

Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) response to Examining Authority Third Written Questions

Please note: Eastern IFCA's interest in the SEP & DEP project 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 MEEB.
MEEB.

ExA Question		Eastern IFCA response
Q3.7.1 Effects on Fishing stocks		
Q3.7.2.1	<p>Benefits to fish stock Provide further information on whether the potential for fishing restrictions, due to construction of the Proposed Development, may result in any benefits to fish stock.</p>	<p>The predominant fisheries that occur in the inshore section of the cable corridor and overlap with the Eastern IFCA district (0-6nm limit) target brown crab, lobster and whelk stocks.</p> <p>Whilst there is some evidence that fishing restrictions can result in shellfish stock benefits, the potential for closures put in place during construction of the Proposed Development, within this section of the cable corridor, to have such benefits is considered unlikely. This is due to the relatively small size of the proposed closures in relation to fishing grounds, the temporary duration of closures and the mobile nature of targeted species. This is particularly the case for brown crabs who are known to migrate substantial distances to breed and, anecdotally, are thought to move locally along the coast and further offshore throughout the fishing season.</p> <p>Furthermore, the effects of construction activities that result in temporary habitat loss and/ or disturbance would likely outweigh any potential benefits of closed areas.</p>