



THE PLANNING ACT 2008

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES

2010

FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WIND FARM

Appendix H7 Natural England's Marine Mammal Advice on the Applicant's Deadline 5 Documents

For:

The construction and operation of Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm, located approximately 57 km from the Essex Coast in the Southern North Sea.

Planning Inspectorate Reference EN010115

03 March 2025

Appendix H7 Natural England’s Marine Mammal Advice on the Applicant’s Deadline 5 Documents

In formulating these comments, the following documents have been considered:

- [REP5-071] Five Estuaries 10.13 Marine Mammal iPCoD Modelling for Project Alone – Revision B (Tracked)
- [REP5-074] Five Estuaries 10.34.1 Applicant’s Comments on Natural England’s Deadline 4 Submissions – Revision A
- [REP5-012] Five Estuaries 5.4.3 HRA Screening Matrices – Revision B (Tracked)

Table 1: Natural England’s advice on: Marine Mammals

Document reviewed	Update made	Issue resolved? Yes/No/Progressed
[REP5-071] Five Estuaries 10.13 Marine Mammal iPCoD Modelling for Project alone - Revision B (Tracked)	<p>Natural England welcomes the inclusion of the median and 95% CIs to the iPCoD results tables.</p> <p>However, we note that there is no variation for median, mean and CI values for both species of seals between impacted and unimpacted populations (Tables 5.2.and 5.3). It is our understanding that the iPCoD model runs the simulations 1000 times for each scenario thus there is an expectation that the output values would show some variation. The outputs could potentially be the same if the population size is large (please note, a slight variation is present in the modelling scenarios for harbour porpoise whose population is significantly larger than those of seals), however the starting population for harbour seals is small and even considering a declining population does not demonstrate any level of variation between the impacted and unimpacted populations.</p> <p>In light of this, we have concerns around the variability of the outputs for the project alone and we believe that there is value in undertaking in-combination iPCoD modelling which may indicate a greater level of variation and potential population level impacts warranting further investigation.</p>	Progressed
[REP5-074] Five Estuaries 10.34.1 Applicant's Comments on Natural England's Deadline 4 Submissions - Revision A (NE 81)	<p>The Defra Marine Noise Policy paper has been published (Reducing marine noise - GOV.UK).</p> <p>It outlines the expectation that from January 2025: <i>‘all offshore wind pile driving activity across all English waters will be required to demonstrate that they have utilised best endeavours to deliver noise reductions through the use of primary and/or secondary noise reduction methods in the first instance’</i>. Thus, Natural England reiterate our original advice on the need to commit to Noise Abatement System (NAS) within the Marine</p>	No.

	Mammal Mitigation Protocol (MMMP) and Site Integrity Plan (SIP) and update them accordingly.	
[REP5-012] Five Estuaries 5.4.3 HRA Screening Matrices - Revision B (Tracked	Natural England notes only minor edits in the matrices for marine mammal SACs. We would reiterate that all harbour porpoise SACs within the Management Unit should be screened into assessment.	No