

Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Project
Case Team
National Infrastructure Planning

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Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Project

Thank you for consulting JNCC on the additional information submitted by the Awel y Môr (AyM) Offshore Wind Farm Project regarding their cumulative effects assessment, which we received on 14 August 2023.

The advice contained within this minute is provided by JNCC as part of our statutory advisory role to the UK Government and devolved administrations on issues relating to nature conservation in UK offshore waters (beyond the territorial limit).

Our review as focussed on the Review of cumulative and in-combination effects post examination submission report dated 11 July 2023 (revision A). JNCC defer to NRW and NE for sites considered except for Liverpool Bay SPA and North Anglesey Marine SAC, where JNCC are jointly responsible (with NRW and NE) for management advice, and as such have provided comments here.

Liverpool Bay SPA

Table 1: Summary of the consideration of the potential effects of Mona, Morgan and Morecambe cumulatively with AyM

Clarity is required on how in-combination effects were considered in light of AyM contribution and the contribution of other projects, to any potential LSE. For example:

- Table 1 states that for offshore ornithology, no potential for significant cumulative effects was identified in the AyM CEA conclusion.
- Table 1 also indicates that there is potential for significant effects to occur cumulatively with AyM, for each of Mona Morgan and Morecambe.
- Table 1 final column then goes on to state that, for offshore ornithology, there is no additional cumulative LSE (effects all remain minor and no LSE).

Clarity is required on how these conclusions were reached, and should be considered, for AyM, as opposed to Mona, Morgan or Morecambe.

Table 2: Consideration of the potential effects of Mona, Morgan and Morecambe cumulatively with AyM

Whilst the PEIR for Mona, Morgan or Morecambe have been published, only Morecambe is thought to have any potential for interaction with the conservation objectives for Liverpool Bay SPA based on the information available. The information provided in the PEIR for Morecambe is based on 12 months of survey data. JNCC would not normally be able to make any conclusions based on only 12 months of survey data, and therefore are not in a position to provide any advice that differs from advice previously provided wrt potential in-combination effects to Liverpool Bay SPA, at this time.

It should be noted that JNCC are not statutory consultees for Morcambe and are commenting here only in relation to potential implications of an in-combination assessment of existing and planned projects on Liverpool Bay SPA, given the information available.

North Anglesey Marine SAC

Table 1: Summary of the consideration of the potential effects of Mona, Morgan and Morecambe cumulatively with AyM

We agree that cumulative impacts upon marine mammals from Mona, Morgan or Morecombe are possible due to the overlapping construction timetables.

Table 2: Consideration of the potential effects of Mona, Morgan and Morecambe cumulatively with AyM

Based on the location of the three proposed projects, we advise Mona is the one with the most potential for interaction with the conservation objectives for the North Anglesey Marine SAC. JNCC agree that underwater noise and vessel activity are the impacts mostly to result in cumulative impacts. We also agree it is not possible at this stage to rule out the potential for significant cumulative effects with regard Conservation Objective 2 of this site, no disturbance to harbour porpoise. A noise management approach is in place to manage disturbance within this site and Mona et al have committed to undertaking further assessment impacts in their ES. However, to ensure no significant in-combination effect on this site, mitigation and management measures must be secured as conditions of the relevant consents.

Table 3: Revised Draft National Policy Statement Tracker

Draft EN-3 3.8.1.48: AyM had previously not identified the need for a Site Integrity Plan for cumulative or in-combination effects to marine mammals as they had not identified the potential for such effects. However the potential for this can no longer be ruled out, therefore this approach should be reviewed.

Please contact me with any questions regarding the above comments.

Yours sincerely,

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