



# Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Projects

Final Statement of Common Ground with Eastern  
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority  
(Revision B)

**Revision B**

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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.

*Table 1: Topics included in the draft 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 6**, **Table 7**, **Table 9** and **Table 10**.

*Table 2: Position status key*

Position Status	Position Colour Coding
<b>Agreed</b> The matter is considered to be agreed between the parties.	Agreed
<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.	Not Agreed – no material impact
<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.	Not Agreed – material impact
<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).	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 (see <b>Table 5</b> )	Meeting	Commercial fisheries matters were raised by and discussed with the EIFCA where relevant in relation to the MEEB proposals (as covered below in <b>Table 5</b> ).
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 Marine Plan Policy Review [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, Appendix 12.1: <b>Commercial Fisheries Technical Report</b> [APP-197]).	<p>Available data sources on fishing activities within the cable corridor have been used to inform baseline characterisation. However, the spatial resolution of available 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). This is particularly the case for potters that launch out of Weybourne, where the cable route will reach land fall and there will be a fishing exclusion corridor of approximately 1000m.</p> <p>Eastern IFCA support the inclusion of a requirement in the Outline Fisheries Liaison and Coexistence Plan for consultation with the local Weybourne fishermen once the precise landfall location is defined to arrange and agree access for fishing boats with the aim of minimising disruption.</p>	Agree
<b>EIA – Assessment Methodology</b>			
3	The potential impacts <b>identified in Section 12.6 of Volume 1, 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, Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries (APP-098) represent a comprehensive list of potential impacts on commercial fisheries from SEP and DEP.	Agreed
4	The impact assessment methodology described in Section 12.4.3 of Volume 1, <b>Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries</b>	Eastern IFCA agree that the impact assessment methodology described in Section 12.4.3 of Volume 1, Chapter 12:	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	EIFCA Position	Position Summary
	[APP-098] for the EIA provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of SEP and DEP.	Commercial Fisheries (APP-098) for the EIA provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of SEP and DEP.	
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]).	<p>In regards to 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 if access is restricted for these vessels to fishing grounds, as a result of construction activities there is potential for significant impacts on individuals.</p> <p>However, with the proposal to add the below to the Outline Fisheries Liaison and Coexistence Plan, which would secure its requirements, Eastern IFCA are happy that the required consultation to understand such potential impacts will be undertaken and any disruption minimised.</p> <p><i>When the precise landfall location for the export cable is defined, including landward compounds and access, consultation with the local Weybourne fishermen will be undertaken to arrange and agree access for beach-launching and landing of fishing boats with the aim to minimise disruption</i></p>	Agreed
<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

ID	The Applicant Position	EIFCA Position	Position Summary
<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	<p>The wording of the following requirements and conditions pertaining to commercial fisheries are appropriate and adequate (see 3.1 <b>draft Development Consent Order (DCO) (Revision H)</b> [REP5-005]):</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</li> </ul>	Eastern IFCA agree that it is appropriate to include a requirement for details of the appointed fisheries liaison officer and the fisheries liaison and co-existence plan to be included in a project environmental management plan as set out in 9g. However, Eastern IFCA also defer the approval of requirements and conditions to the MMO and fishing stakeholders (Eastern IFCA are a regulatory body and do not directly represent fishing stakeholders).	N/A

ID	The Applicant Position	EIFCA Position	Position Summary
	reference to a Project Environmental Management Plan; and 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.		
10	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: <b>Outline Fisheries Coexistence and Liaison Plan</b> [APP-295].	Eastern IFCA agree the measures outlined are appropriate for liaison and consultation with the fishing industry	Agreed
<b>Other Matters as Required</b>			
11	Geophysical surveys, as outlined in F9.5: <b>Offshore In Principle Monitoring Plan (IPMP) (Revision C)</b> (document reference 9.5) are appropriate to confirm: <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> No other monitoring is required for commercial fisheries interests.	Not within Eastern IFCA's remit to agree on because Eastern IFCA do not have expertise in geophysical surveys.	N/A
12	Fishing vessel transiting activities have been appropriately considered in Volume 3, Appendix 13.1: <b>Navigational Risk Assessment</b> [APP-198].	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	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	EIFCA Position	Position Summary
		heat maps will made available on our website in the coming months.	
13	<p>Regarding compensation payments these will be agreed with the relevant fishers in the post-construction phase.</p> <p>Regarding consideration of impacts on fishing processors, the Applicant considers that the best way to reduce impacts on downstream businesses is to reduce the direct impact on fishers through application of FLOWW best practice and any subsequent residual mitigation for those direct impacts made by way of compensation payments to fishers should be proportional and targeted.</p>	<p>Eastern IFCA agree that the best way to reduce impacts on downstream businesses is to reduce the direct impacts on fishers through the application of FLOWW best practice. Compensation payments to fishermen should only be used as a last resort to avoid any knock-on effects on processors e.g. from reduced landings. This is particularly the case for processors who rely solely on the inshore crab and lobster fishery. Consideration of impacts on fishing processors should be on a case-by-case basis. Eastern IFCA understand that the applicant has consulted with the local crab and lobster processor on this matter.</p> <p>Eastern IFCA acknowledge that the applicant will not be compensating processors and whilst we agree that it is better to remove the impact at source, our position remains that if compensation for fishers cannot be avoided, proportional compensation should also be provided for processors.</p>	Disagree

## 2.2 Stage 1 CSCB MCZA and In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan

15. The offshore export cable corridor passes through the CSCB MCZ. It is therefore possible that Project activities could be capable of significantly affecting the protected features of the MCZ. Therefore, a **Stage 1 CSCB MCZ Assessment** [APP-077] was undertaken which concludes that the conservation objective of maintaining the protected features of the CSCB MCZ in a favourable condition or restoring them to a favourable condition will not be hindered by the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of SEP and DEP, alone or cumulatively with any other plan, project or activity. However, in light of consultation from stakeholders, the Applicant has provided a Stage 2 assessment (see the **MCAA Derogation Provision of Evidence** [APP-082] and the **In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan** (Revision C) [REP2-020]), on a precautionary and without prejudice basis to enable consultation on Stage 2 to be undertaken pre-application and during DCO Examination, should it be required in the consent determination process.
16. A summary of the consultation relating to Stage 1 MCZ Assessment and MEEB is provided in **Table 5**. Consultation was initially undertaken through the Seabed ETG prior to a dedicated MEEB Expert Topic Group (ETG) (consisting of the same members) being formed in October 2021. Annex B of the **In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan** (Revision C) [REP2-020] provides a detailed record of the consultation undertaken with regard to MEEB.
17. If MEEB is deemed to be required by the Secretary of State, the planting of a native oyster bed within the CSCB MCZ would be progressed as the preferred MEEB. Table 7.1 of the **In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan** (Revision C) [REP2-020] provides a review of potential MEEB indicating measures which would be reviewed, if required, as alternatives to the preferred measure. Individual SoCG tables for each alternative measure have not been provided. Details of consultation which led to the selection of native oyster bed planting as the preferred measure are provided in **Table 5** below and Annex B of the **In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan** (Revision C) [REP2-020]. The **MEEB ETG Agreement Log** is provided in **Annex 1**.
18. Additionally, in light of the emerging Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package (OWEIP) and Marine Recovery Fund (MRF), the Applicant recognises that a viable strategic compensation / MEEB funding mechanism may become available within the necessary timescales for SEP and DEP and therefore could be relied upon to discharge its derogation requirements. To ensure this option is available to SEP and DEP, the Applicant has included wording within Annex D of the **In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan** (Revision C) [REP2-020] for a contribution to be made to a Strategic Compensation Fund wholly or partly in place of the Applicant's proposed MEEB or as an adaptive management measure. The term 'Strategic Compensation Fund' refers to any fund established by Defra or a Government body for the purpose of implementing strategic compensation measures. This, therefore, includes the MRF but also seeks to capture any other strategic compensation funding mechanism that might also become available within the timeframe that compensation measures would be delivered for SEP and DEP. A detailed explanation of the draft DCO wording covering strategic delivery of compensation via a fund is provided in Section 4.4 of the **Strategic and Collaborative Approaches to Compensation and MEEB** [APP-084] document.



**Table 5 Summary of consultation with EIFCA regarding Stage 1 CSCB MCZ Assessment and MEEB**

Date	Contact Type	Topic
<b>Pre-Application</b>		
02/06/2020	Meeting	Seabed ETG 2: MCZ assessment screening results were presented and discussed (see <a href="#">Appendix 1 - Screening Report</a> [APP-078] of the <a href="#">Stage 1 CSCB MCZ Assessment</a> [APP-077].
July 2020	Report	Consultation on ES <a href="#">Appendix 6.3 Sedimentary Processes in the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ</a> [APP-182] was undertaken to inform the approach to assessment within the MCZ. This appendix, alongside ES <a href="#">Appendix 6.4 Sheringham Shoal Nearshore Cable Route – British Geological Survey Shallow Geological Assessment</a> [APP-183], provides a detailed analysis of the geology and transport processes in the CSCB MCZ which fed into ES <a href="#">Chapter 6 Marine Geology Oceanography and Physical Processes (MGOPP)</a> [APP-092] and the <a href="#">Stage 1 CSCB MCZ Assessment</a> [APP-077].
March 2021	Report	Draft Outline In-Principle MEEB Plan: The Applicant shared for consultation this outline document which set out the legislative and policy context for MEEB and provided an initial review of potential MEEB.
10/06/2021	Written submission	EIFCA response to Section 42 consultation on PEIR. <a href="#">Appendix 4</a> of the <a href="#">Consultation Report</a> [APP-033].
16/08/2021	Meeting	Seabed ETG 4: Discussions focussed on stakeholder comments received on the Stage 1 CSCB MCZ assessment submitted at PEIR with a view to agreeing a way to address them where relevant.
06/05/2021	Meeting	Separate stakeholder meetings to discuss MEEB were held due to an inability to align the diaries of ETG members in summer 2021.
September 2021	Report	Draft In-Principle MEEB Plan version 1: Based on stakeholder feedback on the above, further refinement of the MEEB measures proposed was undertaken with additional detail included for measures deemed by stakeholders to be most suitable.
01/10/2021	Meeting	MEEB ETG 1: Discussed comments on the Draft In-Principle MEEB Plan version 1, including the perceived merit in the suite of proposed measures with a steer towards those which should be taken forward as preferred measures pending further feasibility studies.
December 2021	Report	Draft In-Principle MEEB Plan version 2: Based on stakeholder feedback on version 1 and at ETG 1, further refinement of the MEEB measures proposed was undertaken with additional detail included for measures deemed by stakeholders to be most suitable.
21/02/2022	Meeting	MEEB ETG 2: The following matters were discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most recent updates to the MEEB Plan noting that the planting of native oyster bed within the CSCB MCZ is the Applicant’s preferred measure and was generally supported by stakeholders.</li> <li>• Site selection, scale, ratios, deployment, monitoring and adaptive management with respect to native oyster restoration.</li> <li>• Alternative MEEB if native oyster bed planting within the MCZ is deemed unfeasible.</li> </ul>



Date	Contact Type	Topic
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed approach to delivering MEEB post consent (if required).</li> </ul>
<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 6 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to the Stage 1 CSCB MCZ Assessment**

ID	The Applicant Position	EIFCA Position	Position Summary
<b>Policy and Planning</b>			
1	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in Section 2 of the <b>Stage 1 CSCB MCZ Assessment</b> [APP-077] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	Not within Eastern IFCA’s remit to agree on. Defer to Natural England as the Statutory Nature Conservation Body.	N/A
<b>Baseline Environment</b>			
2	Existing and Project specific survey data collected is sufficient to inform the assessment.	This was discussed with Natural England and the MMO during the Evidence Plan Process as described in <b>Table 5</b> which agreed the approach to survey data collection. EIFCA were not involved in discussions regarding survey scope and defer to Natural England regarding this matter which it is noted is agreed at ID 2 of Table 2.9 of the <b>Draft SoCG with Natural England (Offshore)</b> [REP2-044].	N/A
<b>Assessment Methodology</b>			
3	The impact assessment methodologies used provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the Projects.	This was discussed during the Evidence Plan Process as described in <b>Table 5</b> which agreed the approach to assessment methodologies. Not within Eastern IFCA’s remit to agree on.	N/A
4	The worst case scenario presented in the assessment is appropriate.	This was discussed during the Evidence Plan Process as described in <b>Table 5</b> which agreed the approach to defining and presenting the worst-case scenario. Not within Eastern IFCA’s remit to agree on.	N/A
<b>Project-Alone Assessment Conclusions</b>			
5	The conclusions of the assessments of temporary habitat loss / physical disturbance from export cable installation and increased SSCs during construction are agreed.	Not within Eastern IFCA’s remit to agree on. Defer to Natural England as the Statutory Nature Conservation Body.	N/A
6	The conclusions of the assessments of temporary habitat loss / physical disturbance, increased SSCs, effects on bedload sediment transport and invasive species during operation are agreed.	Not within Eastern IFCA’s remit to agree on. Defer to Natural England as the Statutory Nature Conservation Body.	N/A

ID	The Applicant Position	EIFCA Position	Position Summary
7	The conclusions of the assessment of long term habitat loss during operation are agreed.	Not within Eastern IFCA's remit to agree on. Defer to Natural England as the Statutory Nature Conservation Body.	N/A
<b>Cumulative Effects Conclusions</b>			
8	The conclusions of the assessment of cumulative temporary habitat loss / physical disturbance and increased SSCs impacts are agreed	Not within Eastern IFCA's remit to agree on. Defer to Natural England as the Statutory Nature Conservation Body.	N/A
9	The conclusions of the assessment of cumulative long term habitat loss impacts are agreed.	Not within Eastern IFCA's remit to agree on. Defer to Natural England as the Statutory Nature Conservation Body.	N/A
<b>Mitigation and Monitoring</b>			
10	Given the impacts of the Projects, the proposed mitigation described in Table 5-3 of the <a href="#">Stage 1 CSCB MCZ Assessment (APP-XX)</a> is appropriate.	Not within Eastern IFCA's remit to agree on. Defer to Natural England as the Statutory Nature Conservation Body.	N/A

**Table 7 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to MEEB – planting of native oyster bed in the CSCB MCZ**

ID	The Applicant Position	EIFCA Position	Position Summary
<b>Efficacy of MEEB</b>			
1	<p>The MEEB has merit.</p> <p>The Applicant has demonstrated that the MEEB has merit through the <b>In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan</b> (Revision C) [REP2-020].</p>	<p>Eastern IFCA have concerns around the likelihood of success of the proposed MEEB. The evidence to suggest that the proposed area has supported Native Oyster beds in the past is limited and suggests that a specific set of conditions are required for beds to establish and be maintained and can be quickly lost if environmental conditions change. There is a need to understand why oysters have not “made a comeback” on their own and what is preventing the natural re-establishment of beds. If these conditions are not addressed, the chances of successful planting may be slim. The pilot study described in Section 5.3.2 of the In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan (Revision C) [REP2-020] is required to provide evidence and to inform the merit of the MEEB.</p>	Not agreed – no material impact
2	<p>If it is required, and successfully delivered, the MEEB will compensate for the long term loss of habitat from the installation of external cable protection across an up to 1,800m<sup>2</sup> area of subtidal sediments.</p>	<p>Not within Eastern IFCA’s remit to agree on. Defer to Natural England as the Statutory Nature Conservation Body.</p>	N/A
3	<p>If it is required, and successfully delivered, the proposed MEEB will partially restore a historic feature (i.e. native oyster) of the CSCB MCZ and wider region.</p>	<p>Native Oyster is not a designated feature of the MCZ and the evidence to suggest that the proposed area has supported Native Oyster beds in the past is limited (some historical evidence) and suggests that a specific set of conditions are required for beds to establish and be maintained and can be quickly lost if environmental conditions change. If successful (i.e a self-sustaining Oyster bed is established long term), this could be considered a partial restoration of an historic features in the region.</p>	Agreed
<b>Site selection, spatial scale and deployment</b>			
4	<p>The desk-based site selection exercise undergone to identify the 1km<sup>2</sup> initial restoration site search area (Figure 8.1 of APP-083) is robust and has resulted in the identification of an appropriate initial search area. The site selection process is described in</p>	<p>Eastern IFCA’s preference would be for oyster bed planting within the windfarm array where there is no potential for inshore fisheries to be impacted. Eastern IFCA would not support oyster bed planting within the MCZ if this would require fisheries restrictions</p>	Not agreed – material impact

ID	The Applicant Position	EIFCA Position	Position Summary
	Annex C of the <b>In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan</b> (Revision C) [REP2-020].	to be put in place because of the negative impacts it would have on fisheries and the apparent low likelihood that the bed will provide fishing opportunities in the future (see ID 12 of this table).  In addition, Eastern IFCA have concerns that the initial oyster restoration site search area was chosen based on a relatively limited assessment, and that the north-western area of the MCZ was initially targeted based on the presence of oyster shells. Anecdotally, it is understood that this area was used as a shell deposition site for Oysters in the past and so is not necessarily indicative of an area where they occur and establish naturally. However, Eastern IFCA acknowledge the site selection process completed to identify an initial search area and consider it to be appropriate based on the available evidence. Until a pilot study is completed, the suitability of this area cannot be confirmed.	
5	The phased deployment approach described in section 8.4.4 of the <b>In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan</b> (Revision C) [REP2-020] is appropriate.	Eastern IFCA supports a phased approach to ensure effectiveness before committing to the full scale project but defers to Natural England / Cefas for scientific advice on this.	N/A
6	A 10,000m <sup>2</sup> restoration area is an appropriately targeted spatial scale to enable a self-sustaining reef.	Not within Eastern IFCA's remit to agree on. Defer to Cefas and Natural England as scientific advisors.	N/A
<b>Timescale for delivery</b>			
7	The indicative timeline in Table 8.2 of the <b>In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan</b> (Revision C) [REP2-020] is appropriate.	Not within Eastern IFCA's remit to agree on. Defer to Cefas and Natural England as scientific advisors.	N/A
<b>Monitoring, maintenance and adaptive management</b>			
8	The information presented in section 8.5.1 of the <b>In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan</b> (Revision C) [REP2-020] relating to monitoring is appropriate.	Not within Eastern IFCA's remit to agree on. Defer to Cefas and Natural England as scientific and regulatory advisors	N/A
9	The information presented in section 8.5.2 of the <b>In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan</b> (Revision C) [REP2-020] relating to adaptive management is appropriate.	Not within Eastern IFCA's remit to agree on. Defer to Cefas and Natural England as scientific and regulatory advisors	N/A

ID	The Applicant Position	EIFCA Position	Position Summary
10	<p>The information presented in section 8.5.3 of the <b>In-Principle CSCB MCZ MEEB Plan</b> (Revision C) [REP2-020] relating to management measures is appropriate.</p> <p>As noted in that section: <i>‘Should monitoring of the oyster bed indicate that potting activity is hindering the oyster restoration efforts, the Applicant would seek to work with the MEEB steering group, EIFCA and relevant fishers to identify a suitable and acceptable course of remediation.’</i></p>	<p>If there is potential for fisheries restrictions to be put in place Eastern IFCA would not support the project because of the negative impacts it would have on fisheries and the apparent low likelihood that the bed will provide fishing opportunities in the future (see ID 12 of this table).</p>	<p>Not agreed – material impact</p>
<b>Securing consents and agreements</b>			
11	<p>It is not anticipated that a sea bed lease from The Crown Estate will be required for restoring a designated site feature. If MEEB is deemed to be required by the SoS, a marine licence exemption or, if required, marine licence application to the MMO for the deployment of cultch would be made post consent.</p> <p><b>Appendix 4 Assessment of Potential Impacts on Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Marine Conservation Zone Features from Planting of Native Oyster Beds</b> [APP-081] of the <b>Stage 1 CSCB MCZA</b> [APP-077] provides an assessment of the potential risk of the MEEB Implementation and Monitoring Plan hindering the conservation objectives of the existing features of the CSCB MCZ and concludes that it would not.</p>	<p>Not within Eastern IFCA’s remit to agree on. Defer to Natural England as the Statutory Nature Conservation Body.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<b>Other Matters as Required</b>			
12	<p><u>Potential for sustainable exploitation of a self-sustaining oyster bed</u></p> <p>Through the process of regular review of management measures within the existing byelaws, should the beds become sustainable, with evidence that they would remain sustainable with harvesting of the oyster, consideration would be given to trialling the establishment of a commercial fishery.</p>	<p>EIFCA would support potential sustainable exploitation of the oyster bed in future, however, having discussed this matter with Kent and Essex IFCA who have a similar Native Oyster restoration project within an MCZ and have highlighted that the likelihood of restoration efforts achieving densities high enough to maintain a sustainable Oyster fishery is extremely low and, if ever achieved, would take a very long time.</p> <p>Thus, whilst we would support sustainable exploitation of a self-sustaining oyster bed, we understand the realistic likelihood of this</p>	<p>Agreed</p>

ID	The Applicant Position	EIFCA Position	Position Summary
		happening is very low and so this MEEB should not be presented as a potential benefit to fishing opportunities.	

### 2.3 Benthic Ecology and Fish and Shellfish Ecology

20. The Seabed ETG topics include MGOPP, marine water and sediment quality, benthic ecology and fish and shellfish ecology. Whilst only benthic ecology and fish and shellfish ecology are relevant to this SoCG, a summary of the consultation relating to all Seabed ETG topics is provided in **Table 8** since these topics are grouped together. Consultation with regard to the Stage 1 CSCB MCZ Assessment and MEEB, whilst discussed at the Seabed ETG meetings, is covered separately in **Table 5** above.

**Table 8: Summary of consultation with EIFCA regarding Seabed ETG topics**

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.
30/10/2019	Meeting	Seabed ETG 1: Summary of the Projects, consenting approach and progress of the geophysical survey of the offshore cable corridor options was provided alongside general export cable corridor site selection matters and the approach to baseline characterisation for topic specific assessments.
02/06/2020	Meeting	Seabed ETG 2: ETG attendees were informed that Weybourne was selected as the preferred landfall location following a technical feasibility study. Discussion of completed, planned and potentially required surveys was also undertaken.  Production of a physical processes method statement (see below) and MCZ assessment screening results were also presented and discussed.
03/02/2021	Meeting	Seabed ETG 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project update including requirement for an interlink cable corridor between the DEP North and South array areas provided.</li> <li>• ETG informed of potential requirement for cable protection within the CSCB MCZ.</li> <li>• ETG were provided with an update on progress relating to the preparation of the PEIR. It was noted that topic specific assessments were being drafted and the approach to that drafting was presented.</li> </ul> ETG informed that the British Geological Survey (BGS) were commissioned to review geophysical survey data and existing geotechnical information to further characterise seabed geology, including the depth of surface sediments.
10/06/2021	Written submission	EIFCA response to Section 42 consultation on PEIR. <b>Appendix 4</b> of the <b>Consultation Report</b> [APP-033].
16/08/2021	Meeting	Seabed ETG 4: Discussions focussed on stakeholder comments received on the PEIR with a view to agreeing a way to address them where relevant.



Date	Contact Type	Topic
14/03/2022	Meeting	Seabed ETG 5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussed development of the <b>Outline Cable Specification and Installation Monitoring Plan (CSIMP)</b> [APP-291].</li> <li>Confirmed that numerical wave modelling (see the <b>Wave Climate Assessment</b> [APP-181]) was now being undertaken.</li> <li>Discussed pending agreements within the Agreement Logs (see <b>Consultation Report - Evidence Plan</b> [APP-030]).</li> </ul>
<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 9: Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to Benthic Ecology**

ID	The Applicant Position	EIFCA Position	Position Summary
<b>EIA – Policy and Planning</b>			
3	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in Section 8.4 of ES <b>Chapter 8 Benthic Ecology</b> [APP-094] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	Eastern IFCA consider that the policies and plans referred to are appropriate. EIFCA have reviewed the Marine Plan Policy Review [REP1-060] and are content with the consideration of the relevant Marine Plan Policies (ECO1, BIO1, BIO2).	Agreed
<b>EIA – Baseline Environment</b>			
4	Existing and Project specific survey data collected is sufficient to inform the assessment.	This was discussed with Natural England and the MMO during the Evidence Plan Process as described in <b>Table 8</b> which agreed the approach to survey data collection. EIFCA were not involved in discussions regarding survey scope and defer to Natural England regarding this matter which it is noted is agreed at ID 2 of Table 2.9 of the <b>Draft SoCG with Natural England (Offshore)</b> [REP2-044].	N/A
<b>EIA – Assessment Methodology</b>			
5	The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the Projects.	This was discussed during the Evidence Plan Process as described in <b>Table 8</b> which agreed the approach to assessment methodologies. Defer to Natural England and Cefas as the regulatory and scientific advisors.	N/A
6	The worst case scenario presented in the assessment is appropriate.	This was discussed during the Evidence Plan Process as described in <b>Table 8</b> which agreed the approach to defining and presenting the worst-case scenario. Defer to Natural England and Cefas as the regulatory and scientific advisors.	N/A
<b>EIA – Project-Along Assessment Conclusions</b>			
7	The conclusions of the assessment of impacts for construction, operation and decommissioning are agreed.	Defer to Natural England and Cefas as the regulatory and scientific advisors.	N/A
<b>CIA Conclusions</b>			
8	The conclusions of the assessment of cumulative impacts are agreed.	Defer to Natural England and Cefas as the regulatory and scientific advisors.	N/A

ID	The Applicant Position	EIFCA Position	Position Summary
<b>RIAA – Project-Along Assessment Conclusions</b>			
1	The conclusions of the assessment of impacts for construction, operation and decommissioning are agreed.	Defer to Natural England as the regulatory advisors.	N/A
<b>RIAA In-Combination Assessment Conclusions</b>			
2	The conclusions of the assessment of cumulative impacts are agreed.	Defer to Natural England as the regulatory advisors.	N/A
<b>Mitigation</b>			
9	Given the impacts of the Projects, the proposed mitigation outlined for benthic ecology within the <b>Schedule of Mitigation and Mitigation Routemap (Revision B)</b> (document reference 6.5) is appropriate.	Defer to Natural England and Cefas as the regulatory and scientific advisors.	N/A

*Table 10 Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to fish and shellfish ecology*

ID	The Applicant Position	EIFCA Position	Position Summary
<b>EIA – Policy and Planning</b>			
1	All relevant plans and policies have been identified in Section 9.4 of ES <b>Chapter 9 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-095] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.	Eastern IFCA consider that the policies and plans referred to are appropriate. EIFCA have reviewed the Marine Plan Policy Review [REP1-060] and are content with the consideration of the relevant Marine Plan Policies (FISH2).	Agreed
<b>EIA – Baseline Environment</b>			
2	The existing survey data is sufficient to inform the assessment.	This was discussed with Natural England and the MMO during the Evidence Plan Process as described in <b>Table 8</b> and ID 1.3.2 of the <b>Seabed ETG Agreement Log</b> which agreed that Project-specific fish and shellfish ecology surveys were not required due to the availability of existing datasets.  Defer to Natural England and Cefas as the regulatory and scientific advisors.	N/A
<b>EIA – Assessment Methodology</b>			
3	The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the Projects.	This was discussed during the Evidence Plan Process as described in <b>Table 8</b> which agreed the approach to assessment methodologies. Eastern IFCA agree that the approach is appropriate.	Agreed
4	The worst-case scenario presented in the assessment is appropriate.	This was discussed during the Evidence Plan Process as described in <b>Table 8</b> which agreed the approach to defining and presenting the worst-case scenario. Eastern IFCA agree that the worst-case scenario presented is appropriate.	Agreed
<b>EIA – Project-Alone Assessment Conclusions</b>			
5	Excluding the EMF assessment in Section 9.6.2.8, the conclusions of the assessment of impacts for construction, operation and decommissioning are agreed.	Eastern IFCA are not aware of any sources of evidence, but lessons can be learnt from other operational windfarms where post operational monitoring surveys have been conducted. Once again, Eastern IFCA advocate consultation with the local fishing industry to ascertain their experience of effects on fish and shellfish stocks (for example effects of existing Sheringham and Dudgeon OWF cable routes) and defer to Cefas for expert scientific advice.	Agreed

ID	The Applicant Position	EIFCA Position	Position Summary
		Overall, Eastern IFCA agree with the conclusions for construction, operation (excluding EMF see ID 8) and decommissioning.	
6	The conclusion of the project alone assessment of electro-magnetic field (EMF) (Section 9.6.2.8 of <b>Chapter 9 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-095]) is agreed.	Eastern IFCA maintain that not enough is known about EMF impacts on marine fauna. However, based on the information presented in Section 9.6.2.8 Eastern IFCA agree that the potential EMF effects from SEP and DEP alone seem unlikely to be significant but do have concerns around cumulative EMF impacts (see ID 8). Eastern IFCA suggest the views of Cefas technical specialists are sought.	Agreed
<b>CIA Conclusions</b>			
7	Excluding the EMF assessment in Section 9.7.3.4, the conclusions of the assessment of cumulative impacts are agreed.	Eastern IFCA agree with the conclusions for construction, operation (excluding EMF see ID 8) and decommissioning.	Agreed
8	The conclusion of the cumulative assessment of EMF in Section 9.7.3.4 of <b>Chapter 9 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> [APP-095]) is agreed.	Eastern IFCA, maintain that not enough is known about EMF impacts on marine fauna. This position is informed by studies such as Hutchinson <i>et al</i> 2020 <sup>1</sup> . We do not consider this can be addressed by a single developer; instead, there is a responsibility for the marine cable industry to investigate and conduct research to better understand impacts from EMFs on marine organisms. However, we note that for every new electricity cable that is laid, the potential for cumulative impacts increases. This is of particular concern in the southern North Sea which already contains a high number of wind farm cables and electricity interconnector cables that could be impacting marine species, including commercial fish and shellfish. Eastern IFCA suggest the views of Cefas technical specialists are sought.	Not agreed – no material impact
<b>Mitigation</b>			
9	Given the impacts of the Projects, the proposed mitigation outlined for fish and shellfish ecology within the <b>Schedule of Mitigation and Mitigation Routemap</b>	Defer to Natural England and Cefas as the regulatory and scientific advisors.	N/A

1 [REDACTED]

ID	The Applicant Position	EIFCA Position	Position Summary
	<b>(Revision B)</b> (document reference 6.5) is appropriate.		
<b>Other Matters as Required</b>			
10	<p>Given the EMF assessment conclusions of minor adverse, monitoring of EMF impacts is not deemed to be required.</p> <p>Monitoring of potential cumulative EMF effects would be best undertaken as part of a strategic monitoring programme led by Government.</p>	<p>Eastern IFCA would like to see developers commit to further scientific research to better understand the potential EMF impacts on fish and shellfish.</p>	<p>Not agreed – no material impact</p>

### 3 Signatures

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

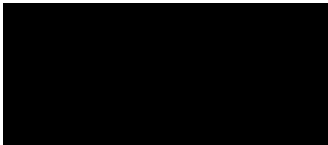
Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: JULIAN GREGORY

Job Title: Chief Executive Officer

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Duly authorised for and on behalf of the **EIFCA**

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: T R Morris

Job Title: Offshore Consents Lead

Date: 14/07/2023

Duly authorised for and on behalf of **Equinor New Energy Limited**

## 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.



## Annex 1

### MEEB ETG Agreement Log

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
ETG2 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2022							
0.1 EIFCA added agreement	Management of fisheries Section 6.3.1 In connection with reduction of fishing pressures	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	We acknowledge that measures to reduce fishing pressure have been removed as a potential MEEB option at project level.  As recorded in Minute Ref. PB8164-RHD-ZZ-XX-MI-Z-0001 (01/10/2021 Section 3) and paragraph 129 and 132 of the Draft MEEB Plan version 2 Dec 2021.  IFCAs and MMO assess and manage fisheries within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) (including Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)) to ensure fishing activities are compatible with the conservation objectives of these sites.
1 Removal of marine litter/debris within the CSCB MCZ							
1.1	Do you agree with the value and function of this MEEB, discussed in Section 6.1.1.2 of the Draft In Principle MEEB Plan?	Natural England advises as with compensation that the removal of marine litter has wider marine benefits but doesn't provide MEEB as a singular option	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	<u>EIFCA</u> The category "Marine Litter" is very broad, and it is difficult to be specific as to the value of this MEEB without understanding what type of "litter" is under consideration.  Potential impacts from pots and ropes on chalk could be mitigated by removal of this type of "litter"; However, this removal is

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
							already planned for other reasons, and so the “additionality” test would not be met. EIFCA defer to Natural England.
1.2	Do you agree with the proposed delivery mechanism discussed in Section 6.1.1.3?	Natural England highlights the expanded upon requirements of Boreas and Vanguard from that of the HP3 approach.	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	<u>EIFCA</u> Needs consideration of impacts on fishing opportunities of removal methods. EIFCA defer to Natural England.
1.3	Do you agree with the proposed spatial scale discussed in Section 6.1.1.4?	Not agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	<u>EIFCA</u> Para 60 seems to suggest that an area of 1800m <sup>2</sup> would be surveyed, and debris removed from that. This is not the same as removing 1800m <sup>2</sup> of debris, as the seabed would not be 100% covered. EIFCA defer to Natural England.
1.4	Do you agree with the proposed timescale discussed in Section 6.1.1.6?	Agreed as all compensation should be delivered prior to construction	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	EIFCA defer to Natural England.
1.5	Do you agree with the potential impacts of the MEEB discussed in Section 6.1.1.7?	Not Agreed as dredging would also remove site interest feature	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	EIFCA defer to Natural England.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
1.6	Do you agree with the options for monitoring discussed in Section 6.1.1.8?	Not Agreed – please see responses to HP3 21 January 2022	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	EIFCA defer to Natural England.
1.7	Do you agree with the feasibility conclusions discussed in Section 6.1.1.9?	No Agreed due to on going discussions with regulators and challenges with deliver as currently this is something that should be being done within this site as site management.	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	<u>EIFCA</u> Technical feasibility of removing debris is likely to be high. Whether this delivers the required benefits is much more open to question. EIFCA defer to Natural England.
<b>2 Removal of disused cables and pipelines within the CSCB MCZ</b>							
2.1	Do you agree with the value and function of this MEEB, discussed in Section 6.1.2.2 of the Draft In Principle MEEB Plan?	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	EIFCA defer to Natural England.
2.2	Do you agree with the proposed delivery mechanism discussed in Section 6.1.2.3?	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	<u>EIFCA</u> Need to consider impacts of removal on fishing productivity/opportunities. EIFCA defer to Natural England.
2.3	Do you agree with the proposed spatial scale discussed in Section 6.1.2.4?	Natural England doesn't agree with a 1:1 ratio. Please see HP3 response 21 January 2022. Where there is the	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	EIFCA defer to Natural England.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
		potential for ecological debt then there needs to be a overall net positive to MEEB not just offsetting					
2.4	Do you agree with the proposed timescale discussed in Section 6.1.2.6?	Agreed as long as ecological debt is addressed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	EIFCA defer to Natural England.
2.5	Do you agree with the potential impacts of the MEEB discussed in Section 6.1.2.7?	Agreed – dependent on removal methodology	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	<u>EIFCA</u> We note that there is an acceptance that there will be effects (temporary / localised). Consideration should be given to the assessment of any potential effects, particularly relevant would be reported/recorded effects of any previous removals of infrastructure from chalk areas. EIFCA defer to Natural England.
2.6	Do you agree with the options for monitoring discussed in Section 6.1.2.8?	Not Agreed – please see responses to HP3 21 January 2022	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	EIFCA defer to Natural England.
2.7	Do you agree with the feasibility conclusions discussed in Section 6.1.2.9?	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	EIFCA defer to Natural England.
3 Removal of anthropogenic features outside the CSCB MCZ							

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
3.1	Do you agree in-principle with the proposed removal of anthropogenic features from within similar habitats to the ones impacted by the Project, but from another location, e.g. an alternative MCZ as discussed in Section 6.2.1 of the Draft In Principle MEEB Plan?	Agreed - as long as stepwise approach to the compensation/MEEB hierarchy has been followed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	<u>EIFCA</u> Any such activity (Removal of Anthropogenic Features) would require careful appraisal and design to ensure that it did not impact on fisheries productivity or fishing opportunities.  EIFCA defer to Natural England.
4 Planting of native oyster beds within the CSCB MCZ							
4.1	Do you agree with the value and function of this MEEB, discussed in Section 6.1.3.2 of the Draft In Principle MEEB Plan?	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Partially agreed	EIFCA agree that creation of an oyster bed is likely to increase biodiversity locally. However until all factors (size, location, and future fishability) are known we can't give our full agreement to this MEEB.
4.2	Do you agree with the proposed delivery mechanism discussed in Section 6.1.3.3?	This is really in Section 7 and Not agreed due to not commissioning specialists pre consent to design the mechanism	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Partially agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> There is a need to understand why oysters have not “made a comeback” on their own. What is preventing the natural re-establishment of beds? If these conditions are not addressed, the chances of successful planting may be slim.  (We believe the benefits could be delivered by oyster bed establishment outside the Cromer MCZ, although probably in the vicinity, as discussed in Section 6.4.1)

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
4.3	Do you agree with the proposed spatial scale discussed in Section 6.1.3.4?	Agreed	See notes	N/A	Not present	N/A	<u>EIFCA</u> Not possible to provide an answer, as the spatial scale is not defined but rather left open for future agreement with Natural England.
4.4	Do you agree with the proposed timescale discussed in Section 6.1.3.6?	Under discussion and dependent on 4.2 above	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Partially agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> It may well be possible to conduct the steps required to achieve initial planting within these timeframes (the UK – DEEP – is probably the closer to local conditions) however we don't feel the bed could be considered "established" within this timeframe.
4.5	Do you agree with the potential impacts of the MEEB discussed in Section 6.1.3.7?	Agreed, but recognise that careful consideration of location is needed as all designated features and also there may be other wider implications	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Not agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> Negative impacts which could arise from any required associated management must also be considered. For instance, if there is a requirement that the area identified be closed to certain activities, this should be considered.
4.6	Do you agree with the options for monitoring discussed in Section 6.1.3.8?	Not Agreed as delivery over the lifetime of the project and beyond must be maintained and managed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Partially agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> It is likely that some form of ongoing monitoring would be required for a considerable number of years to ensure that the bed has truly become self-sustaining.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
4.7	Do you agree with the feasibility conclusions discussed in Section 6.1.3.9?	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> There is a need to understand why oysters have not “made a comeback” on their own. What is preventing the natural re-establishment of beds? If these conditions are not addressed, the chances of successful planting may be slim.
5 Planting of native oyster beds within the SEP and DEP wind farm sites							
5.1	Do you agree with the value and function of this MEEB, discussed in Section 6.4.1.2 of the Draft In Principle MEEB Plan?	Not Agreed as it needs to enhance natural biodiversity of the seabed in those locations	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> Any such activity (Planting of native oyster beds) would require careful appraisal and design to ensure that it did not impact on existing fisheries productivity or fishing opportunities.
5.2	Do you agree with the proposed delivery mechanism discussed in Section 6.4.1.3?	Not agreed due to not commissioning specialists pre consent to design the mechanism	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> It is likely that significantly more work would be needed to identify a suitable site than would be the case if restoration was to be within Cromer MCZ. If restrictions to activities such as commercial fishing become necessary, this must be in dialogue with the local industry and (if relevant) local IFCA.
5.3	Do you agree with the proposed spatial scale discussed in Section 6.4.1.4?	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	<u>EIFCA</u> Not possible to provide an answer, as the spatial scale is not defined but rather left open for future agreement with Natural England.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
5.4	Do you agree with the proposed timescale discussed in Section 6.4.1.6?	Under discussion and dependent on 4.2 above	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	EIFCA defer to Natural England.
5.5	Do you agree with the potential impacts of the MEEB discussed in Section 6.4.1.7?	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> Agree that these are likely impacts. Impacts on fishing opportunities would need to be carefully assessed and mitigated in some way.
5.6	Do you agree with the options for monitoring discussed in Section 6.4.1.8?	Not Agreed as delivery over the lifetime of the project and beyond must be maintained and managed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Partially agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> It is likely that some form of ongoing monitoring would be required for a considerable number of years to ensure that the bed has truly become self-sustaining.
5.7	Do you agree with the feasibility conclusions discussed in Section 6.4.1.9?	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> There is a need to understand why oysters have not “made a comeback” on their own. What is preventing the natural re-establishment of beds? If these conditions are not addressed, the chances of successful planting may be slim.
6 Site extension / designation of a feature in a different location							
6.1	Do you agree with the value and function of this MEEB, discussed in Section 6.2.2.2 of the Draft In Principle MEEB Plan?	No agreed as there is expectation it would more than offset the impacts	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	EIFCA defer to Natural England.



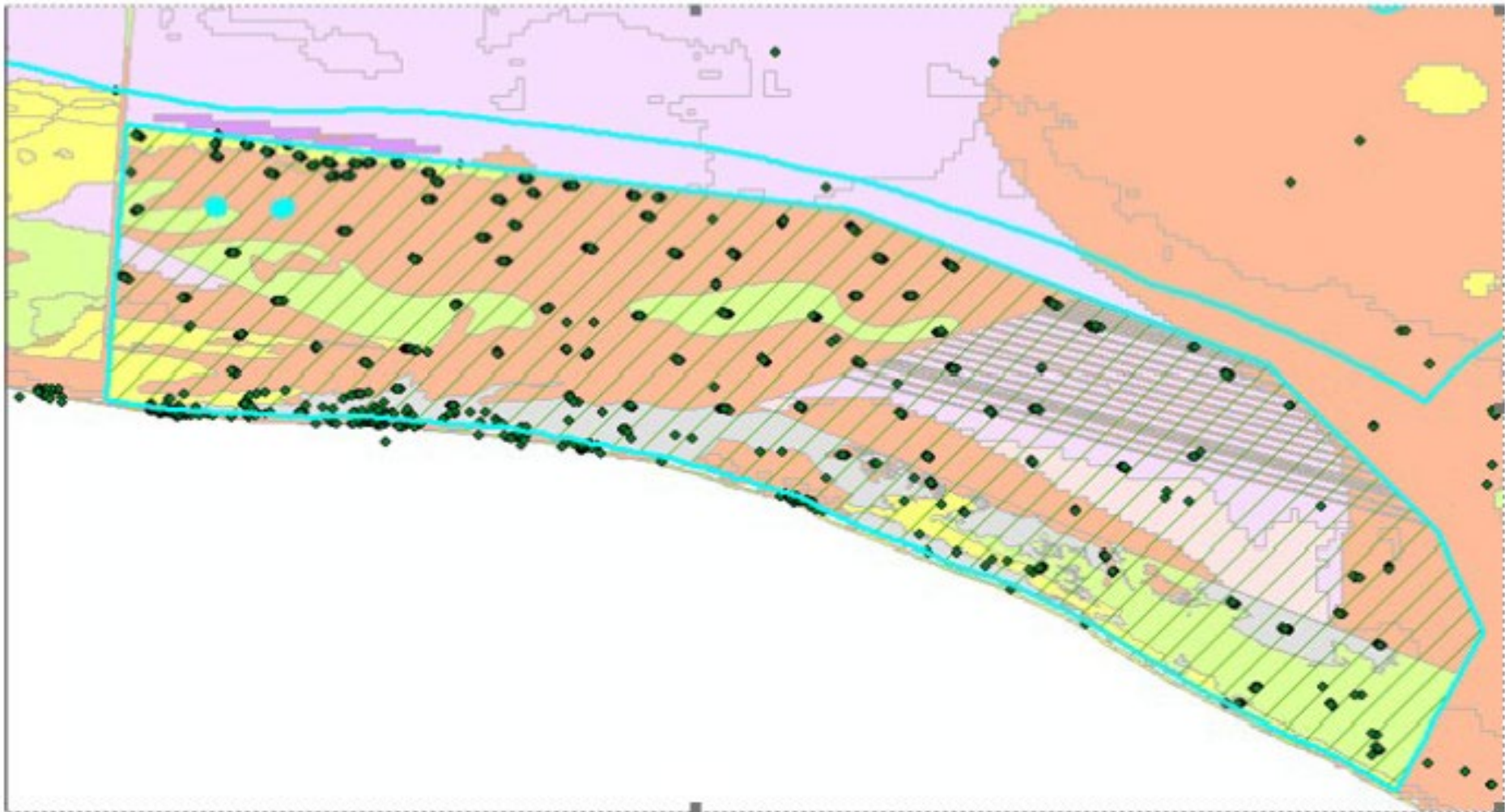
ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
6.2	Do you agree with the proposed delivery mechanism discussed in Section 6.2.2.3?	Agreed – but would be for expanding the MPA network not just focusing on MCZs	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Not agreed	<p><u>EIFCA</u></p> <p>The current MPA network has been designed to meet the legislative requirements. Any additional designations will impose restrictions on other legitimate activities, without providing any benefit to those activities.</p> <p>Were this option to be taken forward, as well as site selection and designation process costs - which the applicant has offered to financially support, there would also be ongoing additional burden on managers/regulator. The applicant should also provide ongoing financial support for assessment, management and enforcement of activities and condition monitoring in any new additional designated area.</p>
6.3	Do you agree with the proposed spatial scale discussed in Section 6.2.2.4?	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Not Agreed	<p><u>EIFCA</u></p> <p>Disagree (with the fundamental principle, therefore not possible to “Agree” with this).</p>
6.4	Do you agree with the proposed timescale discussed in Section 6.2.2.6?	Agreed – that it will take several years for designation but protection mechanisms may be possible prior to designation	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	<p><u>EIFCA</u></p> <p>No comment</p>

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
6.5	Do you agree with the potential impacts of the MEEB discussed in Section 6.2.2.7?	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> As this would be an action that would impose restrictions on one or more commercial activities for the benefit of another commercial activity, any such impacts must be carefully and thoroughly considered, quantified and minimised /mitigated.
6.6	Do you agree with the options for monitoring discussed in Section 6.2.2.8?	Under discussion	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	N/A	EIFCA defer to Natural England.
ETG 3 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2022							
7.1	Do you agree that the planting of oyster reef in the MCZ is the primary measure to be investigated by Equinor?	Natural England advises that this option has ecological merit	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> Agree that this should be the primary measure to be investigated, however Eastern IFCA will not be supportive of measures that will have an overall adverse impact upon fishing activities and opportunities (as agreed by Eastern IFCA 41 <sup>st</sup> Authority meeting 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2020.)
7.2	Do you agree that most appropriate backup measure is the planting of oyster reef in the array areas?	This is subject to further information being presented as set out above	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> Should the creation of an oyster reef within the MCZ have an adverse impact upon current fishing activities, Eastern IFCA will consider this option to be their preferred option, as this location is unlikely to conflict with current fishing activity.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
7.3	Do you agree that given that the subtidal sand feature which will potentially be lost does not support a diverse community, oyster reef would provide an enhanced function in terms of biodiversity e.g. potential nursery grounds for fish etc?	Not agreed as the cable protection could also impact on reef like areas. This is really two separate points.	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> Whilst we agree that a future oyster reef would likely provide higher biodiversity than an equivalent area of subtidal sand, it should be noted that the two habitats are not directly comparable. It is not the case that oyster reef provides a higher “score” on the same scale than subtidal sand, but rather that they provide different habitat services.
7.4	In terms of defining the stage at which the oyster reef could potentially be sustainably fished, do you agree that this should be discussed post consent in consultation with the steering group and would form part of the existing review of fisheries management measures in the MCZ?	Natural England believe that realistic high level criteria should be agreed as early as possible given interested party concerns	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Not agreed	<u>EIFCA</u> This must be considered pre consent. The approach to be taken in connection with this will shape Eastern IFCA’s position on the proposed MEEB measure.  Eastern IFCA suggests that the potential to fish the oyster bed should be set out in the MEEB plan (i.e. for agreement in the DCO) as an additional, planned benefit of the measure, in recognition that MCZs are sustainable-use sites, not no-take zones. The same plan should include criteria for when the oyster bed could be fished, for example when the bed is recognised as being “established” (based on density? Age composition? Self-stocking? Extent?), and make it clear that any fishing activity on the bed would be subject to it being managed in alignment with the MCZ’s conservation objectives as well as with fishery sustainability goals. Although we

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
							<p>will not know in advance when the bed will be deemed suitable for fishing, and it could be a long time (25 years +), we can and should state (in the MEEB plan) these criteria that would need to be met before it could be fished.</p> <p>N.B. Eastern IFCA has an agreed position (see comment in 7.1 above).</p> <p>Disagree that this “would form part of the existing review of fisheries management measures in the MCZ”. Over time, if the measure is successful, the oyster bed and a potential fishery for it would be incorporated into the local fisheries regulator (Eastern IFCA)’s routine work of managing fisheries within marine protected areas. But initially the placement of the bed and potential need for fisheries restrictions over it represents an additional work burden for Eastern IFCA and we would seek for this work to be funded by Equinor, including the ongoing monitoring of the bed.</p>
7.5	Do you agree that the area of search for determining feasibility of oyster reef planting should focus on the areas identified in <b>Plate 1</b> (see below) of Natural England’s advice broadening out to the wider north western portion of the MCZ and focus	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	N/A	Not present	Not agreed	<p><u>EIFCA</u></p> <p>Concerns raised that the ‘previous oyster bed evidence’ relates to historic fisheries shell deposit grounds. In this context, we don’t agree that <b>Plate 1</b> should be titled “...evidence of previous native oyster beds..”.</p>

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Notes
	<p>on subtidal sediment features avoiding potentially sensitive habitats e.g. chalk, reef etc.?</p>						<p>Any potential site should be selected based on current environmental factors that are most agreeable to support the success of the MEEB.</p> <p>An effective appraisal of all environmental factors, to gain an understanding as to why native oysters have not re-established naturally should be undertaken. It would also be beneficial to find out whether native oyster beds were present in the MCZ historically – although it could be difficult to find any evidence for this. It should not be assumed that fishing is the only cause of decline in oyster stocks and distribution, and all relevant environmental factors must be considered.</p> <p>As this is an MCZ social and economic factors should be considered when evaluating any intervention, even those for conservation benefits such as MEEB.</p>



*Plate 1: Location (Light Blue Dots) of Evidence of Previous Native Oyster Beds within Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds (CSCB) MCZ*



## Seabed ETG Agreement Log

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Annex reference	Notes
1	ETG1 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2019							
Agreement of baseline status								
1.1	Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes							
1.1.1	Agreement that the baseline should describe tidal currents, waves and bedload sediment and transport, and suspended sediment	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	-		As described in the Scoping Report and ETG meeting slides.  Bedload sediment and transport within the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ is of particular interest to understand the distribution, depth and persistence/transience of sediment veneers overlying chalk bedrock.
1.1.2	Agreement on the relevance, appropriateness and sufficiency of proposed baseline data sources (including both site specific and contextual data) as defined in the Method Statement	-	-	-	-	-		Method Statement shared with the ETG in advance of the second ETG meeting, along with a report on Sedimentary Processes in the Cromer Shoals Chalk Beds MCZ (PB8164-RHD-ZZ-XX-RP-Z-0001).  Agreement provisional on review of project survey data, including geophysical and benthic survey results.
1.1.3	Agreement on the survey scope and methods for the export cable corridor geophysical survey	-	-	-	-	-		Survey scope documents shared with MMO and NE on 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2019.
1.1.4	Agreement on the adequacy of the export cable corridor geophysical survey results to describe seabed type, shallow	Agreed – See note	Agreed – See note	Agreed – See note	Agreed – See note	-		Survey report has been shared with ETG members and results summarised in report on Sedimentary Processes in the Cromer



ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Annex reference	Notes
	geology, bathymetry and seabed features/anomalies	(02/06/20)	(02/06/20)	(02/06/20)	(02/06/20)			Shoals Chalk Beds MCZ and in ETG2 presentation.  The ETG agrees that the export cable corridor geophysical survey results are adequate, but need to review the benthic survey results separately.
1.1.5	Agreement on the survey scope and methods for the array and interconnector cable corridors geophysical survey	-	-	-	-	-		
1.1.6	Agreement on the adequacy of the array and interconnector cable corridors geophysical survey results to describe seabed type, shallow geology, bathymetry and seabed features/anomalies	-	-	-	-	-		Awaiting geophysical survey report which will be shared with ETG members.
1.1.7	Agreement on the survey scope and methods for the targeted benthic survey (from a marine physical processes perspective)	-	-	-	-	-		An outline scope of work has been shared with the Natural England, MMO and Cefas. A detailed benthic survey design will be shared with the ETG on 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2020 for approval in advance of survey mobilisation.
1.1.8	Agreement on the adequacy of the targeted benthic survey results to describe seabed type and seabed features/anomalies (from a marine physical processes perspective)	-	-	-	-	-		Awaiting results. Survey expected to be completed by the end of August 2020, but full reporting will be later and will be shared with the ETG when available.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Annex reference	Notes
1.1.9	Agreement on the requirement for pre-application geotechnical investigations to understand the feasibility of cable installation within the MCZ	Agreed – See note (02/06/20)	Agreed – See note (02/06/20)	Agreed – See note (02/06/20)	Agreed – See note (02/06/20)	-		It was agreed that the onus is on the Applicant to determine whether or not there is enough evidence to inform cable installation and provide a realistic figure for the amount of cable protection that may be required (including within MCZ). This evidence should be presented in a cable installation/trenching report (i.e. CSIP/PTA or similar).
1.1.10	Agreement on the adequacy of the Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes baseline description	-	-	-	-	-		The full baseline description will be shared at PEI submission. Results of the geophysical and benthic surveys will be made available to the ETG.  The ETG would expect post-construction surveys for Dudgeon and Sheringham Shoal OWFs and existing MetOcean data will also be used in this analysis.
1.2	Benthic Ecology							
1.2.1	Agreement that the baseline should describe all subtidal and intertidal habitats and species with potential to be impacted by the projects with a focus on the MCZ and any other particularly sensitive receptors identified.	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	-		As described in the Scoping Report and ETG meeting slides.  Designated features within the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ are of particular interest, with a focus on the distribution and nature of any chalk areas (either at the surface or shallow subsurface). Annex I habitats and areas that might be important for e.g. herring and sandeel (see below) are also of interest.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Annex reference	Notes
1.2.2	Agreement on the relevance, appropriateness and sufficiency of proposed baseline data sources (including both site specific and contextual data)	-	-	-	-	-		As described in the Scoping Report and ETG meeting slides.  Includes reference to other surveys in the area including from Sheringham Shoal, Dudgeon, Hornsea Three, and MCZ surveys.
1.2.3	Agreement on the survey scope and methods for the targeted benthic survey	-	-	-	-	-		An outline scope of work has been shared. A detailed benthic survey design will be shared with the ETG on 22nd July 2020 for approval in advance of survey mobilisation.
1.2.4	Agreement on the adequacy of the geophysical survey results and targeted benthic survey results to describe benthic ecology	-	-	-	-	-		Results will be shared with ETG.
1.2.5	Agreement of adequacy of benthic ecology baseline description	-	-	-	-	-		
1.3	Fish and Shellfish Ecology							
1.3.1	Agreement that the baseline should describe the fish and shellfish community in the project area, including species of commercial importance, spawning and nursery areas, feeding grounds, migration routes and overwintering areas for crustaceans	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	-		As described in the Scoping Report, Scoping Opinion and ETG meeting slides.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Annex reference	Notes
1.3.2	Provisional agreement on the relevance, appropriateness and sufficiency of proposed baseline data sources	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	Agreed (30/10/19)	-		As described in the Scoping Report, Scoping Opinion and ETG meeting slides.  New fish characterisation surveys are not necessary as the sources of data proposed to inform the desk-based assessment will be adequate.  Assessment of herring potential spawning habitat and sandeel habitat will use MarineSpace method (published 2013).
1.3.3	Agreement of adequacy of fish and shellfish ecology baseline description	-	-	-	-	-		
2	ETG2 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2020							
Agreement of assessment methodology								
2.1	Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes							
2.1.1	Agreement of potential impacts to be assessed and those scoped out	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	-		As described in the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion.  To include assessment of effects on seabed features, including likely significant effects of changes to hydrodynamic and sedimentary processes on designated features of the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ, Greater Wash SPA and any other designated sites within the zone of influence.
2.1.2	Agreement that the expert judgement method (without the need for detailed	-	-	-	-	-		As described in the Scoping Report and ETG meeting slides.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Annex reference	Notes
	numerical modelling) proposed for the Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes PEI/ES for Dudgeon, Sheringham Shoal and cumulative impacts is appropriate and proportionate							<p>Assessed via conceptual model using existing resources, including the data collected for the Sheringham and Dudgeon projects. No numeral modelling required.</p> <p>ETG members note that the existing modelling being proposed to be used was conducted prior to construction but as both projects are now constructed, they question whether this modelling is fit for purpose.</p> <p>The ETG would expect that the use of the previous modelling is supported by post construction surveys and will provide further comment on the adequacy of this approach once the method statement has been updated to reflect this.</p>
2.1.3	Agreement that the methods for identifying the worst-case scenarios are appropriate and that the worst-case scenarios presented in the Method Statement are comprehensive and identify the elements of the project that will form the worst-case scenarios for Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical Processes	Agreed (02/06/20)	Agreed (02/06/20)	Agreed (02/06/20)	Agreed (02/06/20)	-		<p>No objections in the ETG meeting or in written responses.</p> <p>However, GBS foundations are now in the project envelope and the Method Statement will be updated accordingly.</p> <p>Furthermore, Natural England pointed out that several wind farms have recently committed to not using jack-up barges for installation due to the impact that this method has on the seabed. Natural England would therefore recommend re-considering their use at an early stage for all projects. The Applicant understands that this comment was made in relation to the</p>

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Annex reference	Notes
								export cable corridor only, and only within the MCZ.
2.1.4	Agreement that a combined approach of 1.) effects (where they are manifest as impacts on other receptors) and 2.) impacts (where they are defined as directly affecting receptors which possess their own intrinsic morphological value) is acceptable	Agreed (02/06/20)	Agreed (02/06/20)	Agreed (02/06/20)	Agreed (02/06/20)	-		No objections in the ETG meeting or in written responses.
2.1.5	Agreement on the list of projects and impacts for inclusion in the cumulative impact assessment	-	-	-	-	-		List of other plans, projects and activities provided in the draft Method Statement. Natural England recommend that TIER 5 projects should be included if a PEIR has been undertaken. This has been done for Norfolk Vanguard, Norfolk Boreas and Hornsea Project Three. Final list of other plans, projects and activities will be included in PEIR.
2.2	Benthic Ecology							
2.2.1	Agreement of potential impacts to be assessed and those scoped out	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	-		As described in the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion. To include assessment of likely significant effects on designated features of the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ, Greater Wash SPA and any other designated sites within the zone of influence.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Annex reference	Notes
2.2.2	Agreement of proposed approach to the benthic ecology impact assessment methodology	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	-		As described in the Scoping Report.  The Marine Evidence Based Sensitivity Assessment (MarESA) method will be used to determine sensitivity using data from the MarLIN.  'Advice on Operations' will also be used to assess impacts within the designated sites.
2.3	Fish and Shellfish Ecology							
2.3.1	Agreement of potential impacts to be assessed and those scoped out	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	-		As described in the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion.
2.3.2	Agreement of proposed approach to the fish and shellfish ecology impact assessment methodology	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	Agreed (18/11/19)	-		As described in the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion.
2.4	Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ and other marine designated sites							
2.4.1	Agreement of proposed approach to MCZ Assessment and potential effects to be assessed	Agreed – See note (02/06/20)	Agreed – See note (02/06/20)	Agreed – See note (02/06/20)	Agreed – See note (02/06/20)	-		As described in the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion.  A draft MCZ screening assessment has been shared with ETG members.  The ETG stated that effects on bedload sediment transport should be screened in. The screening report will be updated accordingly.  This will be followed by MCZ Assessment, supported by a cable installation/trenching assessment e.g. CSIP or similar.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Annex reference	Notes
								The proposed approach and potential effects to be assessed will be informed by the results of the relevant project surveys.
2.4.2	Agreement of proposed approach to HRA and potential effects to be assessed	-	-	-	-	-		<p>As described in the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion.</p> <p>A HRA screening exercise will be completed as part of the EIA process to determine if the Projects are likely to have a significant effect on the interest features of European sites, followed by shadow appropriate assessment as necessary.</p> <p>Conservation advice package 'Advice on Operations' will also be used to assess impacts within the designated sites.</p> <p>The proposed approach and potential effects to be assessed will be informed by the results of the relevant project surveys.</p>
2.4.3	Agreement on MCZ Assessment conclusions	-	-	-	-	-		The ETG stated that it is expected that the final MCZ Assessment, as a minimum, will follow the Hornsea Project Three MCZ assessment.
3	ETG3 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2021							
Agreement of mitigation measures and monitoring								
3.1	Agreement of mitigation measures	-	-	-	-	-		See 3.2 notes
3.2	Agreement of Measures of Equivalent Environmental	-	-	-	-	-		Natural England stated they anticipate having any upfront discussions on avoiding, reducing and mitigating impacts as soon as



ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO	Cefas	The Wildlife Trusts	EIFCA	Annex reference	Notes
	Benefit (MEEB) with the Cromer Shoal MCZ							possible so that should a stage two assessment be required MEEB can be explored prior to the start of examination.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO/Cefas	TWT	EIFCA	Notes
4	ETG4 16 August 2021					
General Cross-Topic Matters						
4.0	HDD will be used to install the export cable(s) at landfall (exiting ~1,000m from the coastline in the subtidal) and therefore intertidal impacts are avoided and do not require assessment.	Agreed as long as no access to intertidal by vehicles/machinery during installation works. (29/9/2021). There will need to be a new assessment and permissions if HDD become no longer feasible.	Defer to Natural England	Not present	Defer to Natural England	
Marine Geology, Oceanography and Physical processes (MGOPP)						
4.1	Sandbanks to be included as separate receptor within MGOPP assessment. The list of MGOPP receptors is therefore agreed i.e: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ</li> </ul>	Agreed (29/9/2021)	Agreed (12/08/21)	Not present	Defer to Natural England	

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO/Cefas	TWT	EIFCA	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastline</li> <li>Sandbanks</li> </ul>					
4.2	RHDHV to use CEFAS, 2016 report <sup>2</sup> on suspended sediment climatologies which will ensure adequate consideration of the baseline SCC environment.	Not agreed. Discussion to be had with CEFAS before agreeing this	Agreed (03/02/21)	n/a	n/a	Cefas stated agreement at ETG5
4.3	Additional scour pit modelling not required since scour protection will be used in areas subject to scour and monitoring of scour and secondary scour will be undertaken to be secured through the In-Principle Monitoring Plan	Not agreed. Secondary scour not considered here so unable to agree	Defer to Natural England	Not present	Defer to Natural England	
4.4	Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm (DOW) and Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm (SOW) plume modelling results provide suitable analogues and following further interpretation of these results within the ES chapter, project specific plume modelling is not required for SEP and DEP.	This is still under discussion as the minutes reflect	Defer to Natural England	Not present	Defer to Natural England	

<sup>2</sup> Cefas (2016). Suspended Sediment Climatologies around the UK. Report for the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy offshore energy Strategic Environmental Assessment Programme.

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO/Cefas	TWT	EIFCA	Notes
4.5	In order to demonstrate the lack of significant effects on waves, RHDHV will review wave modelling undertaken for the Hornsea Projects and incorporate any findings within the SEP and DEP MGOPE ES assessment.	Ongoing, the best available evidence should be used		Not present	n/a	Superseded by 5.4. Wave modelling now being undertaken.
4.6	Footprints of secondary scour will not be factored into the worst case scenarios for direct impacts because they cannot be quantified and are not comparable in terms of impact pathways to the use of scour protection.	n/a	n/a	Not present	n/a	
<b>MWSQ</b>						
4.7	The suite of contaminants tested for (as set out within the MWSQ chapter and benthic characterisation appendices) is agreed.	Pending update / agreement by the MMO	Still under discussion	Not present	n/a	NE comment: See Comments above [response to ETG4 minutes], there is additional PAH data within Appendix 10.2 [and Appendix 10.1 of the PEIR] Baseline report that meets the MMO analyte requirements. However the issue of the Fugro laboratory methodology requires approval by the MMO.
<b>Benthic</b>						
4.8	Cumulative zone of potential influence of 10km is appropriate for benthic cumulative assessment.	Agreed (29/9/2021)	Agreed	Not present		
<b>Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b>						

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO/Cefas	TWT	EIFCA	Notes
4.10	Underwater noise modelling from concurrent piling between SEP and DEP to be undertaken and included in the assessment. Behavioural contours to also be included.	Agreed (29/9/2021)	Defer to Natural England	Not present	Defer to Natural England	
Cromer Shoal Chalk beds MCZ Assessment						
4.11	Seabed disturbance from UXO detonation to be included in the Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ assessment, following the same approach and assumptions as adopted for the marine mammals assessment for consistency.	Agreed (29/9/2021)	Defer to Natural England	Not present	Defer to Natural England (Fisheries Liaison Officer liaise with fishermen)	
4.12	Only SOW and DOW operation impacts to be included in the MCZ cumulative assessment. It is not appropriate to include SOW and DOW construction impacts however detail from SOW and DOW monitoring to be considered as appropriate.	Agreed (29/9/2021)	Defer to Natural England	Not present	Defer to Natural England	
5	ETG5 14 March 2022					
General CSIMP/MCZA Matters						
5.1	It is agreed that an HDD exit point in a soft sediment area of the MCZ (avoiding areas of outcropping chalk reef) will minimise impacts on the most	Agreed	Defer to Natural England	Not present	Defer to Natural England (FLO	

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO/Cefas	TWT	EIFCA	Notes
	sensitive features of the MCZ.				liaise with fishermen)	
5.2	The range of embedded and additional mitigation measures described in the draft Outline Cable Specification and Installation Monitoring Plan (CSIMP) [now the Outline Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds MCZ CSIMP] (section 1.6) are appropriate for avoiding, minimising and mitigating potential impacts in the MCZ.	Still under discussion	Still under discussion	Not present	Defer to Natural England	
<b>Marine Geology Oceanography and Physical Processes</b>						
5.4	It is agreed that modelling of potential changes to wave regime as a result of the presence of the SEP, DEP, SOW and DOW offshore wind farms only, is appropriate to inform the EIA.	n/a	Still under discussion	Not present	n/a	Wave climate modelling provided within Appendix 6.2 (document reference 6.3.6.2) of the ES
<b>Benthic Ecology</b>						
5.5	Deviation from the MarESA sensitivity classifications for the biotopes recorded is acceptable since the assessment considers the wider presence of the biotope across the region and therefore a reduction in sensitivity from 'high' to	This is still under discussion	This is still under discussion	Not present	Defer to Natural England	Cefas indicated that this approach sounded sensible during meeting

ID	Agreement	Natural England	MMO/Cefas	TWT	EIFCA	Notes
	<p>'medium' is appropriate. However, Annex I / UK BAP priority habitat <i>S. spinulosa</i> reefs that can be associated with biotope A5.611 and the UK BAP priority habitat 'peat and clay exposures with piddocks' which can be associated with biotope A4.231, will remain as high sensitivity.</p>					