



**AQUIND Limited**

---

## **AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR**

Consultation Report – Appendix 1.7H Marine  
Specific – Briefing Note for Ongoing  
Consultation with Southern IFCA August  
2019

The Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations  
2009 – Regulation 5(2)(q)

Document Ref: 5.1.7H

PINS Ref.: EN020022

**AQUIND Limited**

---

# **AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR**

Consultation Report – Appendix 1.7H Marine  
Specific – Briefing Note for Ongoing  
Consultation with Southern IFCA August  
2019

**PINS REF.: EN020022**

**DOCUMENT: 5.1.7H**

**DATE: 14 NOVEMBER 2019**

WSP

WSP House

70 Chancery Lane

London

WC2A 1AF

+44 20 7314 5000

[www.wsp.com](http://www.wsp.com)

Natural Power Memorandum			
To	Southern IFCA	Date	August 2019
From	Natural Power	Ref.	1199529

## Briefing Note to inform Ongoing Consultation: Responses to PEIR feedback

The following table provides a summary of key items contained within feedback response on PEIR received from the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority.

This briefing note is structured as below aims to provide information to reviewers as to how the applicant proposes to address the comments received as part of the s.42 consultation process.

Item No.	Topic	Comment	Applicant's Response
1	<b>Marine Local</b>	Considering the project against the details included in the South Coast Marine Plan, S-Fish-2 states that: <i>“Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on access to, or within, sustainable fishing or aquaculture sites must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</i> <i>a) avoid</i> <i>b) minimise</i> <i>c) mitigate significant adverse impacts</i> <i>d) If it is not possible to mitigate the significant adverse impacts, proposals should state the case for proceeding.”</i>	Chapter 12 of the final ES will present the updated assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Development on fisheries. The design of the Proposed Development will be presented within Chapter 3 and has aimed to avoid and or minimise potential impacts on fisheries. Mitigation will be proposed where required.
2	<b>Commercial Fisheries</b>	The application highlights stakeholder consultation with the fishing industry has been undertaken in October 2017 and again in September 2018. Meetings have also been undertaken in September of 2018 with officers at Southern IFCA regarding the potential impacts to the fishing industry. This is appreciated and the importance of early stakeholder engagement was highlighted in our response to the scoping response.	Acknowledged. Subsequent consultation meetings were also held with commercial fisheries stakeholders as well as recreational anglers in March and April 2019.
3	<b>Commercial Fisheries</b>	The assessment of fishing activities in the inshore region is difficult given the sources of information available, particularly the MMO landings, VMS data and surveillance data. The description of fisheries within the area seems apt particularly when applied to the Solent fisheries, identifying a number of	Chapter 12 Commercial Fisheries assessment has been updated to acknowledge the limitations that only looking at datasets can incur. The chapter will also make reference and consider the additional restrictions that the inshore fleet are subject to.

Item No.	Topic	Comment	Applicant's Response
		<p>the key target species and the nature of the inshore fleet as predominantly under 10 metre and multi-faceted in the species they target or gear they use. It is appreciated that the impacted area may be considered small, however the assessment that the inshore fleet can move, or switch gears, may not accurately reflect the adaptability of inshore fishing vessels. The limited availability of quota, restrictions on bass fishing, Marine Protected Area regulations and other marine works, particularly in areas such as the Solent, limit the adaptability of the fleet. The options to diversify when ground is lost is limited by the above factors, and those fisheries which could be considered alternatives are typically subject to their own seasonal trend and catch fluctuations. It is noted that a cumulative assessment will be made considering other marine works, it may be appropriate to consider other non-construction impacts the fisheries may be subject to, such as those mentioned above when considering the impact to the fishery.</p>	<p>These additional pressures will also be considered when assessing the cumulative and in combination effects on onshore fisheries.</p>
4	<b>Commercial Fisheries</b>	<p>The methods detailed to minimise impacts seem appropriate including the establishment of an inshore fisheries working group and the appointment of an FLO. However, it is not detailed what proposals are being considered where avoidance and mitigation is not possible and the works impact the inshore fishing fleet. Under Marine South Plan policy S-Fish-2 this should be stated.</p>	<p>Policy S-FISH-2 states that <i>'If the proposal cannot avoid significant adverse impacts on access to, or within, sustainable fishing or aquaculture sites it must show how it will minimise or mitigate impacts, and include how this will be achieved'</i>. No significant adverse effects have been identified for the Proposed Development alone or cumulatively. However, both embedded and additional mitigation measures have been identified and incorporated. Specific to the inshore fishing fleet an overtrawlability assessment will be considered to reduce any residual impact post construction.</p>

Item No.	Topic	Comment	Applicant's Response
			<p>Noted. A more thorough consideration of South Marine Plan Policies will be included as part of the DCO application. It is also important to highlight for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) such as the AQUIND Interconnector, the primary planning documents are the UK National Policy Statements (NPS), in this case NPS EN-1, and only regard needs to be had to the South Marine Plan when determining the DCO application.</p>
5	<b>Commercial Fisheries</b>	<p>Although not considered a requirement for the application, the developer may look to consider the relevant projects/organisations which look to support the fishing industry. Within the Solent in particular there is the Blue Marine Foundation, which is currently working as part of the Solent Oyster Project and may be worth including in consultation and may be able to provide avenues/opportunities to support a sustainable inshore fishing industry indirectly.</p>	<p>Further engagement has been ongoing to better understand the locations and current state of native oyster stocks within the Solent. This information will inform the assessment examining any potential effects on this receptor. Although the Blue Marine Foundation has not been consulted to date this comment has been acknowledged.</p>
6	<b>Marine Local</b>	<p>Southern IFCA are responsible for the management of fisheries within a number of MPAs near the vicinity of the cable, and have taken steps in recent years to ensure that the fishing activities, alone and in combination with other activities or plans/projects, are compatible with the conservation objectives of the site. When considering the application against Marine South Policy S-MPA-1 which states: <i>“Proposals that support the objectives of marine protected areas and the ecological coherence of the marine protected area network will be supported. Proposals that may have adverse impacts on the objectives of marine protected areas and the ecological coherence of the marine protected area network must demonstrate that they will, in order of</i></p>	<p>Noted. A more thorough consideration of South Marine Plan Policies will be included as part of the DCO application. The design of the cable route avoids direct impacts on marine protected areas where possible. Direct and indirect effects on protected sites are assessed in information to inform a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) which will be submitted with the DCO application. This HRA Report examines the potential of the Proposed Development (alone and in combination with other developments) to produce significant adverse effects on the integrity of protected sites and provides evidence that no significant adverse effects are expected to occur as a</p>

Item No.	Topic	Comment	Applicant's Response
		<p><i>preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate adverse impacts, with due regard given to statutory advice on an ecologically coherent network."</i></p>	<p>result of the Proposed Development. In addition, a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) assessment is currently being undertaken and this will be presented within the ES as an appendix.</p> <p>It is also important to highlight for Nationally NSIPs such as the AQUIND Interconnector, the primary planning documents are the UK National Policy Statements (NPS), in this case NPS EN-1, and only regard needs to be had to the South Marine Plan when determining the DCO application.</p>
7	<b>Fish and Shellfish</b>	<p>Within the Southern IFCA district the proposed works have the potential to interact with the Solent Maritime SAC, and the Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA, as well as the associated SSSI's and RAMSARs. Considering the proposals, the decision to use HDD to travel underneath Langstone Harbour in particular is one the Authority supports. Due to the various environmental designations the area the cable would travel in the North West of the Harbour is closed to Bottom Towed Fishing Gear and the protection the area is afforded as a result would be jeopardised if works were to be undertaken over the intertidal areas. The use of HDD is also considered appropriate method avoiding significant interaction with the Solent Maritime SAC outside of Langstone Harbour seaward from landfall of the cable.</p>	<p>Acknowledged.</p>
8	<b>Shipping, Navigation and Other Marine Users</b>	<p>I also appreciate the work that you have put in initially to discuss potential impacts with the angling community, including attendance from consultants working on the application at Southern IFCA's Recreational Angling Sector Group on the 27th March 2019 to discuss the project. The application includes a small section within the navigation</p>	<p>Acknowledged. The applicant has engaged through meetings, phone calls and emails with the recreational angling sector in 2019. The information gathered from these consultations will help inform an impact assessment which will be undertaken and will provide more detail regarding potential effects on</p>

Item No.	Topic	Comment	Applicant's Response
		<p>section dedicated to recreational sea angling, and as discussed at the meeting, this currently does not include significant detail and, consistent with the discussions at the Recreational Angling Sector Group, we would recommend continued consultation with this interest group.</p>	<p>recreational angling than was presented within the PEIR. Chapter 13 Shipping, Navigation and Other Marine Users will be updated to include this assessment.</p>

