

Chairman: Prof Peter Jones
Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer: Mr Robert Pearson

C/O Ms Maria Militsky
Offshore Consents Manager Rampion 2
Email: [REDACTED]@rwe.com

Sussex IFCA Contact Officer:
Dr Jen Lewis
Conservation and Research Manager

25th April 2024

Dear Ms Militsky,

RE: Rampion 2 Responses to Written Questions (ExQ1)

CF 1.2: Winter Fishing in Array Areas

In the Applicant's submission "Further Information for Action Point 31 – Winter Fishing" [REP-029] it suggests that there has been lower level of activity in the R1 array area during winter, possibly due to the winter weather and also the perceived risks of operating within a windfarm array area. Would the SIFCA agree with the conclusions of this document and what would be the long-term consequences of commercial fishing post construction, particularly within the proposed Rampion 2 array areas?

Sussex IFCA agrees that skippers are likely to operate at a lower level within the windfarm during the winter. This is due to increased risk of fixed gear moving around during adverse weather conditions and getting caught around the turbines. The long-term consequences to commercial fishing within the proposed Rampion 2 array areas, during and post construction, will be negative. Financial compensation to local fishers will go some way towards mitigating these negative consequences. If needed, Sussex IFCA can liaise with and support the local fleet with respect to any cooperation agreements and associated payment applications, for example by providing evidence of fishing activity through our shellfish permit scheme and sightings data.

Sussex IFCA would also like to comment that there are no clear conclusions from the document "Further Information for Action Point 31 – Winter Fishing [REP-029]" as it is just a summary of trends rather than any statistical analysis on the data.

On behalf of the Authority,

Yours sincerely,

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Dr Jen Lewis
Sussex IFCA