



**RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank
South (West) Limited**

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South (East) Limited**

**Dogger Bank South Offshore
Wind Farms**

**National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation
Statement of Common Ground**

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Glossary

Term	Definition
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for one or more Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
Environmental Statement (ES)	A document reporting the findings of the EIA and produced in accordance with the EIA Directive as transposed into UK law by the EIA Regulations.
Evidence Plan Process (EPP)	A voluntary consultation process with specialist stakeholders to agree the approach, and information to support, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for certain topics.
Expert Topic Group (ETG)	A forum for targeted engagement with regulators and interested stakeholders through the EPP.
Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)	The process that determines whether or not a plan or project may have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European Site or European Offshore Marine Site.
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects	Large scale development including power generating stations which requires development consent under the Planning Act 2008. An offshore wind farm project with a capacity of more than 100MW constitutes an NSIP
Non-Statutory Consultee	Organisations that the Applicants may choose to engage (if, for example, there are planning policy reasons to do so) who are not designated in law but are likely to have an interest in a proposed development
Planning Inspectorate (PINS)	The agency responsible for operating the planning process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	Defined in the EIA Regulations as information referred to in part 1, Schedule 4 (information for inclusion in Environmental Statements) which has been compiled by the Applicants and is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of the development
Project Change Request 1	The proposed changes to the DCO application for the Projects set out in Project Change Request 1 - Offshore & Intertidal Works [AS-141] .

Term	Definition
Receptor	A distinct part of the environment on which effects could occur and can be the subject of specific assessments. Examples of Receptors include species (or groups) of animals, plants, people (often categorised further such as 'residential' or those using areas for amenity or recreation), watercourses etc.
Section 42 Consultee	Organisations and individuals that are required to be consulted by the Applicants under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. Non-prescribed section 42 consultees may be included by Applicants if identified as being of significance.
The Applicants	The Applicants for the Projects are RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Limited and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Limited. The Applicants are themselves jointly owned by the RWE Group of companies (51% stake) and (Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company) - Masdar (49% stake).
The Projects	DBS East and DBS West (collectively referred to as the Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms).

Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
CBRA	Cable Burial Risk Assessment
CEA	Cumulative Effects Assessment
DBS	Dogger Bank South
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
ETG	Expert Topic Group
ExA	Examining Authority
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
NFFO	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PEMP	Project Environmental Management Plan
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

1. The Application is for development consent for the Applicants to construct and operate the proposed Projects under the Planning Act 2008. Further description of the Projects is available in **Chapter 5 Project Description** [APP-071].
2. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared between RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (West) Ltd and RWE Renewables UK Dogger Bank South (East) Ltd, ('the Applicants') and the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation ('NFFO') to set out the areas of agreement and disagreement between the two parties in relation to the proposed Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the Dogger Bank South ('DBS') West Offshore Wind Farm and DBS East Offshore Wind Farm, collectively known as DBS Offshore Wind Farms (herein 'the Projects').
3. In drafting this SoCG, the Applicants have had regard to the Planning Act 2008 Guidance: Examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2024).
4. The need for a SoCG between the Applicants and NFFO has been set out within the Rule 6 letter issued by the Planning Inspectorate post-application of the Projects DCO.
5. This SoCG is intended to provide the Examining Authority (ExA) with a clear summary of discussions between the parties and has been structured to reflect topics which are of interest to the NFFO, and which have been raised within the **NFFO's Relevant Representation** [RR-034] to the Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farms DCO that has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate pursuant to the Planning Act 2008.
6. It is the intention that this document will facilitate further discussions between the Applicants and the NFFO and will provide the ExA with a clear overview of the level of common ground between both parties. This document will be updated throughout the Examination process.
7. The following application documents have informed the discussions with the NFFO and address the elements of the Projects that may affect the interests of the NFFO.

Table 1-1 - Application Documents of interest to the NFFO

Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter/ Application Document	Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Reference
Draft Development Consent Order	APP-027 (superseded by Revision 4 - AS-130 and AS-131)
Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology	APP-091
Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries	APP-117
Cable Statement [Including: Outline Cable Burial and Specification, Installation and Monitoring Plan, Cable Burial Risk Assessment and Cable Protection Plan, including consideration of cabling in DB SAC]	APP-244 (superseded by Revision 2 - AS-078 and AS-079)
Outline Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan	APP-252 (superseded by Revision 2 - AS-082 and AS-083)
Heat Mapping Report: Atlantic Herring and Sandeel	AS-105

8. The NFFO and the Applicants have been working together to minimise possible impacts of the Projects on the NFFO’s operations, and so the NFFO may influence and enhance the design of the Projects where appropriate.

1.2 Approach to SoCG

9. This SoCG has been developed during the pre-examination [and examination] phases of the Projects. In accordance with discussions between the Applicants and the NFFO, this SoCG is focused on matters of material interest and relevance to the NFFO, namely matters covered in the Application Documents outlined in **Table 1-1** and related topics.
10. The structure of this SoCG is as follows:
- **Introduction:** background to the development of the SoCG.
 - **Consultation and Engagement:** a summary of consultation and engagement with the NFFO to date.
 - **Agreement Log:** a record of the Applicants’ position alongside the NFFO’s position. **Table 3-2** to **Table 3-4** set out those areas agreed in relation to the application documents set out in **Table 1-1**. Where a matter is ‘not agreed’ or ‘under discussion’ this is described in further detail in **Table 3-5** to **Table 3-7**.

11. It is agreed that this SoCG is an accurate description of the areas agreed and under discussion between the parties, and that this SoCG accurately records key meetings and consultation with the NFFO.
12. As referenced in **Table 2-1**, the Applicants consulted the NFFO on Project Change Request 1 between 15th November and 16th December 2024. The NFFO did not provide any consultation comments on the Project Change Request.

2 Consultation and Engagement

2.1 Introduction

13. The NFFO have been consulted on the proposed development throughout the pre-application stage, having engaged in the Commercial Fisheries Expert Topic Group (ETG) meetings under the Evidence Plan Process, as well as via non-statutory and statutory consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008.

2.2 Consultation and Engagement Summary

14. **Table 2-1** summarises the consultation that the Applicants have undertaken with the NFFO as statutory or non-statutory consultation during the pre-application and post-application phases.

Table 2-1 - Summary of pre-application and post-application consultation with the NFFO

Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title / Topic	Summary of Consultation
Pre-Application			
30/03/2022	ETG Meeting	Joint Commercial Fisheries Working Group (Sofia and DBS)	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to DBS project; and • Discussions and Questions.
06/01/2023	ETG Meeting	Commercial Fisheries Working Group	The following topics were discussed during the ETG meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Introduction and Update; • Commercial Fisheries Overview; • Offshore Survey work; and • MarineSpace EIA update.
18/07/2023	Section 42 Consultation	Commercial Fisheries	NFFO response to section 42 consultation on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). See Appendix G of the Consultation Report [APP-044].
11/12/2023	ETG Meeting	Commercial Fisheries	Post-PEIR updates to the Projects were presented to the NFFO.
Post-Application			
16/09/2024	Email	Relevant Representation	Received NFFO’s Relevant Representation via the Planning Inspectorate.

Date	Form of Consultation	Meeting Title / Topic	Summary of Consultation
01/10/2024	Meeting	Draft SoCG Meeting	Meeting to discuss the draft NFFO SoCG.
04/10/2024	Email	Draft SoCG and meeting minutes	Draft SoCG and minutes from meeting on the 1 st October 2024 issued to NFFO for comment.
08/10/2024	Email	Relevant Representation	The Applicants issued their responses to the NFFO's Relevant Representation via the Planning Inspectorate.
21/10/2024	Email	Draft SoCG	NFFO returned the draft SoCG with comments.
15/11/2024	Email	Project Change Request 1	Project Change Request 1 - Environmental Assessment Update [document reference: C1.1] issued to NFFO for comment.
16/12/2024	Email	Draft SoCG	Revised draft SoCG issued to NFFO for comment.
13/01/2025	Email	Draft SoCG	NFFO confirmed agreement of draft SoCG for submission into Examination at Deadline 1.

3 Agreement Log

3.1 Overview

15. The following sections of this SoCG summarise the level of agreement between the parties for each relevant offshore topic.
16. To easily identify whether a matter is 'agreed', 'not agreed' or 'under discussion', a colour coding system of, red, amber, green, is used respectively within the 'position status colour' column as set out in **Table 3-1**.
17. Where a matter is 'not agreed' or 'under discussion' further detail is provided in section 3.5.

Table 3-1 - Agreement logs position status key

Position Status	Position Status Colour
The matter is considered to be agreed between the parties.	Agreed
The matter is neither 'agreed' or 'not agreed' and is a matter where further discussion is required between the parties, for example where relevant documents are being prepared or reviewed.	Under discussion
The matter is not agreed between the parties, however the outcome of the approach taken by either the Applicant or the NFFO is not considered to result in a material impact to the assessment conclusions. Discussions have concluded.	Not agreed – No material impact
The matter is not agreed between the parties and the outcome of the approach taken by either the Applicant or the NFFO is considered to result in a materially different outcome on the assessment conclusions.	Not agreed – material impact

3.2 General

Table 3-2 - General topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed with the NFFO

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The NFFO's Position	Position Status
EIA – Consultation			
1.	The Applicants have adequately consulted with the NFFO throughout all stages of the Projects to date and the summary of Consultation (section 2.2 of this SoCG) is a fair and accurate record of pre-application consultation.	The NFFO agree with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
EIA – Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives			
2.	The site selection and route refinement outlined in Chapter 4 Site Selection and Assessment of Alternatives (Revision 2) [AS-017] has properly considered the alternatives for the relevant elements of the Projects (Landfall, Offshore Export Cable Corridor and Array Areas).	It was noted during the NFFO SoCG call held on 01/10/2024 that due to a changeover in staff at the NFFO, they were not sure of the position taken regarding the site selection process previously. Was noted the NFFO would investigate this matter further.	
Cable Statement (Including Preliminary Cable Burial Risk Assessment)			
3.	The Preliminary Cable Burial Risk Assessment (CBRA) provided within the Cable Statement (Revision 2) [AS-078] includes sufficient detail to inform stakeholders of the likely cable and cable protection installation methodology to be used for the Projects.	It was noted during the NFFO SoCG call held on 01/10/2024 that comments on the CBRA would be provided with the NFFO's Written Representation.	

3.3 Fish and Shellfish Ecology

Table 3-3 - Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to Fish and Shellfish Ecology

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	NFFO's Position	Position Status
EIA – Planning and Policy			
4.	<p>All relevant plans and policies have been identified in section 10.4.1 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.</p> <p>The NFFO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.</p>	The NFFO agree with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
EIA – Baseline Environment			
5.	The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment as detailed in section 10.5 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091].	The NFFO raised several queries with regards to the adequacy of data used to inform the baseline in their relevant representation and Section 42 response.	
6.	Sufficient survey data has been collected to inform the assessment as presented within section 10.5 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091].	NFFO stated that ' <i>no site-specific surveys undertaken to aid in characterising the fish and shellfish baseline environment</i> ' in their Section 42 response.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	NFFO's Position	Position Status
EIA – Assessment Methodology			
7.	<p>The study area identified in section 10.3.1 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] is appropriate.</p> <p>The NFFO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.</p>	The NFFO agree with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
8.	<p>The realistic worst case scenario presented in the assessment for the development scenarios, as outlined in Table 10-1 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] is appropriate.</p> <p>The NFFO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.</p>	The NFFO agree with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
9.	The embedded mitigation measures in Table 10-3 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] are appropriate and in line with industry ways of working for the impacts identified.	In their Section 42 response the NFFO noted ' <i>We are concerned with the lack of fish and shellfish species monitoring proposed</i> '.	
10.	The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA, as presented in section 10.4.3 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091], provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the Projects.	NFFO noted in their relevant representation that data from other wind farm surveys which used incorrect	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	NFFO's Position	Position Status
		methodology for the assumptions made were used to inform the baseline for the Projects.	
11.	The assessment of the significance of effects presented in section 10.6 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] is consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies.	In their relevant representation the NFFO stated: ' <i>The NFFO disagreed with the conclusions reached in the assessment</i> '.	
12.	<p>Section 10.6.1 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during construction.</p> <p>The NFFO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.</p>	The NFFO agree with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
13.	<p>Section 10.6.2 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] represents a comprehensive list of the potential impacts during operation.</p> <p>The NFFO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.</p>	The NFFO agree with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	NFFO's Position	Position Status
14.	The assessment of cumulative effects, as detailed in section 10.7 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] is consistent with the agreed methodologies.	No specific comments were made regarding the Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) conclusions in the NFFO's relevant representation. However, given the strong disagreement noted for the project-alone assessment conclusions, agreement cannot be noted at this time.	
EIA - Assessment Conclusions			
15.	The conclusions of assessment of significance as detailed in section 10.6 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	In their relevant representation the NFFO stated: ' <i>The NFFO disagreed with the conclusions reached in the assessment</i> '.	
EIA – Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) Conclusions			
16.	The conclusions of the CEA as detailed in section 10.7 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	No specific comments were made regarding the CEA conclusions in the NFFO's relevant representation.	

3.4 Commercial Fisheries

Table 3-4 - Topics agreed, in discussion or not agreed in relation to Commercial Fisheries

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The NFFO's Position	Position Status
EIA – Planning and Policy			
17.	<p>All relevant plans and policies have been identified in section 13.4.1 of Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries [APP-117] and these have been appropriately considered in the assessment.</p> <p>The NFFO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.</p>	The NFFO agree with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
EIA – Baseline Environment			
18.	The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment as detailed in section 13.5 of Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries [APP-117].	The NFFO confirmed this matter was agreed with the Applicants in an email dated 27/01/2025.	
19.	Sufficient existing data sources have been used to inform the assessment as presented within section 13.6 of Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries [APP-117].	The NFFO confirmed this matter was agreed with the Applicants in an email dated 27/01/2025.	
EIA – Assessment Methodology			

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The NFFO's Position	Position Status
20.	<p>The study area identified in section 13.3.1 of Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries [APP-117] is appropriate.</p> <p>The NFFO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.</p>	<p>The NFFO agree with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.</p>	
21.	<p>The realistic worst case scenario presented in the assessment for the development scenarios, as outlined in Table 13-1 of Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries [APP-117] is appropriate.</p> <p>The NFFO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.</p>	<p>The NFFO agree with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.</p>	
22.	<p>The embedded mitigation measures in Table 13-3-3 of Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries [APP-117] are sufficient and appropriate.</p>	<p>In their relevant representation the NFFO disagreed with the lack of mitigation included within the assessment, specifically with regards to a lack of mitigation regarding potential economic loss for commercial fisheries receptors and the potential increase in spatial squeeze on fishermen in the region.</p> <p>In the NFFO SoCG Meeting held on 01/10/2024, the NFFO expressed their desire for a commercial fisheries activity monitoring project, which includes a defined period of</p>	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The NFFO's Position	Position Status
		monitoring activity, to be incorporated as an additional embedded mitigation measure, in addition to a regular review of the fishing restrictions within the Special Area of Conservation (SAC).	
23.	The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA, as presented in section 13.4 of Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries [APP-117], provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts on the Projects.	The NFFO consider that the standard EIA Methodology used for offshore wind assessments is not appropriate. The NFFO agreed in an email dated 27/01/2025 however that this is not an issue specific to the Projects however, and is the NFFO's national position on EIA Methodology. As such, it was agreed with the NFFO this item should be noted as 'Agreed – no material impacts' in an email dated 27/01/2025.	
24.	The assessment of significance presented in section 13.6 of Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries [APP-117] is consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies.	The NFFO disagreed with the conclusions reached in the assessment in their relevant representation, stating: <i>'We feel that the commercial fisheries assessment underestimates the impacts at almost every stage', and 'The NFFO disagreed with the conclusions reached in the assessment'. 'The NFFO also do not agree that the methodology is appropriate'.</i>	
25.	Section 13.6.1 of Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries [APP-117] represents a comprehensive list of the potential effects during construction.	The NFFO agree with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The NFFO's Position	Position Status
	The NFFO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.		
26.	Section 13.6.2 of Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries [APP-117] represents a comprehensive list of the potential effects during operation. The NFFO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.	The NFFO agree with the Applicants and consider this matter agreed.	
27.	The assessment of cumulative effects, as detailed in section 13.8 of Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries [APP-117] is consistent with the agreed methodologies.	No specific comments were made regarding the CEA conclusions in the NFFO's relevant representation.	
EIA - Assessment Conclusions			
28.	The conclusions of the assessment of significance as detailed in in section 13.6 of Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries [APP-117] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	The NFFO disagreed with the conclusions reached in the assessment in their relevant representation, stating: <i>'We feel that the commercial fisheries assessment underestimates the impacts at almost every stage',</i> and	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The NFFO's Position	Position Status
		<i>'The NFFO disagreed with the conclusions reached in the assessment'.</i>	
EIA – Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) Conclusions			
29.	The conclusions of the CEA as detailed in section 13.8 of Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries [APP-117] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	No specific comments were made regarding the CEA conclusions in the NFFO's relevant representation.	
Draft DCO / Outline Management Plans / Mitigation and Monitoring			
30.	<p>The Conditions detailed in the Deemed Marine Licences (detailed below) to submit a Project Environmental Management Plan (PEMP) to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for approval post-consent is appropriate. The Outline Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan must form part of the PEMP, in addition to the appointment of a fisheries liaison officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule 10 – Condition 15; • Schedule 11 – Condition 15; • Schedule 12 – Condition 13; • Schedule 13 – Condition 13; and • Schedule 14 – Condition 11. 	Comments to be provided by the NFFO in their Written Representation.	

SoCG ID	The Applicants' Position	The NFFO's Position	Position Status
	<p>The NFFO did not raise any issues on this subject throughout the ETG process, as part of their Section 42 response, or within their Relevant Representation. It is therefore considered by the Applicants that the matter is agreed.</p>		
31.	<p>The Outline Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan (Revision 2) [AS-o82]. submitted alongside the DCO application provides a sufficient basis to continue discussions with the wider commercial fisheries industry, and will help to mitigate potential impacts of the Projects on commercial fisheries receptors.</p>	<p>In their relevant representation the NFFO welcomed the inclusion of the Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan within the Applicants DCO Application, comments to be provided in their Written Representation.</p>	

3.5 Status of Discussions for Matters ‘Not Agreed’ or ‘Under Discussion’

3.5.1 General

Table 3-5 - Status of discussions relating to general topics

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants’ Position	NFFO’s Position	Position Status
2.	Site selection has properly considered the alternatives for the relevant elements of the Projects	Awaiting the NFFOs Written Representation to determine level of agreement on this point.	Was noted during the NFFO SoCG call held on 01/10/2024 that due to a changeover in staff at the NFFO, they were not sure of the position taken regarding the site selection process previously. Was noted the NFFO would investigate this matter further.	
3.	CBRA	Awaiting the NFFOs Written Representation to determine level of agreement on this point.	Was noted during the NFFO SoCG call held on 01/10/2024 that comments on the CBRA would be provided with the NFFO’s Written Representation.	

3.5.2 Fish and Shellfish Ecology

Table 3-6 - Status of discussions relating to Fish and Shellfish Ecology

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	NFFO's Position	Position Status
5.	The ES adequately characterises the baseline environment as detailed in section 13.5 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091].	Response provided by the Applicants within Appendix 10-1 - Fish and Shellfish Ecology Consultation Responses [APP-093], awaiting further comments from NFFO on this point.	The NFFO raised several queries with regards to the adequacy of data used to inform the baseline in their relevant representation and Section 42 response.	
6.	Sufficient existing data sources have been used to inform the assessment as presented within section 13.6 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091].	Response provided by the Applicants within Appendix 10-1 - Fish and Shellfish Ecology Consultation Responses [APP-093], awaiting further comments from NFFO on this point.	NFFO stated that ' <i>no site-specific surveys undertaken to aid in characterising the fish and shellfish baseline environment</i> ' in their Section 42 response.	
9.	The embedded mitigation measures in Table 10-3 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] are appropriate.	Response provided by the Applicants within Appendix 10-1 - Fish and Shellfish Ecology Consultation Responses [APP-093], awaiting further comments from NFFO on this point.	In their Section 42 response the NFFO noted ' <i>We are concerned with the lack of fish and shellfish species monitoring proposed</i> '.	

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	NFFO's Position	Position Status
10.	The impact assessment methodologies used for the EIA, as presented in section 10.4.3 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091], provide an appropriate approach to assessing potential impacts of the Projects.	Response to the NFFO's relevant representation was provided on 08/10/24, awaiting further comments from NFFO on this point.	NFFO noted in their relevant representation that data from other wind farm surveys which used incorrect methodology for the assumptions made were used to inform the baseline for the Projects.	
11.	The assessment of the significance of effects presented in section 10.6 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] is consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies.	Response to the NFFO's relevant representation was provided on 08/10/24, awaiting further comments from NFFO on this point.	In their relevant representation the NFFO stated: ' <i>The NFFO disagreed with the conclusions reached in the assessment</i> '.	
14.	The assessment of cumulative effects, as detailed in section 10.7 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] is consistent with the agreed methodologies.	Response to the NFFO's relevant representation was provided on 08/10/24, awaiting further comments from NFFO on this point.	No specific comments were made regarding the CEA conclusions in the NFFO's relevant representation. However, given the strong disagreement noted for the project-alone assessment conclusions, agreement cannot be noted at this time.	
15.	The conclusions of assessment of significance as detailed in section 10.6 of Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology [APP-091] are	Response to the NFFO's relevant representation was provided on 08/10/24, awaiting further comments from NFFO on this point.	In their relevant representation the NFFO stated: ' <i>The NFFO disagreed with the conclusions reached in the assessment</i> '.	

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	NFFO's Position	Position Status
	appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.			

3.5.3 Commercial Fisheries

Table 3-7 - Status of discussions relating to Commercial Fisheries

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	NFFO's Position	Position Status
22.	The embedded mitigation measures in Table 13.3.3 of Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries [APP-117] are sufficient and appropriate.	Response to the NFFO's relevant representation was provided on 08/10/24, awaiting further comments from NFFO on this point.	In their relevant representation the NFFO disagreed with the mitigation included within the assessment. In the NFFO SoCG Meeting held on 01/10/2024, the NFFO expressed their desire for a commercial fisheries activity monitoring project, which includes a defined period of monitoring activity, to be incorporated as an additional embedded mitigation measure, in addition to a regular review of the fishing restrictions within the SAC.	
24.	The assessment of significance presented in section 13.6 of Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries	Response to the NFFO's relevant representation was provided on	The NFFO disagreed with the conclusions reached in the assessment in their relevant representation, stating:	

SoCG ID	Discussion Point	Applicants' Position	NFFO's Position	Position Status
	[APP-117] is consistent with the agreed assessment methodologies.	08/10/24, awaiting further comments from NFFO on this point.	<i>'We feel that the commercial fisheries assessment underestimates the impacts at almost every stage'.</i>	
28.	The conclusions of the assessment of significance as detailed in in section 13.6 of Chapter 13 Commercial Fisheries [APP-117] are appropriate and are considered not significant in EIA terms.	Response to the NFFO's relevant representation was provided on 08/10/24, awaiting further comments from NFFO on this point.	The NFFO disagreed with the conclusions reached in the assessment in their relevant representation, stating: <i>'We feel that the commercial fisheries assessment underestimates the impacts at almost every stage'.</i>	
30.	The Deemed Marine Licence conditions to submit a PEMP to the MMO for approval post-consent are appropriate.	Awaiting the NFFOs Written Representation to determine level of agreement on this point.	Comments to be provided by the NFFO in their Written Representation.	
31.	The Outline Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan submitted alongside the DCO application provides a sufficient basis to continue discussions with the wider commercial fisheries industry, and will help to mitigate potential impacts of the Projects on commercial fisheries receptors.	Awaiting the NFFOs Written Representation to determine level of agreement on this point.	In their relevant representation the NFFO welcomed the inclusion of the Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan within the Applicants DCO Application, comments to be provided in their Written Representation.	

4 Summary

18. This SoCG has outlined the consultation that has taken place between the Applicants and the NFFO during the pre-application and Examination phases. This SoCG will be updated as discussions progress and made available to PINS as requested through the DCO examination phase.

5 References

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2024). Planning Act 2008: Examination stage for Nation-ally Significant Infrastructure Projects. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-examination-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>. [Accessed August 2024].

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