 with reference to notifications and inspections in the case of exposure of cables;</li> <li>c. Part 2 - Condition 11(10) of DCO Schedules 10 and 11 and Condition 10(10) of Schedules 12 and 13 with reference to dropped objects;</li> <li>d. Part 2 - Condition 13(1(b)) of DCO Schedules 10 and 11 Condition 12(1(b)) of Schedules 12 and 13 with reference to a Construction Programme and Monitoring Plan;</li> <li>e. Part 2 - Condition 13(1(c)) of DCO Schedules 10 and 11 and Condition 12(1(c)) of Schedules 12 and 13 with reference to a Construction Method Statement;</li> <li>f. Part 2 - Condition 13(1(c(i))) of DCO Schedules 10 and 11 and Condition 12(1(c(i)) of Schedules 12 and 13 with reference to a Cable Specification, Installation and Monitoring;</li> <li>g. Part 2 - Condition 13(1(d)) of DCO Schedules 10 and 11 and Condition 12(1(d)) of Schedules 12 and 13 with reference to a Project Environmental Management Plan; and</li> <li>h. Part 2 - Condition 16 of DCO Schedules 10 and 11 and Condition 15 of Schedules 12 and 13 with reference to Offshore Safety Management.</li> </ul>		
10	<p>The measures identified within F9.8: <b>Outline Fisheries Coexistence and Liaison Plan</b> [APP-295] are appropriate for liaison and consultation with the fishing industry throughout the lifetime of SEP and DEP. The final version of the FCLP will be produced in accordance with F9.8: Outline Fisheries Coexistence and Liaison Plan (APP-295).</p>	<p>Eastern IFCA agree the measures outlined are appropriate for liaison and consultation with the fishing industry</p>	<p>Agreed</p>



ID	The Applicant Position	EIFCA Position	Position Summary
<b>Other Matters as Required</b>			
11	<p>Geophysical surveys, as outlined in F9.5: <b>Offshore In Principle Monitoring Plan (IPMP)</b> [APP-289] are appropriate to confirm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cable burial success;</li> <li>• Adequate protection of buried assets, foundations and crossings; and</li> <li>• Presence of any dropped objects.</li> </ul> <p>No other monitoring is required for commercial fisheries interests.</p>	<p>Not within Eastern IFCA's remit to agree on because Eastern IFCA do not have expertise in geophysical surveys.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
12	<p>Fishing vessel transiting activities have been appropriately considered in Volume 3, Appendix 13.1: Navigational Risk Assessment (APP-198).</p>	<p>Eastern IFCA agree that the fishing vessel transiting activities have been considered appropriately. As stated, AIS vessel data shown in Figure 14.21 will likely underrepresent the inshore potting fleet as many vessels will not have AIS. A number of potting fishermen who pot in the MCZ voluntarily carry vehicle trackers to inform research work being carried in the MCZ as part of Adaptive Risk Management (ARM). The trackers provide positional data on vessel movements which could inform fishing vessels' transiting activities within the area. Eastern IFCA cannot share this data but outputs in the form of heat maps will be made available on our website in the coming months.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>



### 3 Signatures

15. The above draft Statement of Common Ground is agreed between Equinor New Energy Limited and EIFCA on the day specified below.

<p>Signed: _____</p> <p>Print Name: _____</p> <p>Job Title: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>Duly authorised for and on behalf of the <b>EIFCA</b></p>
<p>Signed: _____</p> <p>Print Name: _____</p> <p>Job Title: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>Duly authorised for and on behalf of <b>Equinor New Energy Limited</b></p>



## References

Department for Communities and Local Government (2015) Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent. [Online] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/418015/examinations\\_guidance-\\_\\_final\\_for\\_publication.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418015/examinations_guidance-__final_for_publication.pdf). Accessed 05/07/2022.