



Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm

Category 8: Other Documents

Fishing Liaison and Co-existence Plan

Date: April 2022

Revision: A

Application Reference: 8.5

Pursuant to: APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)



REVISION	DATE	STATUS/ REASON FOR ISSUE	AUTHOR:	CHECKED BY:	APPROVED BY:
A	March 2022	ES	RWE	RWE	RWE

www.awelymor.cymru

RWE Renewables UK
Swindon Limited

Windmill Hill Business Park
Whitehill Way
Swindon
Wiltshire SN5 6PB
T +44 (0)8456 720 090
www.rwe.com

Registered office:
RWE Renewables UK
Swindon Limited
Windmill Hill Business Park
Whitehill Way
Swindon



Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Fisheries Cooperation Strategy

August 2021

Brown & May Marine

Contents

1.0 Introduction	3
2.0 Cooperation payments	3
3.0 Assessment approach	4
3.1 Evidence requirements	4
3.2 Outline process.....	4
4.0 Calculating the value of the Cooperation Payment (CP)	6
4.1 CP value calculation methodology	6
4.2 Payment schedule	6

1.0 Introduction

RWE is developing plans to consent and construct the Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm (AyM) off the coast of North Wales. If the project receives a Development Consent Order from UK Government, and a Marine Licence from Natural Resources Wales (NRW, on behalf of Welsh Government), the first construction activities could commence on the wind farm array from 2027.

RWE will be offering a **Cooperation Payment** (CP) to fishermen, subject to the provision of evidence, for the exclusion of all fishing gear and activities from the entire construction area. The purpose of this CP will be to mitigate financial losses arising from the loss of access to fishing grounds during the construction period.

The chart accompanying this document describes the location of the AyM project and the location and extent of the **Fishing Exclusion Zone** (FEZ).

2.0 Cooperation payments

There are two phases of the development for which CP may be appropriate: the construction phase, when all fishing activity may be excluded from a safety zone around construction activities; and the operational phase, when the presence of the windfarm may prevent certain fishing activities that had previously been conducted in the area. The two phases can be briefly summarised:

- **Construction phase** – Offshore construction of AyM may be carried out between **2027** and **2030**. The duration of implementation of the FEZ will be based on the construction period between **2027** and **2030** (subject to confirmation as the project progresses). During this period it is presumed that there will be no fishing activity within the FEZ. CPs would be based on losses that can be associated with the FEZ.
- **Operational phase** – The wind farm is due to operate for a period of **20 years**. Certain fishing métiers (such as tangle or gill netting) may not be compatible with the presence of wind turbines. It may therefore be appropriate to enter into a cooperation agreement with any fishermen who can establish that they will experience a loss of fishing opportunity within the windfarm area during its operational phase.

For each vessel that is assessed, it will be important to determine whether CPs are required for just the construction phase of the project or both the construction and operational phases. This determination will be made by the specialists carrying out the assessment.

3.0 Assessment approach

This document sets out an assessment approach that follows FLOWW guidelines. The general evidence requirements and key stages in the assessment process are set out below. Exact evidence requirements will be confirmed on an individual basis (covering different fishing activities).

3.1 Evidence requirements

The evidence requirements will follow the FLOWW Guidelines as listed:

- A. High resolution, detailed plotter screenshots¹ and/ or annotated FEZ paper chart showing historic fishing practices in the area and extent² of the applicant's fishing grounds;
- B. Statement of, as appropriate:
 - a. Number of fleets (strings of shellfish pots) and total number of pots per fleet, requiring removal from the FEZ and associated coordinates of where fleets will be moved from; and/or
 - b. Length of nets (gill or tangle nets) requiring removal from the FEZ and associated coordinates of where nets will be moved from; and/or
 - c. Extent of total area fished using mobile fishing gear and its relationship with the FEZ; and/or
 - d. Location and number of angling marks fished and their relationship with the FEZ.
- C. Copies of the following documents, as appropriate
 - a. fishing licence;
 - b. Copy of MCA certificate;
 - c. Certificate of British Registry;
 - d. A selection of sales notes for the last three months;
 - e. A list of angling trips and income from these trips.
- D. Previous three year's Annual Accounts as submitted for tax.

Evidence provided by applicants will be reviewed to ensure authenticity and appropriateness of application. Where necessary, an applicant may be requested to provide further evidence, e.g. of the extent of fishing ground.

Please note that unless there is good reason (communicated appropriately to the FLO), signed contracts and evidence must be received prior to commencement of the FEZ.

3.2 Outline process

The key steps in the CP process are as follows:

- I. RWE issues 'Cooperation Payment Process' document to the local fishing community
- II. Potential applicants inform RWE (via the FLO) of their **Intention to Apply** for the CCP by **Friday 12th November 2021**;
- III. RWE issues the **Application Pack** to all potential applicants on receipt of an Intention to Apply;
- IV. Applicants compile the **evidence requirements**, including information on their individual **Fishing Grounds** and post the information to the FLO using the postage-paid envelope or email scanned copies to FLO;

¹ Mobile phone / camera photos of the plotter screen will suffice and can be emailed to the FLO. If possible, plotter shots should include sight of land for reference and/ or the export cable corridor if present on the vessels plotter.

² The extent of an applicant's fishing grounds will be digitised in GIS for the CP value calculation.

- V. BMM reviews evidence, digitises / establishes the proportion of affected fleets /fishing area/ marks, calculates proposed **CP values** and informs RWE of the value;
- VI. RWE approves values and BMM informs applicants of the value;
- VII. Applicant-RWE **negotiations** (where required);
- VIII. Subject to agreement of the CP value, RWE updates **Fisheries Cooperation Payment**.

Agreement;

- I. Applicants **sign** and date both copies of the Fisheries CP Agreement and send the documents to the AyM FLO using the second postage-paid envelope;
- II. RWE **counter-signs** both copies of the Fisheries CP Agreement, retains one copy and sends the second copy back to applicants via the AyM FLO;
- III. RWE issues a **FEZ Commencement Notice** a minimum of **14-days prior** to the start of the construction works;
- IV. Applicant takes the cooperation steps specified in the FCPA (e.g. moving static gear out of the FEZ);
- V. RWE make **payments** against individual's CP value on a **periodic** basis
- VI. RWE issues periodic **updates** on progress and activity through the FEZ period by way of notices and communications; and
- VII. RWE issues **FEZ Completion Notice**.

4.0 Calculating the value of the Cooperation Payment (CP)

4.1 CP value calculation methodology

Subject to meeting the evidence requirements described in **Section 3.1**, the value of an individual applicant's CP will be calculated as the 'percentage loss of annual earnings defined by the percentage of the applicant's wider fishing grounds lost during the construction works'. The CP value calculation will also include a reduction adjustment for the fact that the applicant will still have the option to deploy gear in their wider fishing grounds or new grounds while the FEZ is in place.

An example of how the value of the CP may be calculated for vessels using static fishing gear (fleets of fishing pots) is shown below:

Table 1: Illustrative example of Cooperation Payment calculation for a hypothetical potting vessel fishing fleets of lobster pots in the Awel y Môr Offshore Windfarm area.

Item	Value
Length of construction period (years)	2
Total number of fleets for "Vessel X"	75
Number of fleets excluded through FEZ	12
Percentage of fleets affected	16%
Annual gross profit of "Vessel X" (for illustrative purposes)	£60,000
Potential disruption per year	£60,000 x 16% = £9,600
Potential disruption over 2 year construction programme	£19,200
Reduction adjustment	25%
Value of Cooperation Payment for "Vessel X"	£14,400

For other fishing métiers it may be appropriate to use a different metric to calculate lost fishing opportunity. For instance, for charter angling vessels it may be appropriate to calculate the number of fishing "marks" that lie within the FEZ and the number of "client-days" fishing these marks that would be lost.

The metric that is used may vary between vessels using the same métier since different skippers may have different information available. The specialists carrying out the assessment will determine the most appropriate metric to use for each fishing vessel.

4.2 Payment schedule

Payments are anticipated to be issued as bank transfers. Furthermore, payments against an individual's CP value will be made on a periodic basis. Payments will be inclusive of Value Added Tax (VAT).



RWE Renewables UK
Swindon Limited

Windmill Hill Business Park
Whitehill Way
Swindon
Wiltshire SN5 6PB
T +44 (0)8456 720 090
www.rwe.com

Registered office:
RWE Renewables UK
Swindon Limited
Windmill Hill Business Park
Whitehill Way
Swindon