



## Trawsgrifiad Gwrandawriad

<b>Prosiect:</b>	Fferm Wynt Alltraeth Mona
<b>Grandawriad:</b>	Gwrandawriad Mater Penodol 2 (ISH2) – Rhan 4
<b>Dyddiad:</b>	17 Gorffennaf 2024

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## Hearing Transcript

<b>Project:</b>	Mona Offshore Wind Farm
<b>Hearing:</b>	Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) – Part 4
<b>Date:</b>	17 July 2024

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## **Mona\_ISH2\_17 July\_PT4**

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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:04:28 - 00:00:41:27

Thank you all. Um, we'd like to resume, uh, the hearing. And if we can move on to agenda item six, which is commercial fisheries and fish. Unfortunately, um, the Isle of Man government are not able to join us for this particular hearing. Um, we had some questions related to their positions on that. So, so I'm envisaging that we will be able to unpack some of the questions and then address them at a later date on the basis of the baseline data.

00:00:42:05 - 00:01:04:09

Before I move on to the following agenda items, I would like to thank Mr. Hall for sitting there patiently waiting for this particular agenda item, and I would maybe want to ask him if he has any representation or anything he wants to bring to the floor at this moment in time.

00:01:06:09 - 00:01:42:23

Thank you. Yeah. Richmond Hall, representing the Scottish Whitefish Producers Association. And as I said in my introduction this morning, also the Mallaig and Northwest Fishermen's Association. and I'm also speaking on behalf of the West Coast Sea Products Limited a who rely predominantly on the queen scallop fishery as well as a king scallop facility within the proposed Monterey. The Queens fishery is a unique fishery. It's the most important for Shea within the Moana Array and is without question the most important queen scallop beds in Europe, if not the world.

00:01:43:02 - 00:02:17:29

That is the reason I drove 400 miles to sit here and give an oral representation, because it is really, really important to our members. This fishery supports a number of coastal communities, sustaining many offshore personnel. And for each one of these, five onshore personnel rely on this fishery. Therefore, it is imperative that not only this fisheries protected, but also the communities that the fishery supports. Out of all of the proposed offshore wind farms in the UK, eeaS, this is in the top three.

00:02:18:01 - 00:02:55:25

With regard to the importance to our industry. I would hope that the serious impact that the Moana rate on commercial fisheries and other stakeholders will be taken into consideration when a determination is made. So, moving on to the baseline data, the data collected for Commercial Fisheries chapter does have a number of gaps, especially in relation to traffic movements and fishing activity. The main 654 states that there is a requirement for 14 day winter traffic survey and a 14 day by summer traffic survey.

00:02:56:20 - 00:03:26:22

This, however, is a very short snapshot in time. The first winter survey took place the fifth from the 5th to the 9th of December 19th of December 2021, which would not have captured any Queen scallop fishing vessels. The summer survey, 30th of June to the 14th of July 2021 would have been prior to the major fishery, which takes place between August to December. Therefore, these vessels would not have been captured.

00:03:27:25 - 00:03:47:01

The second survey was spring 4th to the 18th of May 2023, which would have met both king scallop and queen scallop fishery, and the Winter survey took place between the 27th October to the 10th of November, which would not have captured the queen scallop fishery.

00:03:49:03 - 00:04:13:08

The overall catch and landing data has been captured well, as this is a legal requirement that all catches and landings are declared and recorded. This for the figures presented will be correct. All other data limitations have been recognised and document within the data baseline. So. I have no further comments to make on that. The first bit. Thanks.

00:04:14:08 - 00:04:20:24

Thank you very much, Mr. Hall. If the applicant respond to what they've heard.

00:04:21:24 - 00:04:54:15

Jerry Vella for the applicant, this is the first time we've heard this. Um, I, um yeah, we'll take that one away. Uh, presumably this information will be in your written representation, and we'll have an opportunity to respond to it then. I know we did try to, um, we did try to time some of our, um, radar surveys for, for vessels, uh, not captured through the other data sets, AIS and VMs, etc.. I thought we did actually try to capture some fishing activity.

00:04:54:24 - 00:05:04:02

Um, and yeah, we'll take that away and we'll have a look at that and we'll respond, um, through the in response to the written representation process, if that's okay with the exam. That's fine.

00:05:04:04 - 00:05:36:16

Thank you very much. Um, can I now move on to Significance of Effect and in particular, um, the loss restricted access to fishing grounds. Um, and the environmental statement chapter on commercial Fisheries notes no significant effects would arise as a result of laws restricting access to fishing grounds. So I'll ask Mr. Hall if he has any observations to make on this particular point.

00:05:37:08 - 00:06:10:16

Thank you. At all representing the Scottish Fish Producers Association. The assessment of the significant effect, in our view, has been grossly underscored. The reason for our assumption is based on other operational offshore wind farms, lessons learned and practical experience and factual evidence that will have in our written response. As a case study, we have used the Seagreen Offshore Wind farm, which is an array east of Scotland, which is another prolific scallop fishery, actually king scallop fishery ground.

00:06:11:12 - 00:06:47:27

Due to the construction of this wind farm, which took two years, the mobile sector had very limited access to the array area, mostly due to the lay of the interior cables and problems with achieving variable depth and array cables data and rock protection position very much delayed, which further increased the spatial squeeze element of the offshore wind farm. The construction phase of Mona is proposed to date for the years. Therefore, access to the rail will be limited, reducing effort and annual grosses by as much as 50%.

00:06:48:26 - 00:07:05:07

If they have the same problems other offshore wind farms have hired with cable and rock protection This magnitude, therefore on the receptor receptor should be escalated for the construction freeze from low to a much higher medium or even high.

00:07:06:28 - 00:07:26:15

And even earlier on when we were agenda item three b, the the applicant stated the the the time between the cable actually being laid and buried could be significant three, four or even five months another when we've experienced this up to a year.

00:07:34:04 - 00:07:36:27

Well, I go on into the operational maintenance phase. Yes.

00:07:37:02 - 00:07:37:23

Feel free. Yeah.

00:07:38:04 - 00:08:10:21

During the operational maintenance phase, the magnitude of impact is deemed negligible. However. however, even with the mitigation measures put in place, activity will be greatly reduced. Multiple vessels cannot fish in the array at any given time as they did pre-construction. Multiple cable cable crossings require rock protection, which scarlet vessels must stay clear of. It causes this type of fish fisheries multiple problems. Weather criteria will greatly reduce.

00:08:10:28 - 00:08:41:07

Will be greatly reduced due to the physical presence of weeds and the potential snagging hazard from interior cables, rock protection and any other infrastructure connected to the monitor. Again, learning from Seagreen and other offshore wind farms that are in operation effort and and your groceries could be reduced by up to 66%. The magnitude of impact, therefore, must be raised from negligible to even high to.

00:08:41:09 - 00:09:01:25

Much of the commercial fisheries chapter are based on assumptions and not adequately looking at the facts and the lessons learned from other operational offshore wind farms. One question I do have. The final assessment for each effect is based on expert judgment. Where does this expert judgement come from? Thanks.

00:09:05:16 - 00:09:14:01

Thank you, Mr. Hall. If I can ask the applicant to, maybe I appreciate this might be the first time that we've heard from.

00:09:15:03 - 00:09:46:09

Gerard Vella for the applicant. Um, yes. That is the first time that we've received this information. We have actually engaged with, uh, Mr. Hall and, um, the commercial fisheries stakeholders in the region, um, most recently in May. We appreciate it's an awful lot of information in our applications. And at that time, all of the stakeholders did say that they were still working through the information. So we knew that information was coming. Um, we'll look forward to seeing that information in the written representation.

00:09:46:11 - 00:10:20:11

And then we will, um, address each of the points raised. Um, I think some observations I'd like to make now. Um, I think first of all, in terms of the comments made earlier with regard to, um, cable installation. Um, those related to one of the options that the pre post burial, uh, cable installation option, that is one of a number of options. Um the most common option that we've seen um in offshore wind is, is the use of a of a plow that installs, it lays and installs in one go.

00:10:20:20 - 00:11:09:22

Um, but we do have a number of options in our project description. Um, I think a second point that I'd like to, um, to make is, of course, that at the pier stage, our impact assessment did identify potential moderate impacts on, um, access to scallop grounds for the scallop fishery, which led us to working with the with the fisheries stakeholders to identify a suite of measures that might reduce that that potential effect, which led to commitments to increase spacing of wind turbines, um, the inclusion of a scallop mitigation zone over the cor um Queen Scarlett grounds, which would mean that there is no surface piercing structures, offshore wind turbines or offshore substation platforms in that key area.

00:11:10:00 - 00:11:41:03

Um, a commitment to orientation of wind turbines in a north south, uh, direction against the predominant towing direction of fishing stakeholders in the wind farm. Um, a commitment to bearing cables wherever possible, and where we can't bury them to protect them, but to minimize the use of cable protection. I hear what you're saying, Mr. Mr. Hall, with regards to the Seagreen projects, we can't comment on how other projects have, you know, implemented their developments.

00:11:41:05 - 00:12:04:03

Um, we will certainly do our very best to continue engaging with the commercial fisheries community through the initial Outline Fisheries Liaison and Coexistence Plan, which is app 199 submitted as part of the application and and through the the post consent period. Should consent be granted in finalising the Fisheries Liaison and Coexistence Plan.

00:12:08:18 - 00:12:12:24

Mr. Hall, have you anything else to add in terms of significance of the facts?

00:12:14:23 - 00:12:31:21

Nothing at this time, but we will have it all written down in our written response. Apologies if we should have had it before now, but you have to bear in mind I'm dealing with multiple offshore wind farms, not just this one. So it will be in before the deadline on the 7th of August.

00:12:32:01 - 00:12:53:07

Thank you. Thanks. So if I was just summarizing the loss of restricted access to fishing grounds, in particular to, um, the Scottish west coast scallop vessels, um, it appears as though there's a difference of opinion in terms of significance of fact. Yeah.

00:12:55:17 - 00:13:06:19

Gerry Vella for the applicant, I think I'd like to to to see, um, those details set out and, and um, and then we'll consider those. Okay. Okay.

00:13:12:26 - 00:13:45:26

Can I briefly go on to, uh, the displacement of fishing activity into other areas where vessels are active, having an impact And, uh, yeah, the the yes, um, determines that there are no significant effects. Um, although Isle of Man government are not present. I would like to give an action to them if they can confirm what their position is on this particular matter.

00:13:50:22 - 00:14:10:16

And then, um, the interference with fishing activity, which results in no significance of x, I can I just check with Mr. Hall? Um, do you do you concur with that, that that the proposed developments would, would have no significant effect in terms of interference.

00:14:12:04 - 00:14:13:19

with fishing activity.

00:14:17:22 - 00:14:22:07

Raymond Hall as well. Could you rephrase that question, please?

00:14:22:19 - 00:14:53:04

In terms of the fish, the interference that the proposed development would have on fishing activities such as um, um, vessels, um, wanting to go and, uh, retrieve scallops. Currently, the uh is identifies that there would be no significant effect. So I'm presuming that your position. You don't concur with that.

00:14:54:23 - 00:15:03:02

Given all the Scottish White Fish Producers Association? No, I wouldn't concur with that. just based on our experiences. Okay, okay.

00:15:04:00 - 00:15:09:27

Thank you. I just wanted clarification on where each party stands, so that's clear. Thank you.

00:15:13:05 - 00:15:48:24

Um, if I can move on to underwater sound impacting fish and shellfish receptors, the U.S. chapter on fish and shellfish, which is at app. Dash zero 55 identifies minor adverse effects on cod. However, in

RW in this relevant representation. Did not agree with this assessment. I appreciate the applicant has provided the response and its relevant representation, which is PDA 008 and that our Dash zero 11.41.

00:15:49:28 - 00:16:06:15

Um, and I w we're not here today. The advisory. I'd like to place an action on them if they can confirm what their current position is after receiving the relevant representation. Uh, response from the applicant.

00:16:12:04 - 00:16:43:21

If we can go on to mitigation measures now and the Outline Fishery Liaison and coexistence plan, which is up dash 199, um, that notes that the applicant has made a commitment to maintain an area free of wind turbines and offshore substation platforms located over an area of core scale of ground within the Mona array.

00:16:44:28 - 00:17:06:13

So, um, in that context, can the applicant tell me what is the current size of the core scallop ground and what would be the area that, uh, you uh, referring to a commitment that will be free of wind turbines. So what's the difference?

00:17:24:01 - 00:17:28:09

Gerard Butler for the applicant. We don't have that to hand. We can provide that.

00:17:28:20 - 00:18:12:21

Okay. Um. Could you provided by next deadline. Deadline one. Yes. Yeah. Thank you. And can I just draw attention to table 1.3, um, which gives the coordinates point for the scallop mitigation zone. And there is a figure as well, uh, showing those particular coordinates. However, if you look in table three in the deemed marine license schedule 14, um, that gives um marine activities but the and gives coordinates but the HTML um.

00:18:13:26 - 00:18:26:03

does not feature a table with coordinates for the scallop mitigation zone. So can I query it if there is a need to address that particular point?

00:18:28:11 - 00:19:09:27

Jerry Fowler for the applicant. Um, as we've stated within the outline Fisheries Liaison coexistence plan at 199 uh, under um section 1.3.6.1. Um, we've mentioned in the second sentence of that paragraph that an indicative location for the mitigation zone, um, which has been presented to and discuss with commercial fisheries stakeholders, is given in figure 1.3 with coordinates provided in table 1.3. It should be noted that the final location of the scallop mitigations may be subject to refinement through the final project design post consent, and that cables and cable protection are not excluded from this area.

00:19:09:29 - 00:19:28:10

So, as a result of the fact that we have not finalised this area because it is subject to final design, we haven't, um, fixed the, the, the um boundary of the mitigation zone. We've just provided an indicative location just within the outline fisheries liaison and coexistence plan at this stage.



00:19:29:02 - 00:19:50:10

Okay. So table three and the marine licence indicates where marine related activities can be undertaken. But there's nothing in place to say that. How would you prevent encroachments into the finalized uh um scallops mitigation. So.

00:19:57:07 - 00:20:07:12

Jerry Vella for the applicant because the detail is set out in the outline document, the final fisheries liaison and coexistence plan must accord with the outline fisheries liaison and coexistence plan.

00:20:07:21 - 00:20:10:05

Okay, okay. Makes sense.

00:20:14:26 - 00:20:27:19

Good. Can I just highlight as well that, um, the longitudinal is positive in table 1.3, but longitudinal is negative in table three of the demo.

00:20:35:21 - 00:20:39:01

Uh, Jerry feller for the applicant. We need to update the coordinates.

00:20:39:03 - 00:20:39:28

Okay. Thank you.

00:20:40:08 - 00:20:41:00

System.

00:20:46:27 - 00:21:23:20

So, um, within the outline fishery liaison and coexistence plan. Um, table, uh, 1.1, uh, indicates timescales for distribution of Marina offshore wind project information To commercial fishery stakeholders. And it notes 14 days notice would be given prior to commencement of offshore construction activities. So in terms of construction program, this could occur on day one of Q1 2025 for construction.

00:21:23:22 - 00:21:25:02

Is this correct?

00:21:29:22 - 00:21:46:08

So the 14 days notice that you would give to a prior to commencement, would you be. Would you only give one notice which would be right at the start, or would you be maybe tailoring it to particular areas?

00:21:48:27 - 00:22:05:24

Gerard Vella for the applicant We've just made reference here to. The initial notice to Marriner. Um, and then, as per the, um, draft development consent order and the Dean marine license, as there's a section under, um, condition.

00:22:07:25 - 00:22:08:10

Um.

00:22:12:05 - 00:22:29:24

13 on notifications. Um, and the intention was that, um, the two would marry up. So we've just made reference to the first, um, notice to Mariner 14 days prior to commencement of offshore construction activities. And then notice the mariners would be issued periodically.

00:22:30:02 - 00:22:39:19

Okay. Okay. That's clear. And then if you find, uh, static fishing gear, um, you would give a further three days notice.

00:22:43:06 - 00:22:50:03

And then if you didn't receive a response, um, you would remove that static gear.

00:22:53:09 - 00:22:55:20

Jerry Vetter for the applicant. That's correct.

00:22:55:22 - 00:22:56:08

Okay.

00:22:58:08 - 00:23:20:06

And then table 1.1 also notes that 14 days notification for site surveys and unexploded ordnance clearance are areas of planned construction or maintenance activities. So if you're looking at um, pre commencement activities, um, with that still apply.

00:23:21:26 - 00:23:24:29

Jerry Vella for the applicant. That's correct okay Okay..

00:23:29:14 - 00:23:34:03

Um. Um, for pre commencement activities. Yeah. Um,

00:23:35:20 - 00:23:57:27

where would you be looking to give notice? So is it. Um, if the duration of these pre commencement activities was six months, and, um, would you be looking to give notice on day one of six months, or how does that, um, uh, pre commencement notice work?

00:24:01:01 - 00:24:13:03

Jerry Vella for the applicant following the notice for Marion being issued 14 days before the activity, they are issued at regular intervals. That may be weekly. Um, okay.

00:24:13:17 - 00:24:17:17

How would that apply to pre commencement activities as well? That's what I'm.

00:24:17:19 - 00:24:18:11

Yes it would.

00:24:18:13 - 00:24:19:24

Okay. Great. Great okay.

00:24:34:04 - 00:25:04:22

So um paragraph 1.3.3.3 relates to fishing gear fastening and for loss or damage of fishing gear claims, and that procedures are anticipated to be in line with the latest fishing liaison with offshore wind and wet renewables group. Um, can I just, um, try and understand why you feel it's necessary to say anticipated in line with the flow.

00:25:06:01 - 00:25:09:20

Gerard Butler for the applicant. Um, um,

00:25:11:08 - 00:25:38:08

that's because the the flow guidelines, uh, fisheries liaison and offshore with offshore wind and wave. Um, uh, they're quite, quite old. Um, they are supposed to be updated and, uh, that I think we've been waiting for those for sort of the last year and a half, so we're assuming they're going to drop at some point. We're not exactly sure what they're going to say, but we're anticipating that our procedures will be in line with that latest, uh, guideline.

00:25:38:20 - 00:25:39:15

Okay. Okay.

00:25:46:12 - 00:26:25:17

Um, paragraph 1.2.1.7 relates to fishery industry representative competencies required to assist with damage to gear claims, so no significant effect have been identified to loss, restricted access to fishing ground, and displacement of fishing activity into other areas where vessels are active having an impact. However, safety zones could encroach into these areas during construction, and, um, the offshore construction program spans three years.

00:26:26:29 - 00:26:41:12

So can I just check why the applicant perceives that they're that the, uh, the, uh, the safety zones doesn't have any effect, significant effect on, uh, these areas during construction.

00:26:56:15 - 00:27:21:15

Jerry Vella for the applicant, I think, understood your question correctly. It's because the duration of the implementation implementation of a safety zone at a specific location is is generally short term. Okay. A wind turbine is installed. The foundation will be installed within a day, a couple of days sort of thing. And then the vessel will move to another location and the safety zone will move with it. So it's moving around.

00:27:21:17 - 00:27:23:19

Yeah. That makes sense. Thank you.

00:27:25:13 - 00:27:30:24

Can the applicant explain if there would be any disturbance payments during construction?

00:27:35:15 - 00:27:46:25

Gerard Vella for the applicant. We haven't proposed any disturbance payments during construction because our impact assessment has concluded, uh, not significant impacts.

00:28:01:14 - 00:28:09:20

Regarding future monitoring, can the applicant summarize its position regarding monitoring of fish and shellfish?

00:28:18:02 - 00:28:35:03

Uh, Lucy, chef, uh, fish and shellfish ecology. Lead for the applicant. Uh, because the impact assessment has come out with no residual significant effects. Uh, no monitoring to test the predictions from the EIA are proposed at this stage.

00:28:36:05 - 00:28:36:20

Okay.

00:28:38:22 - 00:28:49:15

Can I just check whether there's anybody in the room or on the line that. Um, following what we've heard from the applicant as any comments, observations to make.

00:28:53:00 - 00:28:53:20

Mr. Hall?

00:28:54:29 - 00:29:38:03

We have the whole Scottish Whitefish Producers Association. Yeah. As far as monitoring goes, we will have that in our written response that we would like some kind of monitoring done pre, during and post construction of the monitoring is consented. I don't I don't know that I would like to see the engagement with the applicant and the fishing industry is really good. I the outlying fisheries liaison coexistence plan is good is still ongoing. It's not ideal, but I'm sure if this the monitor is consented will continue engagement with one another and build on this this outline for later on the coexistence plan to make it even better.

00:29:38:11 - 00:29:45:10

So I don't like to kick everybody all the time. So good luck. Thanks.

00:29:46:28 - 00:30:07:02

Uh, thank you for your helpful comments. If I can maybe turn over to Mrs. Jones. Um, I think in terms of what I have on this particular agenda, um, I've covered most and otherwise, uh, the written questions will be issued in the near future.

00:30:09:10 - 00:30:40:19

Thank you, Mr. Rollins. That means we're treating you all to an early finish. Um, that is the end of day one. We were, uh, debating whether to read out the action points today, but I think we are currently on

quite a large number, so we'll just get them published for you instead rather than read them, um, them all out. Uh, thank you to everyone who has contributed today. We will resume tomorrow morning back here at 930, where we will start with item seven of the agenda. Have a good evening, everyone.

00:30:40:29 - 00:30:44:01

Before you finish, can I just ask a question I appreciate?

00:30:44:03 - 00:31:18:27

It may not be possible, but, um, as I said on Not This Morning, but yesterday, we are trying to be as helpful as possible. But where there are really specific questions with references, we haven't got time to be looking at those and checking them. And and so if there are any of those that you want to raise with us tomorrow, if there's any way of giving, putting them at, I appreciate it might not be process or procedure, but um, it as I said, we are trying to be as helpful as possible, but there are some where we're really struggling to to follow the threads and the points.

00:31:18:29 - 00:31:49:28

And I think, I think if I'm honest with you, I think probably the majority of them, those, those type of questions probably have already come out either yesterday or today. But we also appreciate that, um, some of the questions that we asked can't, you know, can't be answered on the spot and that you do have to go away and come back to us. We appreciate that, that sometimes the case in hearing. So don't worry if that is that is the case. But we can certainly have a little, uh, have a little think about if there's anything like that. But I think if I'm honest with you, I don't think tomorrow you should find that we're in that position.

00:31:50:00 - 00:32:20:08

Even if it was was just, you know, here's a list of the things to cross check. We could do them at the start of the hearing. We could then take them away because we have got people here, could be checking and actually at a break or something, we could come back. So rather than spending time completely at your discretion obviously, but rather than spending time doing that, it just might be slightly more efficient from our perspective and allow us to sort of the people that are here to participate. We are listening to us, trying to work out where things are.

00:32:20:21 - 00:32:26:07

We feel that that would give any benefit in the morning. And we'll we'll certainly have a look into doing that.

00:32:26:09 - 00:32:26:25

Thank you.

00:32:27:27 - 00:32:35:15

Okay. Then that, uh, brings us to the end of today. Um, issue specific hearing to is adjourned. York.